

Executive Producers:
Lucia Aniello, Paul W. Downs, Jen Statsky,
David Miner, Morgan Sackett, Mike Schur

Episode # 02008
Script # 208

Hacks

#208

Written By

Lucia Aniello
Paul W. Downs
Jen Statsky

Directed By

Trent O'Donnell



Table Draft 1.6.22
Production Meeting Draft 1.31.22
Shooting Draft 3.7.22
Blue Shooting Draft 3.7.22
Pink Pages 3.14.22
Yellow Pages 3.17.22

© 2022 Universal Television LLC

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NOT TO BE DUPLICATED WITHOUT PERMISSION.

This material is the property of Universal Television LLC and is intended solely for use by its personnel. The sale, copying, reproduction or exploitation of this material, in any form is prohibited. Distribution or disclosure of this material to unauthorized persons is also prohibited.

CAST LIST

DEBORAH
AVA
MARCUS
DAMIEN
DJ
JIMMY
KAYLA

MARTY
TAYLOR
ELAINE
JANET
LORETTA
ROBIN
JOSEFINA
WILSON

AUCTIONEER
AD
SCRIPTY
DAVIS
USHER
LARRY
ANNOUNCER
AUDIENCE MEMBER
EMT
KATIE
JAMES
MAX
HARPER
JESSICA

SET LIST

INTERIORS

Auction House

Vegas Restaurant

Las Vegas Apartment Complex

Deborah's House

- Deborah's Office
- Deborah's Bedroom

Janet's Office

Palmetto

- Theater
- Mc Ludwig's Dressing Room
- Dressing Room Backstage Hallway
- Theater Tech Booth
- Theater Vestibule
- Hallway

Los Angeles Studio Sound Stage

QVC

Jimmy's Apartment

Ava's Apartment

Sunset Tower

EXTERIORS

Vegas Balcony

Los Angeles

Palmetto

Wilson's Apartment

Sunset Tower Rooftop

- Balcony

801 INT. AUCTION HOUSE - DAY

801

WIDE SHOT of a crowded auction house. The crowd is hushed, serious. A painting is spotlighted on the block.

AUCTIONEER
(extending hand)
Last chance...
(gesturing, banging gavel)
At two hundred sixty thousand, sold to
you, to paddle 4-2-3-0.

The AUCTIONEER makes a note, as does the RINGMAN behind him. He hands his paper to her. The painting is whisked away as two gloved HANDLERS bring out a Kandinsky.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)
Lot number 25: the Wassily Kandinsky,
Gewebe. Work on paper. Starting at
\$400,000.

A crowd of STAFFERS man the phones in a cordoned off area. They raise their hands, quickly at first.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)
(off raised hand)
420 now.
(off raised hand)
And 440.
(off raised hand)
460.
(off paddle from crowd)
And 480 thousand. 490. Do I have 500?

A paddle goes up.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)
500 thousand to the gentleman in the
front.

REVEAL: MARTY is raising his paddle. He smiles.

AUCTIONEER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
We have 500 thousand, ahead of you. Do I
have 520? We have 500-- 520 in the back!

Marty's smile fades. He raises his paddle.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)
530.
(in the back)
540.
(Marty)
550.
(MORE)

MARTY (CONT'D)

Victoria didn't want a ring. She wanted
that Kandinsky.

Deborah realizes Marty is proposing to the woman from 201.

DEBORAH

Oh. You--
(off his nod, stumbling)
Weh-- congratulations! Will you two have
a registry or is it just the Metamucil
website? Does Ovaltine make wedding
cakes?

Marty laughs in spite of himself, knowing she's wounded.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

You planning to allow rascal scooters on
the dance floor?

MARTY

Alright, alright! I get it. Now my
fiancée isn't young enough for you?!

DEBORAH

No, no, it makes sense. You're a history
buff, and she can give a firsthand
account of the Revolutionary War.

MARTY

Okay.

DEBORAH

Anyway, you're right. I don't like
Kandinsky. But I do like leverage.

MARTY

(immediately)
Here we go--

DEBORAH

I'll happily give it to you... in
exchange for the main stage.

MARTY

Deborah you're not--

DEBORAH

Just for one night. To film my special.

MARTY

Oh.
(beat, then)
(MORE)

MARTY (CONT'D)

You know, you could have rented something even better than the Palmetto for much less than that fucking painting.

DEBORAH

But I want the Palmetto -- I don't like the way I went out and I want a chance to do it again. And I know it's occupied now so I'm sure it's a tall order.

Marty smiles. He barely needs to consider.

MARTY

Sure. I'll make it happen.

Deborah smiles, relieved but covering.

DEBORAH

Thank you. The painting's all yours. Or hers, I guess.

MARTY

Cheers.

(they cheers)

You know, I would have given you the Palmetto if you'd just asked.

DEBORAH

(laughing, "yeah right")
Yeah, sure!

They exchange a look -- they both know it's true.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Well... again, thank you. And good luck with the proposal. They don't always say yes, you know.

MARTY

(with a knowing look)

Oh, I know...

DEBORAH

(deflecting)

You should see if the caterer will give you two a discount if dinner's served at 4pm -- early bird special!

Marty shakes his head and laughs.

MARCUS shows an excited AVA an apartment in the Vegas Arts District.

AVA

Oh my God, wow! You can see all the way
to the Excalibur! I saw an Elvis
impersonator OD on that corner.

(turning back)

It's beautiful.

MARCUS

This is the last unit available, but I
got a hook up with the manager.

AVA

Look at this space! I could have a
dinner party. All I'd need is one single
friend!!

MARCUS

Relatable!

They both laugh.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I know you're taking a loss on your condo
in LA, but you get SO much more for your
money here.

AVA

Yeah. Well this is really nice, but I
think the one that was closer to
Deborah's might make more sense?

MARCUS

...The one with the open concept
bathroom?

AVA

Yeah.

MARCUS

Maybe don't make your life worse to be
ten minutes closer to Deborah's.

Ava shrugs this off. Marcus' eyes narrow, considering
this... Then Ava's phone rings. She checks it - huh.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Take it.

Ava steps out on the balcony and answers.

AVA

Hello?

804 EXT. VEGAS BALCONY / EXT. LOS ANGELES - INTERCUT

804

It's TAYLOR from 207, walking her dog and on the phone.

TAYLOR

Ava, hey! Sorry for the random call but I have a question for you--

AVA

Oh God, did I forget to flush or something?

TAYLOR

LOL, no. So. The girl who was gonna do punch-ups for me on my pilot can't do it anymore. Do you have any interest?

AVA

Oh shit. That's so nice of you. And thank you, but I'm working for Deborah and already back in Vegas.

TAYLOR

Totally get it, but it's just a one week gig. Nothing permanent -- you could be back to her in no time.

AVA

Oh. Umm...

TAYLOR

I think you'd be great for it...

AVA

Thanks. Could I, uh, think about it?

TAYLOR

Sure. Just let me know as soon as you can because if you can't I need to find someone else. I'll email you the dates--

Off on Ava thinking...

805 INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT - DAY

805

JIMMY paces on the phone with a client.

JIMMY

Well, I'm sorry to hear that. But you know, life is short and life is long, so hopefully we cross paths soon. Okay. Take care.

(hanging up)

Fuuuuuck.

Reveal KAYLA is lounging on his couch in a hoodie looking at wallpaper samples.

KAYLA

Oh good you're off. Which wallpaper do you like for our new office?

(showing one)

This one is technically wrapping paper but it's beautiful.

JIMMY

We need clients to justify having an office, and we just lost another one to Janet Stone. She's poaching everyone!

KAYLA

Ugh! Alright partner, what's the play?

JIMMY

You know what? I'm gonna fucking call her.

Jimmy dials JANET STONE on speaker.

A806 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - SAME TIME - INTERCUT

A806

JANET

Ah, Jimmy! I was waiting for your call! I don't have much time to talk because I'm going down your client list one by one, you piece of shit.

JIMMY

Janet--

KAYLA

Janet, Kayla Schaeffer here, listen: You and I can swing our dicks around all day long, but the fact of the matter is--

Janet hangs up.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

Hello. Hello?

(then)

Yeah, she's fucking us up the ass -- no lube. Not even giving us a little courtesy tug.

JIMMY

Kayla. Please.

806 INT. DEBORAH'S OFFICE - DAY

806

Deborah is at her desk working. Marcus sits across from her.

MARCUS

So we closed Elaine's directing deal, but apparently she doesn't fly. She's asking that we reimburse for gas. Also her rider is just jelly beans and Dulcolax. You sure about her?

DEBORAH

Oh, please -- when men are quirky they're eccentric geniuses, and when women are quirky, they're jailed.

MARCUS

Is that what's going on here?

DEBORAH

...God I fucking hope so.
(then)
So, I got the Palmetto.

MARCUS

Amazing! I guess the auction went well.

DEBORAH

Yes. But Marty's lost his mind. He's getting engaged to that... elderly woman.

MARCUS

Oh.
(beat)
Did he get her a ring or a life alert bracelet?

Deborah laughs SO hard for SO long.

DEBORAH

I know! I thought he only proposed to women who still love "horsies."

(alt)

I know! I thought he only proposed to women whose hair is still steaming from a flatiron.

Marcus shoots her a "Deb, please" look and she gets it.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Oh please, that wasn't real!

MARCUS

The diamond was real!

DEBORAH

We were drunk and in Monaco for
Chrissakes!

(then)

Even if he was serious, I had to
prioritize my business. I'm sure you can
understand that.

(alt)

Marcus, stop.

(then)

Even if he was serious, I had to
prioritize my business. I'm sure you can
understand that.

After a beat, Marcus nods.

MARCUS

("unfortunately")

I certainly can.

Deborah dives back into her work. Off on Marcus, watching
her before exiting.

807 INT. DEBORAH'S BEDROOM - SUNSET / YUMMY GOLDEN HOUR

807

Deborah sits on the couch in her bedroom watching TV.
There's a knock as Ava pops her head in.

AVA

Deborah?

DEBORAH

Hi... come in.

Ava does but stands at the foot of the couch. She dives in.

AVA

(blurting it out)

So I got a call about a punch up gig
that's a week long. I was gonna say no
but Jimmy thinks it's a great credit and
it might be fun but obviously I would
never let something interfere with our
work but it's just a week so I would be
back super quick--

DEBORAH

Why are you standing so far away from me?

AVA

Just to be out of slapping range.

Deborah laughs, waving her off.

DEBORAH
What are the dates?

Ava sits on the sofa next to Deborah.

AVA
It starts the 20th, and it's only a week!

DEBORAH
Oh-- I got the Palmetto the 24th for the
taping.

AVA
Oh, God, never mind then -- of course I'm
not taking it! El oh el can you imagine
if I missed the freaking taping?!

Deborah is silent for a moment. Then:

DEBORAH
You should do it.

AVA
What? No way, I--

DEBORAH
You've seen the show 200 times. It's
ready. The hay's in the barn. It's
fine, really.

AVA
Well thank you -- but only if you're
sure.

DEBORAH
I am! And you should stay at my house
while you're there.

AVA
Oh, thanks, but I actually ran into my ex
when we were in LA and we've been
texting, and I think I might stay at her
place?

DEBORAH
(smiles)
Ah.

AVA
Oh! But speaking of houses, I signed a
lease today. I finally have a place
here.

DEBORAH

Oh. Great. I'll let my lawyer know you
have more assets.

AVA

Well, I'm just renting, so...

DEBORAH

Oof. I'm sorry to hear that.

Ava laughs. Deborah does, too.

AVA

(re: TV)

I actually think we would do well on
Amazing Race together.

DEBORAH

Ugh. I could NEVER fly coach!

(then)

But we'd make up time on the puzzles.

They chuckle and nod in agreement.

808 OMITTED

808

809 INT. LOS ANGELES STUDIO SOUND STAGE - DAY

809

Ava and Taylor watch monitors in village. We hear the
muffled sounds of a scene but can't make much out.

TAYLOR

(through laughter)

Cut...

AD

And CUT!

That bell rings. The SCRIPTY (excellent) leans in.

SCRIPTY

Her purse strap fell in that one!

TAYLOR

It's okay we can cut around it I think.

(turning to Ava)

Oh my God, that blow was so much better,
thank you.

AVA

Oh, good. I have a couple other alts we
can try--

TAYLOR

Oh, I think we got it.

AVA

Totally, totally, but Deborah taught me if a joke is a reference, you have to have at least two alts in case that person dies or molests. Five alts if the reference is a man over 50.

TAYLOR

Okay, but if they molest someone the same day they die, they're fair game.

Ava laughs and hands her note cards. As Taylor reads:

AVA

(handing another)

Oh and if you can convince the network to get on board with incest, I have an incest joke that actually helps the story a little.

Taylor laughs and slaps Ava's arm playfully.

TAYLOR

(to AD)

Okay, let's go again.

Off Ava smiling...

810 EXT. PALMETTO - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

810

It's the night of Deborah's special taping. THE PALMETTO DIGITAL BILLBOARD reads: "**DEBORAH VANCE SPECIAL TAPING TONIGHT!**"

811 INT. MC LUDWIG'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

811

Deborah reviews her notes in MC Ludwig's dressing room. The room's painted MATTE BLACK and there's a silk bed where the table area used to be. Bad contemporary art on the walls. DAMIEN is on his phone in the BG. There's a KNOCK at the door. DAVIS, a security guard, pops his head in.

DAVIS

Ms. Vance, someone here to see you? A manager?

DEBORAH

Oh yes. Send them in.

In walks... JANET STONE!

JANET

Deborah!

DEBORAH

Hi, Janet.

JANET

(looking around)

Wow! Interesting vibe...

DEBORAH

Yeah. MC Ludwig did some reno. Wish it wouldn't be so on the nose for me to burn it down.

Janet laughs hard at this.

JANET

Well, I won't keep you -- just wanted to pop in and say have a great show. I am SO excited to see it.

DEBORAH

Thank you.

JANET

And we don't have to do this now, but... you know why I'm here. Listen, I love Jimmy -- I think he does really well in this business, especially for a man under six foot one. But he's not cutthroat.

DEBORAH

Yeah, well... he's a sweet kid.

JANET

Sure. But he doesn't have the resources to support you on his own. Think about it: as good a saleswoman as you are -- and you are fucking lava -- without the QVC machine behind you, would you be able to sell as many products?

DEBORAH

You're not wrong.

JANET

Anyway, I don't want to distract you. But I think we should talk after. I've got some big ideas.

DEBORAH

Sure. Let's.

Janet smiles at this.

812 INT. PALMETTO - DRESSING ROOM BACKSTAGE HALLWAY - NIGHT 812

Jimmy and Kayla (decked out in a high fashion power suit, slicked back hair, a bold red lip) walk.

JIMMY

--Um no, your bikini wax is not "a company write off."

KAYLA

It was just the back!

JIMMY

Kayla.

KAYLA

Okay fine, but my trainer said anything is a write off if you just think about business while it's happening.

JIMMY

That's absolutely not true. Fire that person.

KAYLA

No way. She's a write off!

Jimmy rubs his forehead, and then sees... Janet Stone exiting Deborah's dressing room! Jimmy's face falls.

JANET

Jimmy! How was your trip in? Were you able to get a good seat on the Greyhound?

JIMMY

Ha, ha. For your information: I'm actually United premier platinum, and I had a delicious in-flight bistro box, thank you very much!

Kayla, in "business mode", gets in Janet's face.

KAYLA

Okay little miss fuck stick, what in the name of the devil's uncut dick are you doing here?

JIMMY

(sotto)
Oh my God.

JANET

Oh, same as you -- I'm here for Deborah's
taping. We just had a lovely chat.
She's SO sweet.

JIMMY

...She is?

JANET

Yeah. Told you I was going down your
client list. And I finally got to the
"V's." Enjoy the show.

Janet blows past them, smirking.

813 INT. MC LUDWIG'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

813

Jimmy and Kayla enter.

JIMMY

Hey hey!

DEBORAH

Oh, Jimmy, hi -- so sorry, I'm actually
in pre-show mode. Maybe we can catch up
after?

JIMMY

...Of course. Break a leg.

Off on Jimmy, looking nervous.

814 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - TECH BOOTH - NIGHT

814

Elaine is at the control booth, sipping from a LARGE ICED TEA
and holding a CAKE POP. She's in her element, barking orders
into her headset mic.

ELAINE

Okay, here we go! Let's get B-roll of
the crowd filing in! I want you rolling
on everything, boys!

She takes a bite of her cake pop.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Ah fuck!
(to TECH GUY next to her)
It's lemon poppy.

815 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - AUDIENCE

815

The mood is electric as the crowd shuffles into their seats.

ANGLE ON: ROBIN and LORETTA, wearing VIP passes and holding popcorn, plastic frozen drinks, and merch, walk through the third row, making a commotion.

LORETTA
Excuse us, VIP coming through! Check the passes!

ROBIN
Why didn't we just use the aisle?

LORETTA
'Cause we're VIP and people need to know!

ANGLE ON: Jimmy sits next to Kayla. He glares down the row at Janet. A man, LARRY, sits down next to Jimmy, knocking into him as he plops. Larry slurps out of a BIG CUP. A kind, young USHER approaches.

USHER
I'm so sorry, sir, but there's no outside drinks in the theater.

Larry rolls his eyes and drops the cup at the usher's feet. He picks it up and walks off.

LARRY
Casino comps me these tickets and look how they treat you. Bullshit, right? Shoulda seen Criss Angel again.

Jimmy just looks down, not wanting to engage. The HOUSE LIGHTS flash... it's almost show time...

816 INT. MC LUDWIG'S DRESSING ROOM - SAME TIME

816

Deborah paces back and forth. She's dressed for the show now -- a more subdued look, a less ostentatious outfit, no sequins, with natural slicked back hair. Then, another KNOCK.

DEBORAH
(calling off)
Not a good time--

Deborah looks up... to see that it's Ava.

AVA
Hey.

DEBORAH
What-- what are you doing here?

AVA

Oh, I left that punch up gig early.

Deborah takes this in.

AVA (CONT'D)

Yeah, I forgot I had tickets to Cirque du Soleil, and it's the weird sex one, so I really don't wanna miss it.

(off Deborah's laugh)

But I'll probably watch your taping first, y'know, since I'm here anyway.

DEBORAH

...I'm glad you are.

AVA

Me too.

Deborah squeezes Ava's hand. They smile at each other.

817 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - TECH BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

817

Elaine calling the shots, looking at MONITORS.

ELAINE

Okay! Here we go. Everyone ready?!

(then)

Wait, hold on -- oh boy. I forgot my contacts. I can't see shit!

Elaine looks around the booth -- everyone is very concerned.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

I'm kidding! Jesus, you people are serious. Thought this was a comedy show! You guys wouldn't have lasted a day with Andy Kaufman -- he ran my dog over as a bit! And I LOVED it!

(then, immediately)

Alright, kill the house lights!

818 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - SAME TIME

818

The theater goes dark. The audience WOOS with anticipation, then falls silent...

819 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - TECH BOOTH - SAME TIME

819

ELAINE

Okay, A camera, let's settle for the wide... okay. Sal, let's bring out our girl, in 3...2...1! Rock 'n roll!

820 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - SAME TIME

820

Spotlights swirl on the curtain as we hear:

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, returning to the
Palmetto for one special night, please
welcome to the stage, the one, the
only... Deborah Vance!

The curtain rises, and out walks Deborah to a markedly
different stage design from her last show in 110. Thunderous
applause. Deborah takes this in, with a confident smile.

CUT TO:

Deborah on stage, a little later on in the show. Ava watches
from the wings. The audience is laughing.

DEBORAH

-- It's true! And of course it's hard to
lose a husband and a sister at the same
time. But it does make Christmas
shopping way easier.

The crowd laughs again.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

And I don't excuse what they did. But in
some ways, there was nowhere for them to
go except towards each other. Because
everything was about me, and my career --
and there was no space left in my
marriage, in my relationship with her,
anywhere. Because it's what I do: I take
up space. I did it then, and I still do
it now. In every room I'm in, on my tour
bus, on the judging panel of RuPaul's
Drag Race...

(alt)

...on film studios' blacklists...

(alt)

...on the "icons" float at Vegas Pride...

(alt)

...in my daughter's therapy sessions...

(crowd laughs)

I love taking up space. Which is
painfully ironic, because as we've
established -- I'm also a high
functioning anorexic!

The crowd laughs again.

821 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - TECH BOOTH - SAME TIME

821

Elaine in the booth, watching the monitors.

ELAINE

Johnny, you read my mind. Stay there.
Slight push in -- slow, slow, slow!

822 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - LATER

822

Deborah still on stage.

DEBORAH

And then that same year, the Vatican came after me, because they thought I called the Pope a pedophile on national TV. But I didn't -- I called him a pedophile-ophile. Because he loves being around pedophiles!

BIG laugh from the audience. The show is going well and Deborah's feeling herself.

ANGLE ON: Jimmy and Kayla laughing. Then, all of a sudden, Larry (the man next to Jimmy) starts shifting uncomfortably, clutching his chest. Jimmy looks over, concerned.

Larry falls to the ground!

ANGLE ON: Deborah, on stage.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

So then sponsors started pulling ads from my--

AUDIENCE MEMBER (O.S.)

He's seizing!!!

ANGLE ON: Larry is on the ground seizing! Audience members around him gasp.

Jimmy jumps to his feet, trying to help the man.

ANGLE ON: Loretta and Robin, craning their necks to see.

LORETTA

Oh shit!

ANGLE ON: Ava, backstage, confused about what's going on.

ANGLE ON: Deborah tries to control things.

DEBORAH

Jesus!
(calling to back of theater)
Can we get the paramedics?!

Audience members look around, scared, and starting to realize how serious it is. A group of EMTs rush down the aisle--

823 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - TECH BOOTH - SAME TIME 823

Elaine in the booth.

ELAINE

The FUCK is going on down there?!

824 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - SAME TIME 824

The EMTs load Larry onto a stretcher. The entire audience is talking now, worried and craning their necks to see what is happening. It's chaos. Deborah tries to keep things under control on stage.

DEBORAH

It's okay, everyone... It's okay!

The audience is completely talking over Deborah. She's lost them. As the EMTs carry Larry up the aisle, Jimmy races up the aisle with them, trying to manage the situation.

825 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - VESTIBULE - CONTINUOUS 825

In the lobby, the EMTs try to resuscitate Larry.

JIMMY

What's happening? Is he ok?!

No one answers him. An EMT is giving Larry CPR to no avail.

EMT

Fuck! Fuck! We lost him.

Jimmy is horrified -- the man is clearly dead.

826 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - MOMENTS LATER 826

Jimmy, white as a sheet, walks back down the aisle towards the stage. Some of the audience has turned to look at him. He makes eye contact with Deborah for beat... and then:

JIMMY

(yelling out)
HE'S OKAY!!!!

The audience erupts into CHEERS! Everyone is so relieved!

DEBORAH

Hey! How 'bout that!! Thank God!

827 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - TECH BOOTH - SAME TIME

827

Elaine at the booth.

ELAINE

Alright! We're back, baby!

Elaine LOUDLY SLURPS her large cup, which is now empty.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

(holding up cup)

I need a close up on C and a refill!!

828 INT. PALMETTO THEATER - SAME TIME

828

Deborah on stage.

DEBORAH

You know, not the first time a man has
faked his own death to get away from me!

The audience laughs a HUGE, cathartic laugh. Deborah's back
on track.

ANGLE ON: Jimmy sits back down next to Kayla. She whispers:

KAYLA

I'm so glad he's okay!

JIMMY

(shaking head, quietly)

No. Dead. Absolutely dead.

Off on Jimmy, everyone around him laughing, as he stares off
into the middle distance.

829 INT. MC LUDWIG'S DRESSING ROOM - RIGHT AFTER SHOW - NIGHT

829

Deborah enters the dressing room, smiling big. She's
followed closely by Jimmy.

JIMMY

You crushed!

DEBORAH

You were pretty good yourself. And I'm
just glad that man is okay.

They share a glance -- they both know the truth.

JIMMY

Yes. I as well.

DEBORAH

You know, I don't think you're as good of a manager as your father.

JIMMY

Oh, I know.

DEBORAH

I think you might be better.

Jimmy's eyes instantly well with tears. More people pile into the room, including Ava, Damien, Kayla, Elaine, and Janet Stone. Elaine's drinking a CLAM-TOMATO JUICE.

JANET

Wow, Deborah! Not news to me, but you are a star! Handled the right way, this can be huge for you.

DEBORAH

I think it will be handled the right way, because I have excellent representation with Jimmy here.

Janet's jaw drops.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

So, thank you for coming all the way out here, but it's probably time for you to leave.

KAYLA

THERE'S THE DOOR, BITCH/CUNT/HO!!

Jimmy smiles. Ava jumps in:

AVA

And just so you know, I'm sticking with Jimmy, too!

JANET

I don't know who you are.

Janet turns to leave. Calling after her:

KAYLA

And you never will!

AVA

Well, no, I would like for her to know who I am.

Kayla puts her arm around Ava.

KAYLA

Have you ever considered going blonde,
girlie?

830 INT. PALMETTO HALLWAY - NIGHT

830

Deborah finds DJ out in the hall. She looks upset.

DEBORAH

You ok?

DJ

Yeah, I mean... that was kinda hard to
hear.

DEBORAH

You mean cause the laughter was so loud?

DJ

Ha, ha.

DEBORAH

(earnest)
Sorry.

DJ

I just can't believe you didn't tell me
any of it. I mean, it's one thing to
find out about all that stuff about you
and dad-- but it's another thing to find
out with 3,000 other people.

DEBORAH

...I don't know why, but it's easier for
me to say things to strangers. Always
has been.

DJ

Well, therapy is just talking to one
stranger in private.

DEBORAH

My insurance doesn't cover it, I don't
know what to tell you.

DJ

Well it's less expensive than IVF.

DEBORAH

How's that going?

DJ

Three weeks out from another round. They gave me these folic acid gummies and they're so good. I have to limit myself to five a day.

DEBORAH

Well, hopefully you'll get a kid as beautiful as mine, so no matter what happens in life, she can fall back on her looks.

DJ

Aww thank you.

(then)

Equally hot I'd be fine with, but hotter I think would be hard for me.

Deborah laughs.

DEBORAH

You know, I actually had a good luck charm on tonight.

Deborah lifts up a wrist, revealing a D'JEWELRY BRACELET.

DJ

Oh my God -- that's D'Jewelry 2019! I didn't see that!

DEBORAH

Yeah. It'll be in the special.

DJ is so touched by this.

DJ

Thank you.

DEBORAH

Of course.

(then)

It turned my wrist black, sweetie.

DJ

That's good for you -- it's iron!

831 INT. MC LUDWIG'S DRESSING ROOM - SAME TIME

831

Ava and Damien stand together as JOSEFINA approaches.

JOSEFINA

Okay, should we all go out tonight?

AVA
I'm down.

DAMIEN
Sure.

JOSEFINA
Yeah, I'm so rarely out. Let's get
fucked up./I wanna get fucked up.

AVA
(laughs)
Wow, okay! Where's Marcus?

JOSEFINA

He said he had to go see someone...?

(alt, knowing)

Oh, he said he had to go see a friend...

832 EXT. WILSON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

832

A door opens to find Marcus at a door step.

MARCUS

Hi.

We see it's WILSON, who's just opened the door.

WILSON

(surprised)

Hi.

MARCUS

Sorry for the random stop by--

WILSON

Is everything okay? Doesn't Deborah have some big thing tonight?

MARCUS

Yeah, yeah, but I don't need to be there.

(off his reaction)

I was wondering if we could talk?

WILSON

Sure. Um, I should just let you know, I'm seeing someone. But -- I'm happy to talk as friends, if that works?

MARCUS

I think that's exactly what I need.

WILSON

Do you want to come in? I'm doing meal prep for the week. We could talk, you could chop onions -- that way if you start crying, you have a good cover?

Marcus laughs.

MARCUS

I'd love to.

They both smile, and Marcus enters the house. As they go in:

WILSON

Your mom has been texting me, by the way.

MARCUS

Wrestling stuff?

WILSON (CONT'D)

Wrestling stuff, yeah.

833 INT. MC LUDWIG'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

833

Kayla and Ava exit as Jimmy approaches Deborah, who holds a large platter of shrimp cocktail.

DEBORAH

I'm putting shrimp under his pillows.

JIMMY

...Cool! So, let's talk tomorrow about re-pitching networks--

DEBORAH

(putting down platter)

No. I've been thinking about that.

There's only one network that matters.

SMASH CUT TO:

834 INT. QVC - DAY

834

Deborah at the table, mid-passionate spiel.

DEBORAH

Every product I've ever offered here -- every necklace, every lip kit, every quilted bootie -- is something I would buy myself, because it's something I believe in. I can't sell it to you if it's not. So trust me when I say, I've never believed in something more than what I'm offering you today. This product doesn't just have my name on it -- it is me, entirely. And the reason it's so special, is because it is my special!

We see KATIE, Deborah's co-host, next to her, applauding. We see the Deborah Vance LIVE DVD. A monitor has the pricing -- \$19.99 has been slashed in red and it's now \$17.49.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

This is my life story -- the highs, the lows, the time the China trade wars stopped shipments of my Mrs. Claus Self-Sealing Cookie Jar.

KATIE

Oh that was horrible!

DEBORAH

And like all my products -- with the rare exception of the jean'ish leggings from last fall -- I have road tested this myself. I took it all over the country. And it works. It's what I've always wanted to say to you. The truth, whether I like it or not.

ANGLE ON: Marcus, Ava, Jimmy, and Damien in the wings, smiling. TWO QVC EXECUTIVES, MAX (40-50s) and HARPER (30s-40s), stand by them.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

So, here we go!

The counter starts. It immediately starts selling.

KATIE

And what if our viewers don't have a DVD player, Deborah?

DEBORAH

Well, I'd say get one -- it's the future! But it'll also come with a downloadable link for your adult children to stream.

KATIE

Wow, we've already sold two thousand units. Um, we, uh, only have fifty thousand units available today...

ANGLE ON: Max and Harper are both pleasantly surprised.

MAX

("wow")

This is gonna sell out.

Harper nods and starts typing on her phone.

HARPER

We're gonna need to press more.

Marcus leans in to whisper to Ava.

MARCUS

I guess there is money in DVDs...

Ava laughs.

ANGLE ON:

KATIE

We are absolutely flying!

(re: ear)

Oh my gosh, I am hearing from our
producers that this is a record for units
sold in under five minutes... We are on
pace to sell out, ladies and gentlemen!
Wow! Deborah!

838 EXT./INT. SUNSET TOWER - NIGHT

838

A huge premiere party is thrown for Deborah's special. Deborah, Ava, Marcus, Jimmy, Damien, and Kayla are all there. We see a poster on an easel for Deborah's special: "**DEBORAH VANCE: MY BAD.**" Kayla and Jimmy chat with a WRITER.

KAYLA

And unlike other managers, we only take 5%.

JIMMY

No, we take 10. You need to stop saying that.

KAYLA

See, he drives a hard bargain. Imagine business affairs being on the other end of that choke-me-daddy energy!

An executive, JAMES, starts talking into a mic.

JAMES

Hello all, I just wanted to say that we are so incredibly excited to be the home for Deborah Vance's hilarious, provocative new special.

The crowd claps and cheers. Deborah smiles.

JAMES (CONT'D)

And now I would like to introduce the living legend Deborah Vance to say a few words!

Deborah takes the mic to big applause.

DEBORAH

Thank you. Finally, an opportunity for me to say something!

The crowd laughs.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

I want to thank the network for taking a chance on this. Once it was already successful and there was literally no risk.

(off their laugh)

I'm kidding.

(MORE)

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

It is a risk to put your support behind an elderly, messy, bitch comedian. But enough about Bill Maher, we're here to celebrate my special!

Everyone laughs again.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

I also want to thank my team for always having my back.

Jimmy, Marcus, and Ava all smile.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

And my incredible director, Elaine Carter!

Elaine holds up her drink to Deb.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

-- And I would especially like to credit my writer, Ava Daniels.

She motions to Ava. Ava is surprised. They lock eyes.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

You pushed me and wouldn't let me quit. Thank you.

Ava literally blushes.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Cheers! Okay, have fun and don't drink and drive -- I don't need that upstaging this night!

The crowd claps. JESSICA and a couple other EXECs go up to Ava.

JESSICA

Amazing! You killed it, lady. Iconic.

Ava smiles big as Jessica starts to introduce her to an EXEC.

ANGLE ON: Deborah smiles as she sees this and downs her champagne, reflecting for a moment.

839 EXT. SUNSET TOWER ROOFTOP - BALCONY - NIGHT

839

Deborah sips a cocktail and looks out at the view. Ava approaches her.

AVA

Ya know, all those people in there are
having a party for you.

DEBORAH

(notices Ava's drink)
I thought you weren't drinking.

AVA
Eh, what else am I good for.

They smile and cheers. Ava looks out.

AVA (CONT'D)
We fucking did it!

DEBORAH
We did.

Deborah smiles.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
So, looking ahead... I can do three
months severance and extend health
insurance for six.

AVA
What?

DEBORAH
Okay, four months.

AVA
Ha, ha. Funny.
(off her look)
Wait... what? You're not serious.

DEBORAH
I am.

AVA
You're firing me?! Are you fucking
kidding?! Why? Things are good!

DEBORAH
They are! And they could keep being good
for a long time. That's the problem.
You need to make space for your own work--

AVA
Come on. I know what you're doing!
You're pushing me away because you're
afraid!

Deborah takes this in and just shrugs -- maybe.

DEBORAH
(motioning inside)
They want you right now. They won't
forever. You have to take advantage of
that. You gotta be a shark.

Ava gets teary.

AVA

But I don't want to be here! I want to be wherever you are.

DEBORAH

I want...

(changing course)

... you to do what's best for yourself.

AVA

I get to decide what's best for me.

DEBORAH

You didn't take credit for the special and you should have, you left that punch up job early--

AVA

I came back for you!

DEBORAH

That's my point! And that mall screenplay idea -- did you ever even start on that?

AVA

Weh-- I've been busy.

DEBORAH

Exactly. And I'd keep you busy. Like you said, I'm going to be working until the day I die. Do you know how old you'll be when I'm 109?

AVA

(through tears)

Please don't make me do math right now!

They laugh a little.

AVA (CONT'D)

You're the one with the stories. What do I have to even say?

DEBORAH

That's the whole thing, kid. You have to go figure it out. I told you, you're just like me -- and you've got your own mountain to climb.

Deborah puts a hand on Ava's cheek -- the opposite of a slap. This time, a tender moment.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
I should head back in.

AVA
So, that's it? We're not gonna talk
anymore? I won't see you?

DEBORAH
(exiting)
Oh you'll see me.
(smiling)
In court.

Ava nods, laughing and crying, as Deborah leaves her all
alone, looking out on the LA skyline.

840 EXT. LOS ANGELES - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY 840

CHYRON: A few months later.

841 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT / INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT - DAY 841

Ava is unpacking boxes while watching TV. Jimmy calls.

JIMMY
Hey! How's the new place?

AVA
Good! I mean, it's fine, but I'm kind of
excited to re-enter subletter culture.
We have no rules, no ties, no
obligations.

JIMMY
Good for you. Listen, I've got some good
news. The pilot you did punch ups on got
picked up to series.

AVA
Oh! Good for Taylor.

JIMMY
And apparently a bunch of your punch ups
ended up in the final cut and they wanted
to know if you're available to staff.

AVA
Seriously?

JIMMY
Yeah, the job is yours as long as you
promise not to leave early again.
Luckily, you're funnier than you are
flaky.

AVA
Amazing.

JIMMY
Also, I have some news from Deborah...

AVA
(perking up)
Oh?

JIMMY
She's dropping the lawsuit!

AVA
...Oh. That's... great!

JIMMY
Yeah, what a relief, right?!

Ava finds herself unable to agree.

AVA
So that court date...?

JIMMY
Yeah, stricken from the record or
whatever. And I didn't tell you, but I
had actually been called to be a
character witness for you, and you know I
wouldn't have been able to perjure
myself.

Ava starts to exit the room.

JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
So I was very stressed. I had some nasty
eczema going from that one...

We land on the TV and see what Ava had been watching was
Deborah on QVC.

842 INT. QVC - DAY

842

Deborah stands in front of a mannequin who has her dress
undone in the back. Katie is there, nodding along.

DEBORAH
So you've put on a gorgeous dress, all
ready for a night out, but no one to zip
you up? No problem! Just slip this
ingenious device through the zipper,
and...
(zipping it up)
Voila! Isn't that cute and convenient?
(MORE)

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

And, sure, you could do it with a wire hanger, but why wouldn't you want elegance in everything you do?

KATIE

Absolutely.

DEBORAH

You may not know what the night has in store for you, but at least you know you're ready for whatever comes.

She winks at the camera.

END OF SEASON TWO