

THE FRONT OFFICE

"Pilot"

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"Love's not love when it is mingled with regards that stand aloof
from the entire point." William Shakespeare, *King Lear*

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TEASER

EXT. OHIO RIVER - DAY

The Queen City, Cincinnati, in all her glory overlooks the Ohio River. A state-of-the-art sports arena sits on the riverbank.

EXT. TORNADOS ARENA - DAY

The arena shines majestically in the morning light. The LED sign announces the playoff game in two days against the Chicago Knights. There's a long line of people at the ticket window attempting to get these valuable tickets.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - COURT - DAY

Inside, signs for the Basketball League's Playoff press conference. ASSISTANTS roam the floor escorting COACHES and PLAYERS to various interviews.

SERIES OF BASKETBALL INTERVIEW SHOTS:

Cocky PLAYERS, Self-deprecating COACHES, INTERVIEWERS trying to get the teams to trash talk. All of it shows the ambition and drive to win.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

DEAN HORNE (70s) looks over the empty basketball court--like he's the king of an empire. Dean worries about his legacy. While he has tons of material goods, he worries about what good he has done on Earth and with his family--and you can see that in his eyes. But that doesn't always stop him from being a selfish bastard.

LAWRENCE (O.S.)

Mr. Horne.

(louder)

Mr. Horne!

Dean snaps out of it. He sees LAWRENCE, a nervous but capable Latino assistant--he's always preparing for threats--behind him.

DEAN

Who are you?

Lawrence looks to see if anyone else is near.

LAWRENCE
(whispering)
Your assistant, Lawrence, sir.

Lawrence looks at Dean with concern, but does not say anything.

DEAN
(covering)
Can't you take a joke, Lawrence?

Lawrence smiles, but it doesn't reach his eyes.

LAWRENCE
Are you ready?

DEAN
Yes, yes, I'm ready.

Dean follows Lawrence out.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - HALLWAY - LATER

CHERI, a makeup artist, applies powder to Dean's face as they all walk towards the conference room.

CHERI
Gawd, I wish I had your cheekbones.
All my parents gave me were these
bags under my eyes.

DEAN
My daughters aren't grateful for
that. They're more concerned with
other aspects of their inheritance.

CHERI
Don't blame 'em--if I's your
daughter, I'd only be thinking
about money too.

DEAN
Money, money, money. That's all
anyone can talk about nowadays.
Let's talk about you. A pretty girl
like you must be married?

Cheri blushes but before she can answer, Lawrence interrupts.
He's holding a RINGING phone.

LAWRENCE
Dean. Your daughter.

Dean turns.

DEAN
Which one?

LAWRENCE
Ali.

DEAN
Pass.

LAWRENCE
She's called three times. Probably
about the union.

DEAN
After the interview. Don't need her
in my head.

LAWRENCE
The concessions union's really
upset this time.

DEAN
Not now.

As soon as Lawrence hangs up with Ali, a second phone begins
to RING. Lawrence checks it. He begins to hand it to Dean,
but the older man waves him off.

LAWRENCE
I think you had better answer th--

DEAN
Stop pestering me. You're worse
than my wife.

Lawrence backs off.

DEAN
(to Cheri)
Where were we?

An ASSISTANT leans her head in from a doorway.

ASSISTANT
We're ready for you, Mr. Horne.

Dean hands Cheri a tip.

DEAN
(to Cheri with a wink)
You know, money isn't everything.

Dean casually follows the Assistant and Lawrence scurries behind them.

CHERI
(pocketing the cash)
But Mama's gotta pay the bills.

Dean and Lawrence walk side by side.

DEAN
Where's Hunter? Tell that boy to wait here for me.

LAWRENCE
I'll find him, sir.

With a different tone of seriousness:

DEAN
Lawrence, I've appreciated your service.

LAWRENCE
You firing me, sir?

DEAN
No. But your life's about to get a whole lot harder.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LAWRENCE
I don't understand.

DEAN
Because you're about to witness history.

Dean steps into the interview. The reporter, WENDY ANDERSON, a young and cocky reporter who's always looking for a scoop or scandal, shakes his hand and they get down to business.

WENDY
With me here is Dean Horne, owner of the Cincinnati Tornados who are going to the playoffs for the sixth time in the past seven years. But he has yet to put a ring on his finger. How does it feel to be a bridesmaid and never a bride?

DEAN

Now, Wendy, I think you're underplaying how difficult it is to get to the playoffs themselves. How many other owners would love to be me?

WENDY

Is this year your team's year?

DEAN

I certainly hope so. Because it's my last.

WENDY

What do you mean?

DEAN

After this year, I'm stepping down.

WENDY

This is the first--

DEAN

It's the first anyone's heard of it, Wendy.

Dean flashes a big smile and we can see how charm helped him get to where he is.

ANGLE ON: Lawrence. His mouth is wide open. His cell phones start vibrating immediately.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. JILL'S LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - DAY

JILL (30s), Dean's half-Asian and half-Caucasian middle daughter, only feels comfortable using her beauty and body to get what she wants. Everywhere else she seems to lack confidence. But not here, where she lies naked in the middle of a silk-sheeted bed.

JILL
Kiss me. Kiss me, *now*.

SULLIVAN (20s), the star basketball player for the Tornados who's more of a jealous schemer than he appears, grabs her and kisses her passionately.

SULLIVAN
Don't tell me what to do.

JILL
Wouldn't have to if you'd just do it.

Sullivan's phone gets a text message--a horrible SONG plays.

JILL
How many times did I tell you to change that stupid ring tone?

Sullivan ignores her and checks his phone.

JILL
Or at least put your phone on silent when we have sex.

SULLIVAN
Good thing I never listen to you, Jill.

Sullivan turns on the television to the cable sports channel.

ON THE SCREEN: Big letters read, "Breaking News."

SPORTS ANNOUNCER
Dean Horne announces he's leaving the Cincinnati Tornados after owning them for almost 34 years.

Jill's up and getting dressed. Sullivan doesn't give her a second glance, he's more interested in the TV.

INT. SOCIETY TEA - DAY

ALI (40s), Dean's oldest, sits at a society tea full of RICH WOMEN. Ali's polished and perfect, but always tries to do more to win her father and society's approval.

She stifles a yawn until she sees ZOE (30s), the ultimate rich spoiled princess, sit next to her equally uptight rich mom. Ali stares longingly.

Zoe stands and goes to the punch bowl by herself. Ali gets up and follows her over. She orchestrates it so Zoe bumps into her.

ZOE
Excuse you.

ALI
(holding out her hand)
Pleasure to bump into you, I'm Ali Horne.

Zoe looks at Ali's hand as though it were diseased. Ali puts down her hand.

ZOE
Haven't heard of you.

ALI
Surprising. Coffee sometime so I can fill you in?

ZOE
(looks her up and down)
No, thank you.

Zoe returns to her table and Ali goes to the bar. The BARTENDER approaches her.

ALI
Tequila. Straight.

A slightly drunk older woman, GEORGIA STEVENS, is already at the bar.

GEORGIA
She'll never give you the time of day.

ALI
Mind your own business, lady.

The bartender brings Ali her drink and she is about to leave.

GEORGIA

Unless you tell her who you are and
how much you're going to make when
your father gives you the team.

Georgia sees that Ali has no idea what she is talking about.
She points to the big screen TV over the bar.

ON THE SCREEN: Same big letters read, "Breaking News."

SPORTS ANNOUNCER

... after owning them for 34 years.
Timing smacks of a publicity stunt.

Ali pounds the drink and escapes quickly.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - COURT - DAY

KIRA (20s), Dean's spunky youngest daughter, scores an easy layup. Even though she's the youngest and has something to prove, it's different than her sisters. She feels secure in terms of her place in the family--even though she's a bit of a family pariah.

KIRA

Point-six. C'mon, c'mon, old man.
Thought you had more game than
this.

COACH CRAIG, coach of the Tornados, panting a little, but trying to hide it, checks the ball.

CRAIG

I'm only 15 years older than you.

KIRA

But you're playing like a 60 year
old.

Kira shoots the ball over Craig, but misses. Craig gets the rebound.

CRAIG

Now you're going down, Kira.

KIRA

Bring it.

CRAIG

Oh, I will. You're about to find
out why they used to call me the
white Jordan.

Craig's assistant, MICHAEL, comes in.

MICHAEL

Coach.

Michael says this just as Craig tries to drive past Kira.
Kira easily steals the ball.

CRAIG

Kinda busy here, Mike.

MICHAEL

You need to hear this.

CRAIG

It can't wait?

MICHAEL

I don't think so.

CRAIG

Enough that you're willing to stake
your job on it if it isn't
important enough?

KIRA

Don't fire the boy because you
can't play basketball.

MICHAEL

I'll stake my job on it.

Both Kira and Craig stop.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - COACH'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Kira, Craig, Michael, and other coaches stand around a
television.

ON THE SCREEN: The now familiar big letters read, "Breaking
News."

SPORTS ANNOUNCER

... a publicity stunt. But the real
question is who's going to take
control?

Kira hurries out of the office. She breaks into a full run.

EXT. TORNADOS ARENA - LOADING DOCK - DAY

Kira passes the stadium loading dock where TATE (20s), a concession worker, unloads a delivery truck and wheels a stack of potato chip boxes into the stadium.

Tate's an All-American boy, the kind of boy you wish you grew up next to. He would have been your date to prom or your best friend because he's just that genuine.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

WORKERS decorate the stadium for the upcoming playoff game as Tate rushes through the hallway. He picks up speed as he pushes the large dolly in front of him. He can barely see where he's going, but he doesn't let that stop him.

He wheels around the corner.

BRENNA

What the hell are you doing?

Tate stops short of a major catastrophe with BRENNA, a hard-nosed Filipina laundry manager. She's all bark, but very little bite.

TATE

Oh, crap.

But Tate drops one box and chips fly everywhere.

BRENNA

Oh crap's, right. Why don't you watch where you're going?

TATE

I'm running late and I have to get...

(notices this isn't
getting him anywhere)

Did you hear the news, Brenna?

BRENNA

Ain't nobody who hasn't heard that.

Tate starts to pick up the chips, but Brenna just watches.

TATE

Who do you think it's gonna be?

BRENNA

Doesn't really matter to me. They need someone to do laundry no matter what.

TATE

I think it could be Crystal.

Brenna grimaces at the name.

BRENNA

Look, there's no way that his daughters would let him give it to that gold digger--especially Ali.

Right when she says Ali's name, Ali happens to be hurrying by. She slows down and looks at them.

Brenna quickly lowers her eyes and bends to help Tate. Ali glares, but doesn't have time for this.

SIERRA (30s), a bisexual African American equipment manager, leans her head out of a doorway. Sierra flirts with men and women alike, any possibility of using her charm to get what she wants, she does it.

Sierra walks over to them.

SIERRA

Heard you guys talking. I'm taking bets. \$10. Winners split the pot.

(beat)

My money's on Kira.

BRENNA

You have a sweet spot for her. And her mother.

SIERRA

He loved her. The other's moms were just playthings. Did he even marry them?

TATE

(checking his watch)

Crap, I'm late for the meeting.

He grabs the dolly and starts to run.

SIERRA

(yelling after him)

You tell them to get their act together. What's a game without a hotdog and beer?

(MORE)

SIERRA (cont'd)
(to Brenna)
You want in on the action?

BRENNNA
Things are kinda tight right now.

Sierra nods understandably.

SIERRA
We can use some towels in the
locker room.

BACK ON: Tate, who negotiates the hallways expertly as he moves through CUSTODIANS and SUITS alike.

He drops the chips into a supply closet near a closed concession stand.

He then runs through another part of the stadium and into...

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Tate enters the cafeteria and the entire meeting of CONCESSION WORKERS looks at him.

He tries to be quiet as he makes his way to the one remaining chair which is over and around quite a few people.

TATE
Sorry, I'm late.

We hear him continue to say sorry as he climbs through people. He passes ELLIE, a young and extremely beautiful woman who always seems to be showing off a little too much cleavage and thigh. When Tate meets her eyes, he quickly looks away.

WYATT STOLL, the union leader who believes he understands everything, but knows very little about the cutthroat business world, glares at Tate.

WYATT
As I was saying, we have to vote on whether or not to strike. My feeling is that we strike while the iron is hot, pun intended.

There are a few CHUCKLES around the room.

WYATT

Now is the time that we can make
the family give us what we really
deserve! Better wages and benefits.
A living wage!

Ellie stands. All eyes go to her and she loves the attention.

ELLIE

Wyatt, do you really think now is
the best time?

A MURMUR goes through the group.

WYATT

This is going to be difficult for
all of us. Me included. I'm in the
middle of a custody battle with my
ex and this couldn't have come at a
worse time for me. But that doesn't
mean we don't do it.

The mood of the union swings back toward Wyatt.

ELLIE

But with Dean announcing his
retirement, don't you think...

WYATT

Look, we can come up with a million
excuses, but you need to decide
what is right for you and what is
best for you.

ELLIE

Shouldn't it be about all of us?
About everyone who works here?

WYATT

We have the most leverage if we do
this now. As soon as the Tornados
are out of the playoffs, they don't
need to worry about us and can take
their sweet old time. It's up to
you, but I'm calling a vote.

Some union members look uncomfortable. It is hesitantly
unanimous as they slowly raise their hands. Ellie is the last
one to raise her hand.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - ALI'S OFFICE - DAY

Jill bursts in as Ali tries to deal with RINGING PHONES.

JILL
Did you know about this?

ALI
(covering the mouthpiece
on the phone)
What do you think?

JILL
Has he lost his mind?

Ali puts up her finger.

ALI
(into the phone)
Of course, we'll have a press
release to you by the end of the
day today.

Ali hangs up the phone.

JILL
Where's your assistant?

ALI
Fired him yesterday.

JILL
Poor planning on your part.
Father's gonna be pissed when he
finds out that you fired someone
from the family.

ALI
Please. He was barely related to
us.

Another phone call and Kira runs in. Ali's on the phone
again.

Now that all three sisters are in the same room it's clear
that they all have different mothers because they look
nothing alike.

JILL
(to Kira)
You think you're taking business
casual a little too far?

KIRA
I was playing ball when I heard.

JILL
So Father didn't talk to you?

KIRA
You think I wouldn't tell you if he
told me?

JILL
I don't know. Would you?

KIRA
Looks like we were all equally in
the dark.

Ali hangs up the phone again.

ALI
Where is he?

JILL
Can't get a hold of Lawrence.

ALI
We need to find him now.

JILL
Kira?

KIRA
Why me?

ALI
Don't act all innocent. Get him in
here so we can talk to him.

Kira starts to leave.

JILL
And change!

ALI
There's going to be press all over
this place.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - HALLWAY - DAY

In a hallway outside of the interview room, stands HUNTER (teens), bored and texting on his phone. He's Dean's youngest child and he's a misfit in more ways than one. This is the last place he wants to be.

A girl, DYANA (teens), walks by following a group of people.

Hunter looks up, it's love at first sight. He begins to follow her.

Dyana, sensing Hunter behind her, ducks into the women's bathroom.

Hunter goes into the bathroom without thinking.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - WOMEN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hunter enters. The bathroom appears to be empty.

DYANA (O.S.)
Are you stalking me?

Hunter turns around and sees a smiling Dyana watching him. Hunter is so taken by Dyana he can't talk. He shakes his head no.

DYANA
Then what are you doing in the
girl's bathroom?

Hunter looks around, as though he just realized where he was. His face turns beet red.

DYANA
You're kinda cute. For a mute.

She winks at Hunter and leaves.

Hunter sighs happily; he's in love.

Two WOMEN enter the bathroom and Hunter scurries out under their glares.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Dean hands the microphone back to the SOUND PERSON and shakes Wendy's hand.

WENDY
Thanks, Dean. That was the news of
the day.

DEAN
No problem. Make sure all of your
talking heads talk favorably about
me.

Wendy nods as Lawrence steps in next to Dean and ushers him away.

DEAN
Impressive, huh, Lawrence?

LAWRENCE

Certainly history, sir. I've had three calls from Ali, two from Jill, and Kira has started texting me. Sir, did you tell your wife?

DEAN

Just let me handle the details, Lawrence.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - HALLWAY - DAY

Hunter returns to where he was before, but more distracted than normal.

DEAN

Come along, son, we have to get back to the office.

HUNTER

Do I have to go?

DEAN

It'd be nice if you'd at least pretend to show some interest in basketball.

HUNTER

I was.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The three daughters wait for their father. Ali's texting on her phone, Jill paces, while Kira wads paper and shoots baskets into a toy hoop over a garbage can. Kira has taken her sisters' advice and changed into more appropriate business attire.

CRYSTAL barges in. She says she's in her 40s, but more likely she's halfway through her 50s. No matter her age, she's Dean's trophy wife, but this trophy expects maintenance.

CRYSTAL

Where is he? Where's my husband?

ALI

We're waiting for him too, Crystal.

CRYSTAL

Whose idea was this? Yours?

ALI

He didn't tell any of us. So save the theatrics for when he gets here.

CRYSTAL

SO which one of you will it be? You can't be happy about this...

KIRA

If it's what Dad wants, then we support him.

Jill and Ali nod--they're a united front against Crystal. A KNOCK on the door.

ALI

Come in.

BEN, the General Manager and Crystal's son, enters.

BEN

Mom, what are you doing..?

CRYSTAL

Looking for my husband.

BEN

Oh.

(understanding)

Ohhhh. Jill, I was actually looking for you. I wanted to make sure that this announcement doesn't become too much of a distraction for the players. We can't afford--

ALI

We're keeping this news and any press away from them. Their job--

JILL

Is to focus on winning.

BEN

Wish it wouldn't have been right now.

KIRA

You and all of us.

Dean enters with Hunter in tow.

DEAN

I've returned.

All three daughters at once:

JILL

I can't believe that you did this
without--

ALI

Do you realize the mess that you've
made?

KIRA

When were you going to tell us?

DEAN

Good to see you too, girls. And my
gorgeous wife.

Dean moves to kiss her, but she's not having any of it.

CRYSTAL

Save it.

ALI

Do you have some sort of plan?

They all wait expectantly.

DEAN

(to his daughters)

Of course. One of you will take my
place.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean looks at his daughters.

DEAN

I just don't know which one yet.

Crystal storms out of the office.

BEN

Mom.

Ben goes after Crystal.

KIRA

Why not all three of us?

JILL

Are you kidding? There's no way we'd ever be able to make a decision.

ALI

Someone needs to be at the helm.

DEAN

I expect, no, insist, all of you will support whomever I choose. But only one will be in charge.

The daughters all look at each other--this means war.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - COACH'S OFFICE - LATER

Kira studies game footage of the last time Tornados played the Knights. She scrolls the video back and forth trying to analyze the defensive schemes. She ZOOMS in on Coach Craig and pauses the video.

Ben leans on her door and watches her--a moment too long.

BEN

Don't you have interns for that?

Kira, startled, continues the video.

KIRA

You'd leave this in the hands of interns who don't even know what they're looking at?

Ben puts up his hands in surrender.

BEN

Your dedication to the team is something I've always admired.

KIRA

I have to be dedicated. Otherwise, everyone would think that I only got this job because of my dad.

Ben sits down and rolls his chair over to her.

BEN

You did only get this job because of your dad.

KIRA

Yeah, so I've proven my worth.

BEN

Over and over.

Ben leans back in the chair getting comfortable. Like he's there to stay awhile. Kira starts the tape again.

KIRA

What do you want, Ben? I have to get this to Coach before practice.

Ben sits up and pauses it.

BEN

You need step up and take over the team.

KIRA

(sarcastically)

Because I know what it takes to run a team. Thanks for your words of wisdom.

BEN

There are people for that.

KIRA

Yeah, Ali and Jill.

BEN

But you're the only one with a passion for the game.

(beat)

If you don't, all of your father's hard work would be for nothing.

Ben sees that he finally has Kira's attention. But at the same time, Craig comes in.

CRAIG
Hey, you finish analyzing the--Hi,
Ben.

BEN
Leaving her alone now, Coach.

Ben gets up and the exchange between him and Craig is icy. There's no love lost there.

KIRA
Almost done.

CRAIG
He's right, you know.

KIRA
How much did you hear?

CRAIG
Enough to know if you're going to have more conversations like that, you better start closing doors. You don't know who's on what side down here.

Kira prints what she needs and grabs it as she and Craig leave for practice.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - COURT - MOMENTS LATER

Craig lets Kira run practice with the Tornados players. Kira motions to PRINCE, the young point guard.

KIRA
Guard me.
(demonstrates as she
speaks)
When Derek goes left, he drives to
the hole.

She easily goes around Prince.

KIRA
You defend like a girl. I said
GUARD me.

They try it again. This time Kira fakes going to the left, goes right instead and takes a jumper. She sinks it.

The other players LAUGH and make fun of Prince. Prince's face turns red.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - LOCKER ROOM - LATER

The players change, rest, and get some work done on their arms/legs/back.

A physical therapist who's easily embarrassed by the awkward situation of the locker room, LAUREL, works on Sullivan as Kira talks to him about a play. Crystal walks through the room with HOOTS and WHISTLES from the players.

KIRA
Crystal, the locker room is for the players.

CRYSTAL
(to Kira)
You're not a player.

Kira just glares.

CRYSTAL
Oh, c'mon, I'm boosting morale!
(beat)
I'm glad I caught you alone.

This despite Sullivan, Laurel, and all the other players being around. But Kira looks used to it.

KIRA
Look, when Dad's mind's made up, there's no reasoning--

CRYSTAL
That's not what I'm after. Once he gets a plan in his head, he's not going to change--he's like a raccoon with a shiny object.

KIRA
Or you with a piece of jewelry.

Crystal LAUGHS, but it's obviously forced.

CRYSTAL
Ben talked to me. And I...
(lowers her voice)
And I agree with him. I just wanted to let you know that you have my full support.

She touches Kira's arm and leaves.

LAUREL

I know we're supposed to be family
and all, but I don't trust her.

Sullivan nods, agreeing with her.

LAUREL

(to Sullivan)

Keep still.

KIRA

Crystal? Please. My dog has more
brains than she does.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - CAFETERIA - DAY

Brenna and Sierra eat lunch and chat (amongst many other
arena workers). Jill enters and the room gets quiet. It's
even more awkward when Jill sits with the two women. Brenna
and Sierra suddenly look uncomfortable.

JILL

So I got wind that the equipment
personnel are considering
supporting the concessions union.

Brenna and Sierra look at each other, but don't say anything
to Jill.

JILL

What can I do to change your minds?
You know this fight isn't your
fight. It's just some hot dog
sellers up in arms.

BRENNA

We have to stand together. You get
that don't you? I mean look at your
family.

JILL

I get standing together. But if one
of my sisters is doing something
idiotic, I'll tell them.

SIERRA

But we don't see this as idiotic.

JILL

Sierra, how long have you worked
here?

SIERRA
Almost 20 years.

JILL
Haven't we been good to you guys?

Neither Sierra nor Brenna disagree.

JILL
I don't know why you guys would
jeopardize everything. RIGHT NOW.

Sierra and Brenna look at each other and then sit silently.

Jill SIGHS.

JILL
Think about it.

As she leaves, she takes out her cell phone and calls her father.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean picks up the phone.

JILL (O.S.)
Equipment and laundry are going on
strike too.

Lawrence hands Dean another phone.

LAWRENCE
(whispering)
It's the league office.

DEAN
(to Jill)
I've got the Commisioner on the
other line.

He hangs up on his daughter and takes the phone Lawrence holds out to him.

INT. COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE - DAY

The COMMISSIONER, an imposing man despite his small stature, is on speakerphone.

COMMISSIONER
What kind of business you running
out there, Dean?

DEAN
We got it under control.

COMMISSIONER
Because you know how many cities
bigger than yours are itching for a
franchise?

The other side of the line is silent.

COMMISSIONER
Hello?

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - DEAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dean hangs up on the Commissioner. Lawrence looks at Dean with shock.

DEAN
I don't have time for his hot air.
We have it under control.

LAWRENCE
We do?

DEAN
The girls should. Almost a perfect
test to see which daughter will
handle this the best.

Dean begins to pack up.

LAWRENCE
You didn't--

DEAN
Of course not. I'm getting old, not
senile, Lawrence. It's my year to
get a ring.

LAWRENCE
Of course not, sir.
(beat)
Sorry, it's just you've surprised
me already today. You know, Jill'd
be the best--

DEAN
Why's that?

LAWRENCE
Seems that she's the one that can
get everyone on her side.

DEAN

You have a point there. No calls
for the rest of the afternoon.

Dean leaves and a few moments later, Jill enters looking for her father.

JILL

My father?

LAWRENCE

In meetings.

JILL

Golfing. The only person who can
drop a bomb and then just
disappear.

Jill heads for the door.

LAWRENCE

I've been talking you up to your
father, by the way.

Jill turns and smiles at Lawrence. She goes over and gives him a passionate kiss on the mouth.

JILL

Thank you, Lawrence. There'll
always be a place for you in the
front office.

She walks out with an extra swish of her hips. Lawrence watches her, a puppy in love.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Jill exits Dean's office and goes into a restroom.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - RESTROOM - DAY

Crystal puts on lipstick. It seems like she may have been putting on lipstick for at least an hour.

JILL

Getting pretty for Father?

Crystal SCOFFS. Jill checks out her hair in the mirror.

CRYSTAL

No. I figured that there probably
would be photographers outside.

(MORE)

CRYSTAL (cont'd)
And I hate when they get me without lipstick on. It's supposed to last 24 hours, but mine never lasts more than four.

JILL
Mine neither. But I always chalked that up to everyone's ass I had to kiss around here.

CRYSTAL
(genuinely laughing)
I'm glad I caught you.
(lowers her voice)
Between me and you, I think you should take over the team. I just wanted to let you know that you have my full support.

JILL
(smiling)
Thanks Crystal, that means a lot. And I'm not just kissing your ass.

Jill leaves.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - JILL'S OFFICE - LATER

Jill enters her office.

JILL
That slut.

Jill looks up and finds Sullivan, still in uniform, lounging on her sofa.

SULLIVAN
The players are taking bets on which one the old man's gonna pick. Guess who I chose?

JILL
You guys are worse than a bunch of high school girls.

SULLIVAN
Put my money on you.

Jill pretends to swoon. She walks to the door and locks it.

SULLIVAN

But if I were a smart man, I would put my money on Ali. She's straight gangsta.

Jill wants to argue when Sullivan continues.

SULLIVAN

Unless you have a plan. Do you have a plan?

JILL

Not one that I'm ready to make public.

SULLIVAN

See, you're not gonna be able to compete with Ali. Let me tell you she's calling her ranks together.

JILL

Some of us have jobs to do rather than spending all our time scheming.

SULLIVAN

If you don't start scheming, you're not gonna have a job, baby.

Jill begins to undress Sullivan.

SULLIVAN

I was thinking, what if I convinced the rest of the team that we needed to support the concessions union?

Jill gets on her knees and is about to pull down his pants when she pauses.

JILL

And you guys refused to play? But then I came in and saved the day at the last minute.

SULLIVAN

Daddy would be so proud of you.

JILL

I knew you were more than just a good lay.

The phone RINGS. Jill picks up, listens for a beat, and then hangs up.

JILL
(to Sullivan)
You have ten minutes.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - CAFETERIA - DAY

Ali, Kira, and Jill enter the cafeteria where all the stadium workers (including but not limited to Wyatt, Brenna, Tate, and Sierra) are already seated.

As soon as the daughters enter, the entire room goes SILENT.

Ali cuts to the chase.

ALI
There is no reason to go on strike now.
(holds out a contract)
Our last offer was more than fair, Wyatt.

WYATT
A one-and-a-half percent raise is less than fair. And it's Mr. Stoll to you.

Ali remains cool, but her face betrays her.

JILL
(whispering to Kira)
This is about to go from bad to worse.

Kira nods.

ALI
Let me ask you this, what makes you guys so special? You don't think I can just go out there and hire some illegals to do what you guys do for half the price and none of the bitchin'?

TATE
(to Brenna)
Can she do that?

Brenna quiets him down.

WYATT
(to Ali)
You could. But can you get the illegals to play?
(MORE)

WYATT (cont'd)
 And coach the team?
 (beat)
 I don't think the league will look
 too favorably on that.

Ali knows she's been beaten. She looks at her sisters who appear to be as shocked as she is.

Ali storms off to JEERS from the union. Jill and Kira quickly follow her.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The press shouts questions as an angry Ali storms down the hallway. Jill and Kira catch up to her.

Wendy fights her way to the front of the press.

WENDY
 What's the union's toll on the the
 team's finances? Any comment on the
 rumors of misappropriation of city
 funds?

Ali glances at Wendy for a moment.

ALI
 No comment.

Wendy realizes she's onto something.

WENDY
 The people of Cincinnati have the
 right to know what happened to the
 almost 150 million dollars of the
 taxpayer's money.

Security stops Wendy and the rest of the press outside the main offices. Ali whirls around on her sisters.

ALI
 Did you two know about the players
 and coaches going on strike with
 the concessions union?

JILL
 No.

KIRA
 Of course not.

ALI
 (to Jill)
 Aren't you sleeping with one of the
 players? Who is it this time? Lee?
 Jeffrey? No, wait, Sullivan, right?

Jill laughs dismissively. How does she know that?

ALI
(to Kira)
And aren't you one of the goddamn
coaches? Shouldn't you have known
about this?

Kira knows her sister is right.

ALI
Do I have to do everything around
here?

She enters her office, leaving her sisters standing there.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - ALI'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ali enters her office where Ben and Crystal are waiting for her.

BEN
How did it..?

ALI
Did you know?

BEN
Know what?

Ali studies him for a beat. She decides he doesn't know.

ALI
(to herself)
I'm am surrounded by incompetents.
(to Ben)
The general manager's supposed to
know everything going on with his
team.

Ben nods.

ALI
Then why don't you know the players
aren't going to be playing on
Saturday?

BEN
Not going to play? When did this
happen?

ALI
Get out. You sound like a parrot.

Ben exits to find out what is going on. Crystal hangs back.
Ali gives her stepmother the look of death.

CRYSTAL

Ali, you remind me most of your
father. That's why I think you
should take over the team.

Ali nods a "thank you." As Crystal leaves, she says:

CRYSTAL

You'll pull the team through this.

Ali sits at her desk with a loud SIGH. She notices the
headline on the local Cincinnati newspaper: "Tornados worth
1.5 billion dollars" with pictures of each of the sisters.

INT. HOFBRAUHAUS - NIGHT

The arena concessions workers celebrate at a popular German
bar. A polka band plays.

Sierra dances with a LOCAL. It is more hands-on and sexy than
a regular polka dance.

MALE VOICE

To Wyatt!

The crowd holds up their steins.

CROWD

To Wyatt!

They all drink. Wyatt stumbles his way over to Brenna.

BRENNA

(to Wyatt)

How'd you get the players to go on
strike?

(beat)

They've never given a rat's ass
about us.

Wyatt shrugs.

WYATT

Sullivan just told me the players
were going on strike with us.

BRENNA

Be careful.

WYATT
Of Sullivan?

BRENNNA
No. Of Ali.

WYATT
What's she going to do?

BRENNNA
I've heard stories.

Wyatt grabs Brenna's hand and pulls her into him.

WYATT
Why so serious, sweetheart? Let's
talk about us.

BRENNNA
(pushes him away)
You're drunk.

WYATT
I can have any girl here tonight.

BRENNNA
Then you should go find any girl.
(motions toward Ellie)
That pretzel girl over there has
been staring at you all night.

Wyatt scowls at Brenna and walks away.

EXT. TORNADOS ARENA - PARKING STRUCTURE - NIGHT

Ali's half-exhausted and half-pissed while she walks to her car. It's been a shitty day. She rounds the corner and sees Zoe leaning seductively against her car.

Ali approaches and Zoe kisses her--it's the sexiest kiss Ali's ever had.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. TORNADOS ARENA - PARKING STRUCTURE - NIGHT

Zoe lets Ali go.

ZOE
So how about that coffee?

ALI
I'm sure Mommy and Daddy only want
you hanging out with rich handsome
guys.

ZOE
(laughing)
Not quite. They've known I was gay
since I told them I wanted to marry
Barbie.

ALI
But at the tea...

Zoe pulls Ali close.

ZOE
Didn't know you were worth 1.5
billion dollars.

ALI
You heard.

ZOE
What are you doing tonight?

ALI
Family dinner.

ZOE
You might be a little late for your
dinner.

Zoe grabs Ali's hand and puts it down her blouse.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - LATER

Zoe and Ali make out as they enter the hotel room. Zoe
seductively take off her clothes.

ALI
You know I don't have the team yet.

ZOE
You'll get it.

ALI
How do you know?

ZOE
What's it going to take for you to
get it?

ALI
Convince my Dad. And that's not
easy.

ZOE
Aren't you basically running the
team already? That's what Dad said.

ALI
Yes, but that's not what matters to
him.

ZOE
What matters to him then?

ALI
Our love. And who will preserve his
legacy the most. Glorify him and
everything he's ever done.

ZOE
Just show him his legacy will die
without you.

ALI
It's not that easy.

ZOE
Do it for me then.

Zoe drops her dress and stands naked in front of her. Ali's
face suggests this might just be the incentive she needs.

INT. HOFBRAUHAUS - NIGHT

Tate and Sierra come and sit near Brenna with drinks.

TATE
Where'd Wyatt go?

Brenna sees Wyatt staring at her from the opposite corner.

BRENNA

Kiss me.

Tate is not sure he heard her correctly. Brenna grabs him and kisses him on the mouth.

TATE

Wow. Didn't have to do that. You could've just gotten the next round.

SIERRA

(teasing)

My turn yet?

But Brenna isn't listening. She sees Wyatt storming towards them.

Wyatt grabs Tate by the collar and lifts him up. He hits him in the face, knocking the younger man to the ground.

Wyatt pounces on Tate and is about to hit him again when Brenna steps between them. Wyatt stops himself a moment before connecting with Brenna's face.

BRENNA

Get out.

Wyatt suddenly comes to his senses, he looks as though he wants to apologize but Brenna's expression tells him now is not the right time.

EXT. HOFBRAUHAUS - CONTINUOUS

Wyatt exits the bar onto an empty alleyway. He lights up a cigarette and begins pacing.

ELLIE

Can I have a smoke?

Wyatt looks up.

WYATT

Don't you work with us?

Wyatt hands her the pack and she pulls out a smoke.

ELLIE

Pretzels at the stadium, pretzels here. I sell pretzels everywhere. Seems to be my God given talent.

WYATT
(looking her up and down)
Oh, I think God gave you more than
that.

He lights her cigarette and she sophisticatedly blows the
smoke out of the side of her mouth.

INT. DEAN'S MANSION - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ali enters the dining room and sits with Hunter, Jill, Kira,
Dean, Ben, and Crystal who eat dinner.

Dean takes a bite of his food with a spoon. Kira sees him and
looks puzzled. Dean realizes she's scrutinizing him.

DEAN
Damn it, where's my fork?

JILL
Right here, Father.

Jill hands him his fork.

JILL
You want more wine?

DEAN
That'd be nice.

Jill pours it for him.

JILL
You need anything else?

DEAN
It's a little chilly in here, isn't
it?

JILL
I'll go get you a sweater.

ALI
(standing)
Just turn up the heat. I'll do it.

Ali quickly leaves, Jill hurries to catch up.

KIRA
(throws her napkin onto
the table)
Oh, brother.

Kira exits the opposite direction from her sisters. Crystal shoots Ben a look so he gets up and follows Kira.

HUNTER

I'm going to my room.

Hunter leaves.

CRYSTAL

(to Dean)

You get off on all this attention.

Dean just shrugs.

CRYSTAL

Am I not enough for you anymore?

DEAN

This is different, Crystal.

INT. DEAN'S MANSION - KITCHEN - AT THE SAME TIME

Kira looks through the fridge for a beer. She finds a bottle and quickly downs it.

Ben raises his eyebrows--he didn't think it was that bad.

BEN

One in there for me?

Kira hands a beer to Ben.

BEN

Your father's a smart man, he's not gonna fall for your sisters' act.

KIRA

That's what you think.

Ben looks skeptical.

KIRA

When we were kids, he used to have this game where he'd make us prove who loved him the most. Whoever won, he took on the road with him.

BEN

You guys were kids.

KIRA

This whole, "which daughter is going to get the team" is just that kid's game with higher stakes.

BEN

I can help you.

Ben touches Kira's arm -- Kira instantly becomes uncomfortable.

KIRA

We should go back to the table.

Kira exits.

INT. DEAN'S MANSION - DINING ROOM - AT THE SAME TIME

Ali returns with the sweater, an angry Jill right behind her.

ALI

Here, Dad.

DEAN

Thank you, honey. Very thoughtful of you.

Kira and then Ben take their seats as Jill and Ali sit in theirs.

BEN

I know Dean doesn't want to talk about it, but is there going to even be a game on Saturday?

None of the sisters look at him.

BEN

I'm gonna say what I think needs to be said. How can your father leave the team to any of you if you can't take care of something like this? What plan do you have?

The sisters all look at each other. Dean's waiting to see what they do.

JILL

Without the players, we have no game. I'll talk to the players and get them on the court.

KIRA
How?

JILL
I'll figure something out.

BEN
It's a start.

KIRA
And I'll talk to Coach. No
promises. But if the players are
there, the coaches will be there
too.

Dean looks to Ali. Ali rolls her eyes. Of course she's
already on top of this.

ALI
Working with the union as we speak.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - JILL'S OFFICE - DAY

Jill angrily pulls her dress down and Sullivan buttons up his
pants.

JILL
What do you mean you misjudged the
players?

SULLIVAN
Didn't think they'd really be into
it. But now they're talking about
how important it is for the players
to support other unions.

JILL
You couldn't have told me about
this before we..?

Sullivan looks down ashamed.

JILL
Who? Who's rallying them?

SULLIVAN
Prince.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - COURT - LATER

Kira stands on the court with the players and coaches. She talks to the various coaches on the team, none of whom seem all that interested in talking to her. Soon shoot around is over and only Kira and Craig are left.

KIRA

I need you there on Saturday.

CRAIG

You know I'm a union guy. My dad was a--

KIRA

And I respect that.

Craig looks skeptical.

KIRA

I understand it. But if you were on board, all the other coaches...

CRAIG

You weren't having much luck on your own.

Kira stops and touches Craig's arm.

KIRA

Do this for me.

Craig looks into Kira's eyes. He nods.

KIRA

So you'll do it?

Craig musters courage to ask Kira this, but tries to play it off like no big deal.

CRAIG

You want to grab a bite or something?

KIRA

Have to make an appearance at this stupid playoff party.

Kira doesn't see the look of disappointment that flashes on Craig's face.

KIRA

Aren't you coming?

CRAIG
You know how much I hate those
things.

INT. PLAYOFF PARTY - NIGHT

Loud music, thumping beat. Shrill laughter permeates the air. CHEERLEADERS showing off their sexy moves on the dance floor. Hunter wanders through the playoff kickoff party, bored out of his mind. He is about to leave when he sees Dyana.

Hunter works up the courage to approach her.

HUNTER
You want to dance?

DYANA
You can talk.

Hunter tap dances in place.

HUNTER
And I can dance.

Hunter holds out his hand.

DYANA
You want me to dance with you? No.

HUNTER
What if I told you you were the
most beautiful girl in here?

DYANA
(glancing at the
cheerleaders)
I would tell you you're blind.

HUNTER
Actually, this is the point where
you're supposed to tell me that I'm
the most handsomest man in here.

Dyana's eyes twinkle with mischievousness.

DYANA
Once you start talking, you don't
stop, do you?

HUNTER
Let me help you.
(in a falsetto)
(MORE)

HUNTER (cont'd)
I love you, Hunter. You're the most
handsome man in here.

DYANA
But I'd be lying.

HUNTER
Second? Third? Fourth?
(beat)
C'mon, at least tell me I have a
wonderful personality.

Dyana LAUGHS.

HUNTER
You're even more beautiful when you
laugh.

Dyana blushes--boy, is Hunter relentless.

HUNTER
So how about that dance?

Hunter holds out his hand. Dyana grabs it and the two go to
the dance floor.

As they move out there, it's the end of a slow song. Hunter's
about to pull Dyana close when it changes to a fast one. Just
his luck: Cupid isn't on his side tonight.

They start to dance, but Dyana can see he's disappointed. So
she decides to make it up to him by seductively dancing
crotch to crotch rather than cheek to cheek.

It's improving Hunter's mood. As it gets more and more
intense, Dyana finally kisses Hunter.

It's the best thing in his life so far. But before he can
enjoy the moment, he's pulled away from her.

HUNTER
Hey!

Lawrence drags him away. A GUARD pulls Dyana in the opposite
direction.

HUNTER
Let go of me.

Hunter struggles to get out of Lawrence's grip.

LAWRENCE
Do you know who that was?

HUNTER

What's your problem? I wasn't doing anything--

LAWRENCE

Wrong? She's the only daughter of the Knight's owner.

That doesn't mean anything to Hunter.

LAWRENCE

The team's enemy. Your father's enemy. And by extension, your entire family's enemy.

The realization suddenly hits Hunter. His love is his family's enemy.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLUB: Kira and Jill sit at a table.

JILL

Do you see him?

KIRA

Why do you need to talk to Prince so bad?

JILL

(annoyed)

Just tell me if you see him.

KIRA

(pointing)

There he is.

Jill walks over to Prince. Ben approaches Kira.

BEN

Need another beer? Cause I think they have a lot more than your father's fridge.

KIRA

I'm fine. Thanks, by the way.

BEN

For--

KIRA

For what you said last night. We really needed to hear that.

BEN

I just wanted *you* to hear that.

Kira considers this and sees Jill and Ali both schmoozing.

KIRA
I'm going to have to play this
game, aren't I?

BEN
I got your back.

KIRA
(grabs his hand)
Thank you.

At that moment, a well-groomed Craig happens to be approaching the table. He sees them holding hands. He looks hurt and quickly exits. Kira is oblivious.

KIRA
I'm thinking I'm going to need to
learn more about the team. I've
always left it up to my sisters.

BEN
You can learn. I can help.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - BEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ben shows Kira team statements and documents. It is a crash course on the team's finances.

KIRA
Am I reading this correctly? My
father borrowed almost 150 million
to cover expenses last month?

BEN
Josiah Lee. A Chinese banker he met
on a cruise.

KIRA
I don't understand why he had to
borrow the money.

BEN
The stadium renovations went way
over budget.

KIRA
I thought the city paid for most of
the renovations anyway.

BEN

That's where the money was supposed to go.

Kira's eyes go wide. She remembers what Wendy (the reporter) shouted at them earlier.

KIRA

So the rumors of misappropriation of city funds is true?

BEN

Not quite. We just can't find the money.

KIRA

What do you mean you can't find the money?

BEN

We can't find it.

Kira takes it all in. She looks at a picture of JOSIAH LEE, a handsome Chinese man. But even from the picture there's something questionable about him.

KIRA

It doesn't matter if we don't have a game tomorrow because if we don't pay this guy back soon, he'll be the owner before we ever get a chance.

They both sit with the knowledge that this guy, this stranger, might take the team from the family.

KIRA

My sisters need to know all of this.

BEN

(nods)

Speaking of you and your sisters, you get a chance to talk to Coach?

KIRA

He'll be there.

BEN

And the others?

KIRA

Up to my sisters.

INT. PLAYOFF PARTY - BATHROOM - AT THE SAME TIME

Jill hooks up with Prince, one of the players, in a bathroom stall.

JILL
You guys are playing tomorrow,
right?

PRINCE
Yes, ma'am.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Wyatt and Ellie kiss and grope each other as they enter a hotel room.

ELLIE
Let me get something for us to
drink.

Ellie goes to the mini bar and pours two drinks. She brings one to Wyatt.

WYATT
To us.

ELLIE
To you.

Wyatt drinks his whole cup in one swig. Ellie sips hers.

ELLIE
Let me change into something more
comfortable.

WYATT
I didn't know people really said
that in real life.

Ellie GIGGLES as she goes into the bedroom. Wyatt takes a look around.

FROM WYATT'S POV: The room suddenly begins to spin.

Wyatt grabs hold of a chair to steady himself.

WYATT
(looking at the cup)
This was way stronger than I
thought.

Wyatt puts the cup down and passes out onto the floor.

A moment later, Ellie reenters the room in the same outfit. She opens the door, an impatient older woman, NICOLE (Ali's mother), who looks like a trashy former stripper whose best days are clearly behind her stands there.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. HOTEL - LATE NIGHT

Ali sits in her car outside of the hotel. Nicole gets in the car at the same time Ali's cell phone RINGS. Ali checks the caller ID: it is Crystal.

INT. DEAN'S MANSION - AT THE SAME TIME

A worried Crystal paces.

CRYSTAL
Have you seen your father?

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - COACH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A video of the opposing team plays, but Kira is not paying attention. She is on the phone.

KIRA
I haven't seen him.

INT. JILL'S LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jill sits up in bed. Sullivan snores next to her.

JILL
(on the phone)
Meet you at the office.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - DEAN'S OFFICE - LATER

Jill enters Dean's office. Lawrence, Kira, and Ali are already there.

LAWRENCE
Crystal's staying home in case--

ALI
What do you mean you don't know
where he is?

LAWRENCE
He was in his office. Then he
wasn't.

JILL
He's an adult. Maybe he doesn't
want us to know what he's doing.

ALI
He's not you.

Jill crosses her arms--she's ready to fight.

ALI
Don't look so offended. I didn't
say anything that you haven't done
tonight.

Jill looks at Lawrence and then storms over to the window.
But inside she wonders, how does Ali know so much about her?

KIRA
He disappears to go golfing all the
time.

ALI
At night?

KIRA
(to Lawrence)
Why do you look so worried?

LAWRENCE
He's been so forgetful lately.

ALI
He's just getting old.

And those words hit home because they know deep down it's not
that. All of them are SILENT for a beat.

KIRA
We have to find him.

LAWRENCE
I have security already looking for
him.

They begin to wait. All of them look anxious/worried. Kira
heads for the door.

KIRA
I can't just sit around. I'm going
to go look for him.

Kira opens the door and finds Dean standing there looking
lost. But in a flash, clarity comes back into his eyes.

DEAN

Hi, baby.

Kira hugs her father, tears in her eyes. He sees his other daughters and Lawrence.

DEAN

Who died?

EXT. OHIO RIVER - MORNING

Sunrise over Cincinnati. We see the barges chug past the Arena.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - MORNING

Wyatt wakes up on the hotel bed with a loud GROAN. He looks around, not remembering much from the previous evening.

Wyatt sees Ellie sitting at the foot of the bed. That's when he notices pictures laying out in front of him. He picks one of them up. There is a picture of him dressed in a Nazi uniform. The next picture is of him about to whip Ellie, who is dressed in an S&M outfit and tied up.

ELLIE

Call off the strike or I go to the police with these pictures.

Wyatt hesitates.

ELLIE

I don't think the judge in your custody case will look too favorably on this.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - HALLWAY - DAY

Laurel passes Kira in the hallway as she moves to the coaches' offices.

LAUREL

Anyone gonna be here today besides us?

KIRA

Let's hope so. Otherwise I think we'll be the first team to forfeit a playoff game in the history of the league.

LAUREL
I still get paid for today, don't
I?

Kira smirks at Laurel.

KIRA
Do you know why there aren't any
towels in the locker room?

LAUREL
Haven't seen laundry all day.

KIRA
That's not a good sign.

LAUREL
They're usually the first ones
here.

KIRA
Concessions?

LAUREL
I haven't seen them either.

Prince finds Laurel.

PRINCE
Are you going to work on my knee or
what? I've been waiting--

LAUREL
What, all of two seconds?

PRINCE
Two seconds is an eternity in
basketball.

LAUREL
On the floor, not here.

Prince begins to pout.

LAUREL
Get in there, I'll be in in a sec.

Prince goes into the locker room.

KIRA
At least the players are here.

Kira leaves to find her sisters.

EXT. TORNADOS ARENA - LATER

Kira finds Jill and Ali outside. She is amazed to see the concessions workers file into the arena in a single file line.

Tate with a black eye walks past them with his head bowed.

KIRA
(to Ali)
How did you..?

ALI
I didn't do anything.

But neither Jill nor Kira believe her. And yet they can't figure out what she could have done.

At that moment, Wyatt, who appears to be in a daze, walks by the sisters.

ALI
(nodding)
Mr. Stoll.

Wyatt is unable to look her in the eyes. He enters the arena.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Wyatt makes his way down the hallway when Brenna catches up to him.

BRENNA
Wyatt!

But Wyatt doesn't hear her or ignores her. Brenna grabs his arm to stop him.

BRENNA
Wyatt, what the hell is going on?

WYATT
(dead eyes)
The strike is over.

Brenna is taken aback by Wyatt's behavior. He seems like almost a different guy. Sierra comes across them.

SIERRA
Why'd you call it off?

Wyatt frees his arm and continues on his way.

SIERRA

Fine, Wyatt. If you're not the man
to do it, I will be.

Wyatt turns around and comes to Sierra.

SIERRA

That's the fighting spirit.

WYATT

Don't mistake me. We're not
striking.

SIERRA

You're not striking. But the rest
of us can.

WYATT

Sierra, I got you this job here.

SIERRA

And? What good is a job if I can't
even pay rent with it?

Wyatt steps uncomfortably close to Sierra.

WYATT

Don't do anything. It's not the
time or place.

Sierra nods and Wyatt leaves. Brenna just watches him go, all
the anger drained out of her.

BRENNA

(to Sierra)

I'm with you.

SIERRA

What good is a union without a
strong leader?

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean stands in front of the mirror. Lawrence is in front of
him knotting his tie for him.

Ali enters and walks over to her father.

ALI

(to Lawrence)

Let me do it. You're doing it all
wrong.

Ali undoes Lawrence's knot.

ALI
(to Lawrence)
Get out.

It is clear that Lawrence wants to stay, but Dean nods.
Lawrence exits.

ALI
Daddy, I know there's probably no
question in your mind that I'm the
best one to run the team.

DEAN
Now, Ali...

ALI
But I just want to let you know
what I bring to the table.

DEAN
And what's that?

ALI
I know your secrets and I'm happy
to keep those secret. Take them to
my grave with me. Being so close to
you, I've seen a lot that's
happened. And I'd hate to reveal
them.
(as though it were an
afterthought)
And I know where you put the city's
\$150 million.

DEAN
Are you blackmailing me?

Ali finishes Dean's tie.

ALI
Of course not, Daddy. Quite the
opposite, I'm the only one of your
daughters that cares enough to have
your back. And to make sure your
legacy's untarnished.

DEAN
My legacy.

ALI
That's all you really care about,
isn't it?

(MORE)

ALI (cont'd)
(holding out her arm)
Are you ready?

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - FAMILY SUITE - DAY

From the windows we can see the stadium is packed.

Tate brings in a large tray of food. He places it in the bar area where Jill fixes drinks for Lawrence, Kira, Ben, and Crystal. Tate leaves with a last glare at the family.

Ali enters the suite with Dean on her arm. She sees Nicole.

ALI
Mother!

She goes over to her mother and hugs her.

Jill hands out the drinks. Ben grabs one of the coney.

BEN
I've always thought that Skyline
from the stadium tastes better than
anywhere else.

Ben takes a bite as Crystal says:

CRYSTAL
Well, I wouldn't want to know what
the secret ingredient is in any of
ours--who knows what those workers
did to them.

Ben considers for a moment and throws the coney away. He goes over to Kira.

Kira notices a good-looking Chinese man, Josiah Lee, standing at the front of the suite. She instantly recognizes him as the guy that loaned Dean the money.

KIRA
(to Ben)
He doesn't look like a banker.

BEN
What are bankers supposed to look
like?
(beat)
Uh-oh. Houston, we have a problem.

Kira looks up and follows Ben's gaze. She sees Crystal, whose glare could melt a glacier.

She then follows Crystal's gaze and sees her mother, MICHELLE, who could pass for Kira's older sister.

KIRA
What's my mom doing here?

Jill hands drinks to Kira and Ben.

JILL
My mom's here too.

She motions toward a sophisticated looking older Asian woman, GINA.

JILL
Dad's announcement has brought the harem out.

On the other side of the room, Ali raises her glass.

ALI
To us.

JILL
For getting through a difficult week.

ALI
By relying on our own ingenuity.

KIRA
(to herself)
Or just a little bit of luck.

DEAN
To my daughters.

The family CHEERS and drinks.

JILL
My turn, I'd like to raise a glass--

They all raise their glasses.

JILL
To the man that made all of this possible.

Jill motions for everything around them.

JILL
My father.

They all drink.

JILL
But words alone cannot express what
this man has done for my family and
for the city of Cincinnati.

Jill takes Dean's hand and they exit the suite.

JILL
(in Dean's ear)
I have a surprise for you, Dad.

Everyone follows them out.

EXT. TORNADOS ARENA - FRONT ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Jill, Dean, and the rest of the group arrive at the front of the arena. There is a curtain drawn in front of a fountain.

Jill nods to TWO SECURITY GUARDS who pull back the curtain to reveal a statue of Dean (as a younger man).

JILL
In honor of the greatest owner in
all of sports.

KIRA
(to Ali)
He's not falling for this crap, is
he?

ALI
He is.

Dean has tears in his eyes as he and Jill embrace.

ALI
Wish I had thought of it.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - HALLWAY - LATER

Jill and Kira enter the suite. The rest of the group is about to follow them inside when Dean stops them.

DEAN
Can I have a moment alone with my
family?

Ben and Lawrence nod. They step away from the door. Dean looks at Crystal suggesting that she needs to stay outside too. She does, but is embarrassed.

Before Ali goes in her mother whispers in her ear:

NICOLE
Good luck, sweetheart.

Ali and then Dean goes inside, closing the door behind him.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - FAMILY SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

Dean and his three daughters are alone in the suite. Kira watches Jill get him a drink and Ali bring him food.

Dean meets Kira's eyes. He can see she's disgusted.

KIRA
I can't do this. I don't want to
play this game.

Dean looks hurt.

DEAN
What are you talking about?

ALI
If she doesn't want to, she doesn't
have to.

DEAN
Why not, Kira?

KIRA
I'm not willing--

DEAN
Don't you love me?

KIRA
Of course I love you, Dad.

Kira stands.

KIRA
Look. All this...
(waves her hands
indicating Jill and Ali)
... Isn't love. And people who sit
and blow smoke up your ass and tell
you how much they love you, well,
you should really question how much
they love you and what they're
really after.

Ali and Jill are offended. But Kira continues.

KIRA

I love this game and I really thought hard about taking over the team and what I could do for this franchise. But if this is the price I have to pay--

DEAN

You consider it a price to love me?

KIRA

No. That's something I give freely. But if that's something you feel I have to prove to you. That's your problem, not mine.

Kira goes to leave.

KIRA

I need to go to the bench. The game's about to start.

DEAN

Kira! Kira! Don't you walk away from me.

Kira leaves and doesn't look back. There's a long moment until:

ALI

Well, Dad. Have you made up your mind?

Dean looks at both his remaining daughters. He doesn't care anymore.

DEAN

You two split the team.

Dean opens the door and lets everyone come back in.

All the talk is of course about Dean's decision, while Dean sits and stews in the owner's seat.

Ali and Jill glare at each other from across the suite as they quietly talk to their moms.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - COURT - AT THE SAME TIME

The players huddle near the bench.

SULLIVAN

Let's do this for the old man.
Let's do this for Cincinnati. Let's
do this for us.

They CHEER and return to the bench.

Kira is about to take a seat on the bench when Coach Craig comes up to her.

CRAIG

You've been demoted. Coach
Stevenson will be taking your place
on the bench.

Kira is about to argue, but all the players and coaches are watching them. She bites her tongue.

Craig goes over to the players for last minute instructions. Kira takes a seat behind the bench.

The players line up for tip-off.

The game begins and Cincinnati easily has the advantage as they score a quick three pointer.

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - FAMILY SUITE - AT THE SAME TIME

Dean leans his head on the glass watching the game, but it seems like the empire is crumbling.

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

INT. TORNADOS ARENA - BEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben watches the game on television from his office while Crystal stands at his window.

CRYSTAL
Have you seen this?

Ben look outside and sees Sierra in the middle of a media storm. It looks like the strike isn't over.

BEN
If Kira doesn't get the team, I
don't know what I'll do. Either Ali
or Jill would be horrible. I'm not
sure I could work for either.

Crystal turns to him and in this instance all of her maternal instincts appear.

CRYSTAL
Don't worry, love. None of them are
getting it.

Crystal slides a folder across to him. Ben opens it and we see it's Dean's medical report.

END PILOT

*