

THE INSIDES

Written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - THE VERY LAST FREAKIN' DAY

Semi-controlled chaos. Girls Snapchatting their last memories with one another. Boys throwing a bouncy ball, letting it hit whoever.

Whoever being: TESSA BINKLEY (extremely controlled, non-chaos).

TESSA

Oh my soul! Nick, come on!

NICK snickers. KACEY ITO (Tessa's best friend, less Christian, more unhinged) turns to him.

KACEY

What's funny, Nick? Did your testicular hernia burst again?

NICK

Why would that be funny?

TESSA

(whispering)

Kacey, he had to go to the hospital for like two days. He couldn't even do the egg drop project.

KACEY

I was defending you!

NICK

That's really classy, attacking someone with a disability.

TESSA

Seriously Kace, you could get in big trouble for that. All Scarlett Johansson said was that she could play trees and now they won't even let her be people.

The bell RINGS. They're free. Nick stands up on his desk, rips his shirt off, and screams at the top of his lungs.

KACEY

Yeah. He's helpless.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - THE VERY LAST FREAKIN' DAY

Slow-mo, Booksmart style. Going Bad by Meek Mill plays over.

-Nick's crew is spraying notes over the balcony like dollar bills.

-Spanish Club is dumping bowls of salsa on their heads.

-Band nerds are full-body smacking kids with their trombone cases.

-Kacey and Tessa are just trying to find their way out.

KACEY

We've just gotta make it out al--

EXT. ABORTION CLINIC PROTEST - SAME DAY

TESSA

--Life! Be A Wife! Choose Life! Be
A Wife! Choose Life! Be A Wife!

Tessa and Kacey stand on the front lines of a dwindling anti-abortion rally. Kacey half-heartedly waves her sign that says "Babies Are Future Soldiers! Support Our Troops!".

KACEY

Tessa, don't you just wanna go to a bonfire? We're adults now! You can finally get those electric prayer candles for your dorm. Criss Angel can no longer say I'm "too young for him" and ask "how I keep finding his address"--

Tessa lowers her sign, looking Kacey dead in the eye.

TESSA

And you know who will never get to be adults?

She gestures to the grotesquely Photoshopped fetus on her sign.

KACEY

(resigned)
The bab--

TESSA

The babies, Kacey!

A van pulls into the parking lot. Tessa's eyes glimmer with hope, but she watches one...two...then five kids pile out with the DRIVER.

KACEY

(softly)

Maybe...she's shown enough respect
for life?

Tessa pauses. Then shakes her head and strides across the parking lot.

TESSA

Hi, I'm Tessa! I was
wondering...wouldn't you rather
choose life today?

The driver opens her mouth to speak, but the toddler on her hip **sneezes directly into her open mouth.**

DRIVER

Not really, sweetie.

She walks into the clinic. Tessa stewes with disappointment, frustration...until the door to the clinic opens again.

CLINIC WORKER

And you can mail that last check to
me, because I'm not coming to pick
it up!

IFE NWADIKE (Botswanan immigrant, pure sunshine) follows the angry CLINIC WORKER out.

IFE

Please! We've had so many new
patients!

(desperate)

Also tomorrow is Friday! Friyay!
TGIF girl! We can--

CLINIC WORKER

I'm done with the protests, I'm
done with the bomb threats. I'm
done!

She slams her car door and peels out of the parking lot as Tessa looks on. And then...her lightbulb moment.

TESSA

I know what to do.

KACEY
(hopeful)
Get Little Caesar's and watch Love
Island?

TESSA
I need to go undercover! They trust
the people in there. I can get to
them from the insides!

KACEY
You mean the inside?

TESSA!
Yeah! The insides!

TITLE SEQUENCE.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT IINT. NICOLE'S KITCHEN - DAY

NICOLE BINKLEY (Tessa's mom, the Joanna Gaines of Lorelai Gilmores) boils spaghetti, humming along to a Casting Crowns song.

Tessa bursts in, throwing her backpack on the table.

TESSA

Mom! God finally spoke to me today!

NICOLE

What?! Did He finally tell you the right Powerball numbers, 'cause we could take a real nice vacation to the Indiana Dunes--

TESSA

Even better! He told me I need to go work at the abortion clinic!

NICOLE

I don't think that's a good idea, babe. Just like when we tried to sneak into the Creation Museum on Box Tops Day. All we had to do was bring a Box Top!

(then, looking up)

I am so broken without you.

TESSA

It's not like that. I can be a double agent! I can talk to people, change their minds--

NICOLE

People don't change their minds unless it's something Modern Family got them to come around to, Tess.

TESSA

But you changed yours!

Nicole sits...looks deeply at her daughter, who she loves more than the world.

NICOLE

I did, baby. And I'm so glad. But I'm one of few.

Tessa shrugs.

TESSA

Well that's why they need me! Like how What Not To Wear needed that lady with the streak of gray hair. Someone had to tell them the truth.

(then)

Wait, maybe both of those people were mean?

Nicole sighs.

NICOLE

Are you sure you're not just worried about money for college?

TESSA

Of course not! We've been saving forever. We do four nacho nights a week, two beans and cottage cheese nights a week, and one night where we just fart forever.

NICOLE

Okay...I just don't want you to worry.

TESSA

I'm only worried about one thing, Mom. And that's the lives of the unborn.

Nicole smiles.

TESSA (CONT'D)

And the farting. It's scaring me.

NICOLE

We'll WebMD it.

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER LOBBY - NEXT DAY

Nicole sets her purse down at her reception desk. Her boss BRUCE (too loud, too everything) trails behind her.

BRUCE

Nicole! How are you?

NICOLE

Oh, g--

BRUCE

Awesome, I'm gonna need you to fix the printer. That sucker's shot.

(MORE)

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Or it needs paper.

(then)

Maybe I was looking at the iPad?

NICOLE

Oh! Okay. Should we just order a new one?

BRUCE

Nope. Can't afford that. Taking a stellar trip to Cabo for Katie's 30th. Don't tell anyone but--

He mimes pulling his hand from a jar.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Ya caught me! My hand's in the cookie jar!

He cackles.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

(fantasizing)

Katie'll probably knock out early to a Dateline. I'll be at the hotel bar asking women if they want to see a magic trick...

(then)

Anyway. That, my chair, Dan's bookshelf. Thanks!

Nicole stares as Bruce starts to walk away.

NICOLE

Wait! Before I ask what you mean by all those things...

Bruce turns back.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Could I...have a raise? Tessa's going to college soon, and we really need the cash. Just for tuition. No meal plan. I can send her chicken tenders and a roll of toilet paper every week for free!

BRUCE

Are those reasons?

NICOLE

(miffed)

Well, I've been here for seventeen years, and I do a lot of things that aren't technically in my job description--

Bruce laughs.

BRUCE

Like I tell my escort, I don't have extra cash to pay you for all the things you "take initiative" on.

NICOLE

But you--

BRUCE

Just stop doing the extra crap. This should be a relief to you. I'm so glad we talked!

He puts her in a headlock and gives her a nuggie on the way out.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

(over his shoulder)

You're like a daughter to me!

INT. ABORTION CLINIC WAITING ROOM - SAME DAY

Tessa enters the clinic and looks around in awe.

TESSA

(sotto)

Huh. No blood. No screaming--

A loud SCREECH comes from behind the reception desk. JEFF (clinic nurse, a buttoned-up Buttigieg type) emerges in what looks like blood--

JEFF

My water color set!

He notices Tessa.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Oh...sorry. The painting alleviates anxiety, so when the paints fall...

(self-conscious)

Can I help you?

TESSA
I'm here to apply to your open
reception position!

JEFF
How did you know it was open?

TESSA
Oh! Well, I prayed about it...

Jeff looks alarmed.

TESSA (CONT'D)
...to God, who is clearly a woman.

JEFF
Ah huh...do you have any reception
experience? Like staring at Gmail
and watching Hot Ones interviews?

Ife and BRENDA (self-proclaimed "big boned gal", medical
assistant) enter.

IFE
(excited)
An applicant?!

BRENDA
(disgusted)
A person.

Tessa shakes Ife's hand.

TESSA
I'm Tessa! I was interested--

Ife turns Tessa's handshake into a hand-pull towards her
office.

INT. ABORTION CLINIC HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

IFE
What would you say your greatest
weakness is?

TESSA
Oh...I-- I guess it's...being an
empath?

Ife glances back, making meaningful eye contact.

IFE
I knew that...because I too, am an
empath.

INT. IFE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They make it to Ife's office and sit. Ife pulls open a drawer and procures some paperwork.

IFE
Have you ever been convicted of a
felony, are you an illegal alien to
the U.S., and have you ever warmed
up fish in a work microwave?

TESSA
No, no, and absolutely no!

Ife slides the paperwork across her desk with a smile.

IFE
You're hired.

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER BREAK ROOM - SAME DAY

Nicole eats a sandwich with her best friend at work, RANDY
(husky, so sweet and so in love with her).

RANDY
Are you nuts?! Renata would never
do that!

NICOLE
But Madeline Mackenzie definitely
would, which is why I think Meryl's
character has to--

A cascade of laughter interrupts their conversation. DAVE
(total knob) enters with two of his buddies, TIM and CARL.

DAVE
Drinks on me at Haggard's tonight!

RANDY
What's going on?

TIM
Dave just got a monster raise!
Because he's G.O.A.T.!

CARL
Baaah! Baaah!

RANDY
That's the sound a sheep makes.
Goats scream.

CARL
(winding up)
AAA--!

NICOLE
Stop. Dave, didn't you just start
three months ago?

DAVE
Well yeah, but I came from the
Zionsville location.

He looks to his boys.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Absolute madness over there.

They nod knowingly.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Come if you wanna! Randy, I need to
see you do Fergalicious again, my
dude!

RANDY
(sighing, to himself)
One karaoke choice defines you for
life.

They exit. Nicole stares daggers.

NICOLE
I asked for a raise this morning,
and Bruce said no.

RANDY
Seriously?! You do everything
around here-- including re-starting
the dishwasher when Dave puts his
plates covered with peanut butter
in there!

NICOLE
(infuriated)
Does he think the plates are
bread?!
(collecting herself)
Anyway, I reminded Bruce that. He
just said that I "don't need to do
all that extra stuff."

RANDY

Well we can make him come around.

He pounds his fist into his hand. Nicole stares.

RANDY (CONT'D)

...With some freshly baked cookies.

He opens one hand to reveal he was pounding cookie dough from his lunch box.

INT. ABORTION CLINIC RECEPTION DESK - SAME DAY

Tessa sits next to Brenda at the reception desk, attentively being trained.

BRENDA

Facebook's blocked on these computers, so don't even try it. I gotta sell my special toothpaste on break, and it's not easy.

Tessa, not sure if she should take a note of this, does.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

And this is the patient portal, where you'll put in all their information from the intake sheet.

TESSA

Intake sheet?

Brenda hands her a clipboard.

BRENDA

Yeah, you know. The thing we distract them with while the doctor reads the new People magazine before anyone else?

Tessa looks down at the sheet and her eyes glimmer.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

They need a couple updated questions. That's your first task.

TESSA

Can do!

END OF ACT I

ACT IIINT. ABORTION CLINIC RECEPTION DESK - SAME DAY

Tessa types furiously, changing the intake sheets.

-Under "emergency contacts", she types: "Jesus - he's always available!"

-Under "pre-existing conditions", she adds: "None? Sounds like you're in perfect genetic condition to have a child!"

-Under "What best describes your current living situation" she puts: "Living in God's endless, forgiving light."

Finally satisfied, she begins printing them. The front door bells jingle, and she turns with her stack of papers, grinning.

TESSA

Welcome!

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER OFFICE - SAME DAY

Nicole fiddles with the printer. Its screen lights up with a notification that says: "Nice try, you stupid bitch."

Bruce enters.

BRUCE

Another thing for you, when you get a chance--

Nicole looks up. Could he be fucking serious?

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Whoa, somebody needs their yogurt.

NICOLE

...What does that even mean?

BRUCE

You know, the Jamie Lee Curtis commercials? Yogurt for ladies?
(then)
Aren't you constipated?

Nicole continues to stare.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Ugh, whatever. It's Dave's birthday today, and we need a cake, stat.

(MORE)

BRUCE (CONT'D)
 Maybe some balloons, if you're
 feeling frisky.

Nicole blinks.

BRUCE (CONT'D)
 Or a cake's fine! 2pm in the break
 room. Copy?

Nicole gets up and storms out.

NICOLE
 (over it)
 Stat.

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Nicole hustles to gather her coat and purse, annoyed. Randy enters.

RANDY
 Whoa, somebody needs--

NICOLE
 Don't.

RANDY
 Bruce says it! I thought it was an
 actual phrase!

He observes Nicole's tossing and slamming around.

NICOLE
 So much for "not doing any of that
 extra stuff anymore".

RANDY
 Ugh. Dave's birthday. Such a Leo.
 (then)
 Did that make it seem like I know
 what that means?

NICOLE
 I'm going to go across town and
 back in half an hour. The only time
 I've done that successfully was
 when I had to poop after the first
 time I had liquid nitrogen ice
 cream.

RANDY
 Nicole, just don't go! Stay here
 with me. I mean us!
 (MORE)

RANDY (CONT'D)
 Everyone who works here, who all
 like you as a friend!

NICOLE
 Bruce told me to do it!

RANDY
 Well this is how he learns that you
 deserve a raise for everything he
 needs you to do around here.

Nicole looks at him, considering.

RANDY (CONT'D)
 Let's teach him a lesson.

He pounds his fist a few times again. He opens his hand.

RANDY (CONT'D)
 (all business)
 No dough this time.

INT. ABORTION CLINIC LOBBY - SAME DAY

Tessa stares and smiles from behind the desk at her NEW
 PATIENT. The patient glances up.

NEW PATIENT
 ...Do I have to answer everything?
 Some of these questions are kind of
 weird.

TESSA
 I thought the same when I took my
 S.A.T. Analogies? More like anala-
 "geez, no thanks!" Haha.
 (serious)
 Yes, please fill everything out.

The patient returns to her form.

TESSA (CONT'D)
 So what got you into the
 whole...abortion thing?

PATIENT
 ...No one's "into" abortion.

TESSA
 I mean...it's different for
 everyone right? I'm just curious
 how-- I mean why...someone would do
 this.

PATIENT

"Do" this? You mean take control of my own body?

TESSA

Well there is another body in there-

The patient stands up and tosses the clipboard at Tessa.

PATIENT

If you're going to be one of those psycho Christian "family care centers", then advertise it.

Brenda enters as the patient exits in a huff.

BRENDA

What happened?

TESSA

Oh, I think she just forgot...her dog was in the car. Poor thing almost died. No wonder she's here, right--?

Brenda snatches the clipboard and looks down at all her insane changes. Glares at Tessa. She's caught.

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER BREAK ROOM - SAME DAY

Bruce leads a trail of people into the tiny break room.

BRUCE

Shhh! Everybody get down and turn off the lights!

One dorky dude, PAUL, pokes in.

PAUL

...But he already knows we're all here. At work.

BRUCE

Can it, Paul. Where's Nicole?

Nicole and Randy sneak in behind everyone.

NICOLE

(meekly)

Here.

BRUCE
 (impatient)
 Where's the cake? He's gonna be here any second, and I like to change what it says to something funny. Like "Happy Butt-day". Or "Happy Birthday, Butt."

Nicole glances down. Randy notices, and pipes up for her.

RANDY
 She didn't get one.

BRUCE
 What do you mean she didn't get one?!

Finally, Nicole looks up, finding some courage.

NICOLE
 You told me you couldn't give me a raise after seventeen years for all the "extra stuff I do". But that doesn't make any sense, because doing extra stuff is what earns someone a raise. And Dave got one today after three months for doing nothing. He is not the G.O.A.T. I am the G.O.A.T. I hate that I am saying this word now. Anyway, I'm not doing the extra stuff anymore.

And with that, he's at a full boil.

BRUCE
 (screaming)
 Dave was at the Zionsville location! It's absolute madness over there!

NICOLE
 (screaming)
 That doesn't mean anything!

Dave walks in.

DAVE
 Aw guys, I'm soooo sur--

He notices the tension. Then the lack of cake.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (choking up)
 No...no cake?

NICOLE
You're a grown adult! You can buy
cake at literally any moment!

Now Dave is fully crying.

BRUCE
(cold)
Nicole, you're fired.

Dave pushes his way out, snot streaming down his face.

DAVE
You're an emotional terrorist.

END OF ACT II

ACT IIIINT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER LOBBY - SAME DAY

Nicole shoves her things into a box. Randy slinks over to her desk.

NICOLE

I'm never going to be able to pay for Tess's college now.

RANDY

We'll figure this out.

NICOLE

She's gonna end up like that Gypsy Rose. Hating her mother and ending up with some online boyfriend that wants her to be a cartoon.

RANDY

Nicole, that's not gonna happen. I can help you find a new job! My cousin has this idea for a start-up that's like Postmates, but it's food delivered by a milkman, for people who are nostalgic--

She stops packing and looks at him, cold.

NICOLE

Yeah, you've been a real help so far.

RANDY

(hurt)
What's that mean?

NICOLE

This was all your idea. Everyone knows it's better not to stand up for yourself at all.

She closes the box and starts out the door.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Bye, Randy.

She's gone. Randy watches for a moment, then heads to...

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Opens the fridge. Pulls out the cookies he baked, decorated to say: "Congratulations On Your Raise, Nicole!".

INT. IFE'S OFFICE - SAME DAY

Tessa lightly knocks on Ife's door frame. Ife glances up.

IFE

Sit.

Tessa does, without a word.

IFE (CONT'D)

You had to come with a catch,
didn't you.

TESSA

(fidgeting)

Listen, I--

IFE

I listen to your people scream your
opinions at me all the time. It's
my turn.

Tessa glances back down, ashamed.

IFE (CONT'D)

I went through so much to start
this clinic. Immigrating here, not
knowing a soul. Learning English to
get my doctorate in a country that
did not want me. All for the glory
of one guy who calls every day to
tell me I am going to "Evil Slut
Hell". ...Which, honestly? Sounds
pretty cool.

She shakes her head.

IFE (CONT'D)

I did all of this because I
believed I was doing something good
for people in need. People do crazy
things for what they think is
right.

Ife leans in, folding her hands under her chin.

IFE (CONT'D)

I do see you wanting so badly to do
what you think is right, Tessa.

Tessa looks up, letting this sink in.

IFE (CONT'D)

But I cannot let you scare people
in my clinic. You have to leave.

Tessa nods, and exits.

INT. NICOLE'S KITCHEN - THAT EVENING

Tessa enters, slinging her backpack onto the table. She finds
Nicole, depressed, eating a bowl of cereal.

TESSA

This isn't on the food schedule.
Oh, also! I stopped farting.
(then)
But I did start sweating?

NICOLE

(breaking down)
I got fired today.

Tessa plops next to her, wrapping her in a hug.

TESSA

Aww Mom. I'm so sorry.

They sit like this for a moment.

NICOLE

(sniffling)
Did you have a good first day at
the clinic? Did they let you play
"Go Rest High On That Mountain"
when they did the abortions, like
you wanted?

TESSA

Oh, I got fired too.

Nicole pulls out of the hug.

NICOLE

What?!

TESSA

I tried an aggressive first strategy. It didn't really work out.

NICOLE

Aggressive strategies never work. You don't see those perfume ladies at the mall having any friends, do you?

TESSA

Yeah...I guess. And at least we have the college fund.

Nicole stops chewing.

TESSA (CONT'D)

...Right?

A beat. Nicole finally meets her eyes.

NICOLE

(softly)
It's gone, sweetie.

TESSA

...What?

NICOLE

I had to use it to raise you, when things were bad. I didn't have a choice...I'm so sorry.

Tessa stares at her, then gets up and heads out the door.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Tess! I'm sorry!

EXT. ICE CREAM SHOP - SAME EVENING

Tessa shovels a sundae into her mouth while Kacey watches her.

TESSA

(mouth full)
It's just like...why lie to me this whole time!

Kacey just stares at the space while Tessa prattles on.

TESSA (CONT'D)
(mouth still full)
I feel so betrayed. Now it's
like...what don't I know? Is my mom
a secret gambling addict? I don't
know. Is my mom inside that Mr.
Creamy costume right now?

She looks to the big, freaky ice cream mascot waving at them.

TESSA (CONT'D)
I don't know!

She finally notices Kacey, all in her own head.

TESSA (CONT'D)
Hello? Kace? Why aren't you
listening to me?

Kacey eyes snap up.

KACEY
Maybe everything's not about you,
Tessa.

Tessa slinks back, startled.

TESSA
What's wrong?

KACEY
Wow, you finally noticed a living
thing that's not you! Awesome job,
Tess!

TESSA
Well just tell me what's wrong and
I can help!

KACEY
That's the problem. You think you
can help everybody, but maybe you
don't know how to help anyone.
Maybe you just know how to make
them feel judged.

She grabs her bike propped nearby and rides off. Tessa's left alone.

END OF ACT III

ACT IVINT. NICOLE'S ENTRYWAY - LATER THAT EVENING

Nicole opens the door to find Randy, sheepishly holding his cookies rearranged to spell: "Sorry I Stinc".

RANDY

There was no k, and I ate the others, but phonetically it kinda worked out.

NICOLE

(squinting)

What were they supposed to--

RANDY

"Congratulations On Your Raise, Nicole."

He gives her a hopeful smile. Nicole sighs, hating that she's touched. She lets him in.

NICOLE

I don't remember sending invites to my pity party.

They move to...

INT. NICOLE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

RANDY

This is a positivity party! I'm quitting with you!

He sticks his head in Nicole's fridge.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Why is there so much cottage cheese in here?

He grabs a mini Sprite and pops it open.

NICOLE

So now they've lost both of the straight people who talk about gay TV at lunch. That'll really shake things up.

RANDY

It's something! Think of what would happen if everyone quit!

(MORE)

RANDY (CONT'D)

Like in 9 to 5. I'm Dolly, because
I make the most jokes about my
boobs.

Nicole considers this.

NICOLE

...What would happen if everyone
quit?

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY

Nicole and Randy stride through the small hallway of offices.

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER OFFICE 1 - CONTINUOUS

Randy stands next to EMPLOYEE 1.

RANDY

Quit. For all the standing desks
Nicole put together for you.

We move out to reveal he's exercising on a giant treadmill
desk, considering...

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER OFFICE 2 - CONTINUOUS

NICOLE

For all the copies of your divorce
papers I ever made.

EMPLOYEE 2 looks down at the sea of tear-stained files
covering her desk. She starts to cry again.

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER OFFICE 3 - CONTINUOUS

RANDY

For all the baby showers she ever
threw for you.

EMPLOYEE 3 breastfeeds one baby on each boob.

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER OFFICE 4 - CONTINUOUS

NICOLE

For the cake you'll get, if I'm
still here.

Dave sits with his arms crossed, scowling. They're working on him...

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Even though you really, really
could just...go buy one. Like
whenever.

DAVE
It feels more special if someone
gives it to you.

Nicole rolls her eyes.

INT. BRUCE'S OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Randy and Nicole lead an army of employees into Bruce's office. He glances up, confused.

RANDY
We quit.

BRUCE
You already did, dingus.

NICOLE
Everyone quits.

Bruce looks at the crowd behind them in shock.

BRUCE
Seriously? Tim? Carl?

Dave's buddies look at him sympathetically.

CARL
It's not right, keeping a raise
from a longtime employee just
because you think they'll be loyal
to you.

TIM
Or because you think their
emotional labor isn't valuable.

Everyone looks to him in shock.

TIM (CONT'D)
Yeah, I read the The Cut. Get over
it.

Bruce looks to Dave, desperate.

BRUCE
...Dave? You can't go back to the
Zionsville location!

DAVE
It's absolute madness over there,
but I can handle it.

Bruce finally lands on Nicole. He crosses his arms.

BRUCE
In the words of the Friends theme
song...I guess you've made a lot of
friends here.

PAUL
I don't think that's part of the
Friends theme song.

BRUCE
Can it, Paul.

NICOLE
(smiling)
That's what happens when you do
"extra stuff" for people every day.

He sighs.

BRUCE
Fine. You can come back. With the
same raise Dave got.

NICOLE
More.

BRUCE
Jeez, someone needs their yo--

NICOLE
Can it, Bruce.

BRUCE
Alright, whatever you want! Just
get out of my office.

INT. DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They all pile out, happily chattering. Nicole and Randy look
at each other and smile.

RANDY

Standing up for yourself works out
if a few people do it with you.

NICOLE

Now I just need all of you to come
say no to those perfume ladies at
the mall with me.

RANDY

They're on my top fears list next
to "deep sea creatures" and "fecal
transplants".

EXT. ABORTION CLINIC - THAT AFTERNOON

Tessa bikes past the clinic, and notices a huge "We're
Hiring" banner out front. It's clear they're a little
desperate.

Tessa stares for a moment, debating. Then walks her bike to
the parking lot.

INT. ABORTION CLINIC - CONTINUOUS

Tessa slinks in, observing pure chaos. A screaming baby,
sulking teenagers, toys being thrown. Jeff is trying to
corral everything.

JEFF

Everyone, please! Share the
Highlights magazine! We get four a
year!

He notices Tessa in the corner.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Not now, Tessa.

TESSA

I just came to apologize to Ife.

Ife enters to call a name.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Ife, hi. I just wanted to--

But Tessa's ignored. And the screaming is getting louder.

IFE
 (over the noise)
 Perkins? Is there an Ashlynn
 Perkins here?

One of the teens raises her hand and gets up.

TESSA
 Ife, if I could just have a minute--

IFE
 As you can see, we don't have a
 minute here, Tessa.

The screams are at a peak. Tessa, thinking quick on her feet,
 grabs the screaming baby.

NEW MOTHER
 Hey!

Tessa quickly holds the baby's arms with one hand and rocks
 it in stirring circles. The screaming immediately stops.
 Everyone in the clinic, including Ife, is turned to Tessa.

TESSA
 ...This works every time at my
 church's daycare center.

INT. IFE'S OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Tessa sits before Ife once again.

TESSA
 I just came to formally apologize.
 I'm just...I'm so sorry that I
 caused you any harm. That wasn't my
 intention.

IFE
 What was it, then?

Tessa thinks.

TESSA
 ...I thought they would trust me
 more, in a place like this. Instead
 of yelling at them from the
 outside.

IFE
 People know when others are trying
 to change them. Signs or no signs.

Tessa nods.

IFE (CONT'D)

My advice to you is to love them,
no matter what choice they make.
Like in Modern Family.

(then)

People in the Midwest sure love
that show. I thought you could
relate.

TESSA

I'd like to help out here...

Ife raises an eyebrow.

TESSA (CONT'D)

...Just until you find a proper
replacement.

She sighs.

IFE

You are better with the little ones
than the others. Brenda just tries
to get them to watch The View with
her.

TESSA

So I can come back?

IFE

Until I find a normal person, yes.

Tessa smiles.

INT. ABORTION CLINIC LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Tessa steps back out into the lobby and receives a text from
her mom: "I got my job back! God is good, baby. Always follow
Him!!" (with a cross and praying hands emoji).

Tessa looks back up at the patients and smiles. Perhaps there
is still more work to do here...

Ife steps behind her with a clipboard.

IFE

Ito? Is there a Kacey Ito here?

Tessa turns, confused. One of the sulking teenagers from
before lifts the hood off her jacket.

It's Kacey.

END OF EPISODE