

Wright vs. Wrong

"Pilot"

Written by  
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## ACT ONE

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY

EVELYN WRIGHT (36), a stunning brunette, impeccably styled, sits at a vanity, praying. A lipstick Christian and right-wing conservative, Evelyn's become rising star in the political punditry arena because she is wildly intelligent, wickedly confident and frustratingly beautiful; voted CNN's C-I-L-F (Conservative I'd Like to F\*@!) in an unofficial poll. The diamond cross around her neck is only outshone by her colossal engagement ring.

EVELYN

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for all your blessings. I pray you will help me be articulate, gracious and compassionate out there tonight and that my ego will not get in the way of spreading your good word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

She stands to look at herself in the mirror. Her butt looks good in her Chanel pencil skirt. She winks at herself.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Pretty girl.(then) Alright, team, shall we?

REVEAL Evelyn's "team" waiting behind her;

CRYSTAL BALL, Evelyn's personal assistant. Her wide-eyed freshly scrubbed face makes it hard to peg her age, she could be 18 or 40. She is the best Christianity has to offer; kind, non-judgemental, joyous, a true lamb of God.

ADRIAN MANLY (30) Evelyn's 'contributing writer'-- a hip, NYU grad biding his time until he can get a job at The Daily Show. He and his wife, Tami, are organic, Prius liberals.

GAIL DONART (50) Evelyn's clothes, hair and makeup stylist. Gail is Tara Reid twenty years from now. Loves Vegas. Can't name the vice president but knows all Brangelina's kids.

A STAGE MANAGER impatiently taps his foot.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The Stage Manager briskly walks "Team Evelyn" to stage.

STAGE MANAGER

(into headset) Evelyn Wright is walking to set.

CRYSTAL

Ms. Wright, here's your book in case you want to hold it up.

Crystal hands Evelyn a copy of *DEMOCRAP* - featuring a very sexy, very patriotic, airbrushed Evelyn.

EVELYN  
Thank you, Crystal.

Adrian lags behind trying to disassociate himself from the group. Gail tweaks Evelyn's updo as they walk.

GAIL  
Do you want this more "Charlotte"  
or more "Samantha"?

EVELYN  
More what or what? I have no idea  
what you're saying, Gail. Just make  
it...sexy, litigious.

GAIL  
Miranda. Last season.

EVELYN  
(noticing book) Where's the top ten  
sticker? Crystal, I told you I  
wanted one with a New York Times  
top ten sticker on it.

Crystal looks stuck...and a little panicked.

ADRIAN  
I think what Crystal's terrified to  
point out is that it's not a top  
ten best seller.

EVELYN  
So take one off my other book.

ADRIAN  
You want her to take a sticker off  
FLIBERALS and put it on DEMOCRAP?

EVELYN  
It's not FLIBERALS it's "F"LIBERALS-

ADRIAN  
I know, I just...have a hard time  
saying that.

CRYSTAL  
I didn't bring a copy of FLIBERALS.  
Can I pull one off MARLEY & ME?

Crystal holds up a worn copy of MARLEY & ME. Adrian groans.

EVELYN  
Nevermind. It will be on it's way  
to the top ten after tonight,  
anyway. (to Adrian) Particularly if  
you write me those one-liners I  
asked for.  
(MORE)

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
 Something to put the global warming  
 fanatics in their place.

He slips her a couple of notecards from his pocket.

ADRIAN  
 Here. God help me.

EVELYN  
 Are they funny?

ADRIAN  
 I feel dead inside.

EVELYN  
 Wonderful.

CRYSTAL  
 And the bridal shop called, again.  
 They really need measurements for  
 your bridesmaids' dresses--

EVELYN  
 (exasperated) They are relentless.  
 Like raccoon trying to get into a  
 garbage bin. Tell them I can't give  
 them sizes because I haven't chosen  
 my bridesmaids, yet.

GAIL  
 You haven't picked your  
 bridesmaids?

CRYSTAL  
 But your wedding is in..

EVELYN  
 I know when I'm getting  
 married, Crystal.

CRYSTAL  
 I don't even have a boyfriend and I  
 know who my bridesmaids are.

EVELYN  
 Naturally.

GAIL  
 I use the same six girls in all my  
 weddings.

EVELYN  
 No offense, but my tastes are  
 slightly more refined.

The group collides with the ENTOURAGE of...

KERI DALY (40), Evelyn's liberal counterpart, Sundance  
 catalogue attractive, smart, funny. The women are friendly  
 rivals who enjoy verbally sparring with each other.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
 Keri Daly! I didn't know you were  
 on the panel tonight.

KERI  
(playful) I never turn down an opportunity to poke holes in your hateful, right-wing rhetoric.

EVELYN  
Ahhh, I've missed you. Where have you been? Rehab?

KERI  
Just got back from Iraq, actually.

EVELYN  
Again? What, do you have a time share there?

KERI  
I go for the shopping. Great outlet malls. (then) See you on set.

Keri's group moves ahead. Evelyn quickly turns to Adrian.

EVELYN  
Her new book, in a nutshell.

ADRIAN  
It's about the impact the Iraq war has had on the environment. It's brilliant. (off look) If you're into that kind of thing, clean air and water. It's called IWRECK.

EVELYN  
I-WRECK? (sarcastic) How clever.

ADRIAN  
It's no DEMOCRAP, but it is at number seven. (off Evelyn's stung expression) A real number seven, too, not one pulled off the cover of TWILIGHT.

Evelyn snubs his insolence. In fact, "What about Keri?"...

EVELYN  
Good for her. (then) Crystal, tell 'Always a Bridesmaid' I will get back to them soon. I have a lead.

ANGLE ON KERI.

INT. HOT-BUTTON SOUND STAGE - LATER

Pre-show on the set of *Hot-Button*, a hip, political talk show. The set is BUZZING. PANELISTS are being mic-ed. Evelyn sits next to Keri. Their stylists chat.

GAIL  
--Really?! I always thought she was the prettiest *Desperate Housewife*.

KERI'S STYLIST  
A full mustache and beard. I shave  
her every morning.

Host, MILES ROTH, (45) womanizer, nouveau cool, steps in.

MILES  
Well, look at this two hot-bodied  
ends of the political spectrum. If  
I were to gag you and put a bag  
over your heads I wouldn't know the  
difference.

They laugh.

KERI  
Evelyn's the one wearing all the  
*blood diamonds*.

EVELYN  
And she's the one with the chicken  
scratch tatoo on the back of her  
neck.

KERI  
Ha, ha. (slightly defensive)  
Actually, it's the Chinese symbol  
for truth and light.

EVELYN  
Truth and Bud Light, more likely.

MILES  
Ouch. Cutting a little close to the  
bone, aren't you, ladies?

KERI  
Nah. (winking to Evelyn) All's fair  
in love and punditry.

Evelyn gives a big wink back - she likes this girl.

STAGE MANAGER  
Clear the set! We go in thirty!

Then, unsure how genuine friendships are made...

EVELYN  
(awkward) So, Keri...we've known  
each other several years now.  
Should we...go to lunch sometime?

KERI  
(taken aback) Who?...You and I?

EVELYN  
Or dinner. We have so much in  
common, tatoos and politics aside,  
we should...hang. Maybe shopping!  
What are you a size six?

Keri stammers.

STAGE MANAGER  
We're live in five, four...

EVELYN  
We'll talk after!

MILES  
Have a great show everyone!

INT. SOUND STAGE - LATER

*Hot-Button* is in full swing. Keri and Evelyn are heated.

|                                                                               |                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>KERI<br/>How can you sit there and say<br/>that with a straight face?!</p> | <p>EVELYN<br/>Like this, "global warming"<br/>is just a political<br/>marketing scheme--</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

MILES  
Ladies, ladies! One at a time.

|                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>KERI<br/>Come on! You have to be<br/>delusional to actually<br/>believe that.</p> | <p>EVELYN<br/>And you'd have to be a moron<br/>not to realize that cycles of<br/>"climate change" date back to<br/>the Ice Age of 1400 A.D.</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Backstage. Adrian and Crystal watch intently. Gail reads  
People Magazine.

KERI  
Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize.  
He's not exactly a moron.

Audience APPLAUDS.

EVELYN  
Al Gore invented global warming so  
he could hang out with Leonardo  
DiCaprio. Everyone knows he's a  
huge "Titanic" fan.

Audience LAUGHS.

ADRIAN  
(proudly) Mine.

Keri is growing genuinely aggravated.

KERI  
I wish I could find humor in all  
this, but I just spent the last two  
years documenting these eco-  
atrocities for my new book, IWRECK--

MILES  
Excellent book. Top ten best  
seller.

EVELYN

Which translates into how many acres of deforestation to print, do you think, Keri? Not to mention the "carbon footprint" you're making flying around the country to promote the book. Staying in water wasting, luxury hotels, no doubt. If the earth were actually warming it would only be because of all the hot air you limo liberals are blowing into the atmosphere.

All eyes on Keri.

KERI

I turn the water off in the shower when I shave my legs.

INT. HALLWAY - POST SHOW

Team Evelyn tracks back to the dressing room.

ADRIAN

God, you're convincing. I almost forgot about that island of floating garbage in the Pacific.

EVELYN

Are you referring to Guam?  
(spotting Keri) Oh, Keri! Keri!

Keri doesn't slow. Evelyn has to race to catch up to her.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

(breathless) I thought you left.  
So, lunch? When is good for you?

Keri turns to her, bubbling with hot hate.

KERI

How is it you don't believe in evolution when you are so clearly the direct descendant of a giant assho--(STAGE BELL).  
Go (STAGE BELL) yourself, Evelyn.

Keri storms away. Evelyn is stunned.

REVEAL a dozen STAFF and CREW, taking it all in.

CRYSTAL

Should I get her dress size? No?

END OF ACT



ACT TWO

INT. OFFICE BUILDING, RECEPTION DESK - MORNING

A wagon wheel of office suites - an orthodontist, a realtor, chiropractor, etc.. At the hub is a welcome desk manned by COLUMBUS, African-American, affable, angular, clearly gay. Evelyn glides in, hair down, dress pants, expensive t-shirt, as casual as Ms. Wright gets.

EVELYN  
Morning, Columbus.

COLUMBUS  
I saw you on Hot-Button last night.  
You made me want to run out and  
shoot a spotted owl. (then) These  
came for you.

He presents a vase of dead, black flowers. Evelyn looks them over.

COLUMBUS (CONT'D)  
No card. I checked.

EVELYN  
Well. It's the thought that counts.

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE SUITE - SAME

Adrian and Gail hover over his computer.

GAIL  
Crystal, come look at the website.  
It's getting tons of punches.

ADRIAN  
Hits.

CRYSTAL  
I can't. I want to be at my desk  
when Ms. Wright walks in.

ADRIAN  
Just come look, it'll only take a  
second.

She steps away. Evelyn enters.

EVELYN  
Morning team!

Crystal rushes to her desk. Evelyn eyeballs her.

CRYSTAL  
Morning.

EVELYN  
Does the chair hurt your back? Is  
that the problem?

CRYSTAL  
(re dead flowers) I'll put these in  
water.

ADRIAN  
Someone filmed your blowout with  
Keri on their cellphone.

GAIL  
It's all over the inter-web.

ADRIAN  
And the kicker is you come off  
looking like the sane one.

REVEAL Adrian's t-shirt; a Caribou taking aim at Sarah Palin.

EVELYN  
Adrian! The California Young  
Republicans just named me Woman of  
the Year. As your employer, do you  
really think that shirt is  
appropriate work attire?

ADRIAN  
I thought you'd get a chuckle out  
of it now that Republicans have  
started eating their own.

EVELYN  
Perhaps if the Caribou were aiming  
at McCain. (then) Did you finish  
the punch up on this week's column?

ADRIAN  
On your desk.

EVELYN  
Is it any good?

ADRIAN  
If my wife reads it my marriage is  
over.

EVELYN  
Excellent. Crystal, what time is my  
interview with *USA Today*?

CRYSTAL  
Ten o'clock. And they're sending a  
photographer over tomorrow at noon.

EVELYN  
What am I wearing for that, Gail?

GAIL  
I've got the perfect come-hither  
pant suit.

Gail follows Evelyn into her office with an arm full of new clothes. The door slams shut.

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Crystal knocks and pops her head into Evelyn's office.

CRYSTAL  
Not to be a pest, but we're in code  
orange with the bridesmaid dresses.  
They are threatening to cancel the  
order if they don't--

REVEAL Evelyn, undressed, Spanx at an unflattering half-mast.

EVELYN  
Could we discuss this when I'm not  
stuffing myself into sausage  
casing?

Crystal nods, starts to close the door, then...

CRYSTAL  
And you have a lunch meeting with  
your manager at one.

Door swiftly shuts.

INT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT - ONE O'CLOCK

Evelyn and her manager JOAN HARRINGTON (50), gruff, a pessimistic dresser, talk business over salads.

JOAN  
Keri Daly was on The Today Show  
this morning and didn't even  
mention "the incident."

EVELYN  
In the studio? They never have me  
in the studio. I'm always "via  
satellite."

JOAN  
I think we should play it the same  
way. Take the high road. It's not  
worth our time to talk about it.

EVELYN  
Too late. I already confirmed the  
incident with *USA Today*.

JOAN  
Or we can go that route. Fan the flames. Generate press for your book.

A table of WOMEN laugh. They are a fun loving, 40-ish group of attractive girlfriends. Evelyn glances at them longingly, then turns her attention back to Joan who is wrestling a large piece of lettuce into her mouth.

JOAN (CONT'D)  
(mouth full) The leaves are so big.

EVELYN  
(begrudgingly) I have something personal to discuss with you. You know my wedding is in two months--

JOAN  
Baker wants out.

EVELYN  
No. Why would you say that?

JOAN  
Sorry. You've been engaged eight years I just can't believe... it's finally happening. It's so exciting -- you talk now.

EVELYN  
I want you to be a bridesmaid.

Joan is stunned. This is a first.

JOAN  
You're that hard up?

EVELYN  
Yes.

JOAN  
No sisters?

EVELYN  
One. She's in. Baker has two brothers standing up. I need one more.

JOAN  
Church friends?

EVELYN  
Boring. And the two ladies I like hate me.

JOAN  
Cousins.

EVELYN  
I wasn't in their weddings.  
Wouldn't look right.

JOAN  
College, high school frie--

EVELYN  
All male. Joan?!

JOAN  
You don't want me. My arms are fat.  
I'll compromise your wedding  
pictures.

EVELYN  
Are you saying no?

JOAN  
What do the dresses look like?

EVELYN  
Majorelle blue, boatneck,  
sleeveless...

JOAN  
Oh, God. What I'm saying is...let  
me find you a friend.

The table of women LAUGH. Evelyn sighs.

EVELYN  
Women hate me. I don't know why.  
Always have. I make them cry.

JOAN  
I don't hate you.

EVELYN  
You aren't a woman. You're my  
manager.

Joan's lip trembles.

EXT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT - LATER

Evelyn and Joan wait at the valet for their cars.

JOAN  
How about Keri Daly? That would be  
a terrific way to generate press.  
Extend the olive branch, have her  
in your wedding.

EVELYN  
You think because we are both  
attractive, intelligent women in  
the same line of work we are going  
to be best friends?

(MORE)

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
Have slumber parties, braid each other's hair? Don't be an idiot, Joan.

JOAN  
You might have more friends if you were a little more...charitable.

EVELYN  
(What!) I am very charitable.

JOAN  
Then give me a chance to find someone else to be a bridesmaid. Please.

EVELYN  
End of the week.

A YOUNG MAN approaches with a copy of DEMOCRAP.

YOUNG MAN  
Ms. Wright would you sign my book?

EVELYN  
With pleasure.

She signs it - "See how charitable I am, Joan?"

She hands it back to him. He promptly lights it on fire, flings it across the parking lot and flips Evelyn off.

JOAN  
What's the matter with you?! We should have you arrested--

EVELYN  
It's alright, Joan. It's all applause to me.

INT. EVELYN'S HOLLYWOOD HOME - THAT EVENING

It's a sleek, modern home. Filled with crosses from all over the world.

Evelyn's maid, SCARLETTA, (30), stocky, Hispanic, illegal immigrant, carefully places a bottle of red wine, an opener and a wine glass on the spotless counter.

Evelyn enters wearing lounging sweats, dragging garbage bags.

SCARLETTA  
Want me to make you dinner?

EVELYN  
No, thank you, Scarlettta. I've got a wedding dress to fit into. You know what I'm in the mood for? A glass of wine. That sounds really appealing.

Scarletta begins opening the wine she's put out.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
Oh, no need to open a new bottle. I  
just uncorked one last night. Use  
the rest of that. It's in the  
cabinet.

Scarletta opens a large cabinet solely devoted to wine.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
What keeps you here so late?

SCARLETTA  
My friends are cleaning a house in  
the neighborhood. We're going to  
ride the bus home together.

EVELYN  
(envious) Kind of a girls night  
out, huh? That's nice. (re bags)  
These are for you. Some linens,  
place settings, mostly clothes and  
shoes.

SCARLETTA  
Thank you, Ms.

EVELYN  
Thank you for taking my charity.

They exchange warm smiles. Scarletta pours last night's wine  
into the glass. It amounts to a sip. Awkward silence.

SCARLETTA  
Want me to put water in it like I  
do ketchup?

INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - SAME NIGHT

A Silverlake fixer-upper. Adrian and TAMI (28), yoga teacher,  
earthy, three months pregnant, get dressed to go to a party.

ADRIAN  
You look nice.

TAMI  
(mean) Shut up.

ADRIAN  
Are you mad about something or just  
being pregnant?

TAMI  
Just answer me this. Was the  
Kentucky Fried Chicken line yours?

ADRIAN  
(playing dumb) The what?

She pulls a newspaper out of the trash and points to EVELYN'S SMILING FACE at the top of the column.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
Tami, why? Why would you read that?

TAMI  
I was recycling and it was there.  
Was that line yours? (off look) Oh,  
God it was! Is that really how you  
feel about the death penalty?

ADRIAN  
Calm down.

TAMI  
It's making me physically ill  
seeing you work for this right-wing  
bigot.

ADRIAN  
This isn't forever. Just until I  
get a job at *The Daily Show*...or  
pay off this thirty year mortgage.

TAMI  
We both wanted this house.

ADRIAN  
I don't want to fight. Let's not  
fight. Please. Let's just go out  
and have a good time with our  
friends.

TAMI  
If anyone at the party asks you're  
still writing for Trivial Pursuit.

ADRIAN  
Fine. But, I'm also working on a  
screenplay.

TAMI  
Okay. What's the screenplay...in  
case they ask?

ADRIAN  
(finally) Trivial Pursuit. The  
movie.

EXT. BUS STOP - LATER THAT NIGHT

Scarletta and her FRIENDS struggle to load Evelyn's GARBAGE BAGS and their cleaning equipment onto the bus. The bags get stuck in the door, the BUS DRIVER has to get involved.



INT. EVELYN'S HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Evelyn, in bed with a bottle of wine, types on her laptop. She's surrounded by magazines and newspapers. TV's on.

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION)  
Keri Daly was in New York to host  
an event for PETA, tonight.

Evelyn turns it up.

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION) (CONT'D)  
We asked the sexy political pundit  
about her heated confrontation with  
conservative author Evelyn Wright.

ANGLE ON TELEVISION: Keri is stunning on the red carpet.

KERI (ON TELEVISION)  
Tonight is about PETA. It's a  
wonderful campaign. That's my focus  
this evening.

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION)  
The star studded event raised one  
hundred thousand dollars for the  
fight against canine obesity.

ANGLE ON TELEVISION: A nude photo of Keri with a couple of  
well placed, very fat Chihuahuas.

EVELYN  
Where were the cameras when I  
collected three thousand binoculars  
for the Minutemen Border Patrol?

A LOUD NOISE. Evelyn mutes the television.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
Scarletta?

Evelyn pulls a gun out of her night stand, aims at the door.

Evelyn's fiance, BAKER MCKAY (45), rugged, genuine, abiding  
Christian, peers around the corner. He's in a pilot uniform.

BAKER  
Boo.

EVELYN  
Baker!

Her eyes light up, she tosses the gun aside. This is a sweet,  
soft side of Evelyn we've yet to see; playful and adoring. To  
her credit, Evelyn is loyal to her man, she intentionally  
doesn't show this side of herself to just anyone.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
What are you doing here? I thought  
you were in Cleveland tonight.

BAKER  
We were rerouted because of  
weather. I thought you were in New  
York?

EVELYN  
Next week...

BAKER  
Well, I guess I lucked out.

She answers him with a passionate kiss.

EVELYN  
Hungry? Thirsty?

BAKER  
No, exhausted. I just want to crawl  
into bed.

EVELYN  
How tired are you?

She pulls him on to the bed.

BAKER  
Honey, Cameron is here.

She freezes.

INT. EVELYN'S HOLLYWOOD HOME, LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CAMERON (30's), ice skater handsome, Baker's copilot, sits in  
the dark with his bag. Evelyn and Baker enter.

EVELYN  
Hello, Cameron.

Cameron stands abruptly, knocking over a lamp, catching it.

CAMERON  
All the rooms near the airport were  
booked.

EVELYN  
You're always welcome, Cameron.  
That's what the guest room is for.

Uncomfortable pause - her speciality.

BAKER  
Well, good night, Cameron. See you  
in a few.

CAMERON  
Good night. Good night, Evelyn.

Cameron bee-lines to the guest room.

EVELYN  
It's the second door on the--  
He obviously knows the way.

INT. EVELYN'S HOLLYWOOD HOME, MASTER BEDROOM - LATER  
Evelyn and Baker lie in the dark, talking.

EVELYN  
--She's always getting naked for  
one cause or another. That's why  
her book is at number seven. I've  
seen Keri's bare butt more times  
than I've seen my own.

BAKER  
You sell books without being sexy.  
(then) Not that you couldn't--

EVELYN  
One call to the NRA and I could be  
lying buck naked on a bear rug with  
my long range shotgun. But, I have  
more integrity than that.

BAKER  
Too bad. I'd like to see that.

He wrestles her under him.

EVELYN  
(delighted) Baker!

BAKER  
You're lucky we're waiting for our  
wedding or you'd be in trouble.

EVELYN  
(frustrated) Lucky me.(then) You  
know, we could still...fool around.

BAKER  
Better not. We're so close to the  
wedding. I don't want to blow it.

EVELYN  
No pun intended.

BAKER  
(horrified) No! Oh, Evelyn, I  
wasn't insinuating--

EVELYN  
It's okay, Baker, I know. Besides,  
Cameron is down the hall--

BAKER  
--the hall. Yeah, Cameron.

They move back to their own sides of the bed. Evelyn lingers a moment over Baker, letting her hair drape over him...she's struggling with this "period of abstinence." Awkward moment. She finally plops down on her side of the bed.

EVELYN  
Is Cameron a Christian?

BAKER  
Lapsed Catholic. I'm working on it.

EVELYN  
I'm surprised he doesn't have a girlfriend. He's so handsome.

BAKER  
It's tough finding a woman who can handle a pilot's schedule. (kissing her) I'm one of the lucky ones.

EVELYN  
(sigh) You're my best friend, why can't I put you in a bridesmaids dress?

BAKER  
Still having trouble finding a bridesmaid? Evelyn, you know, there's no rule that says--

EVELYN  
No! You can't have more groomsmen than I have bridesmaids. People will think I don't have friends.

BAKER  
You don't have-- (catches himself kisses her head.)

EVELYN  
Women are so...difficult. I have a hard time connecting with them.

BAKER  
(chuckle) You sound like Cameron.

This is mildly concerning. She lets it slide.

## ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. OFFICE SUITE, KITCHENETTE - LATER

Crystal makes coffe. Gail is taking a million vitamins.

CRYSTAL  
(fretful) 'Always A Bridesmaid'  
canceled the dresses. I'm not going  
to tell Ms. Wright. I'm just going  
to make the dresses myself.

Adrian enters engrossed in a magazine. He waits for coffee.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)  
I sew. Some. I made that table  
cloth once. It turned out okay.  
Sort of. It was wider on one side  
than the other, which is weird  
because I traced another tablecloth  
to make the pattern.

ADRIAN  
(re magazine) Oh my god.

GAIL  
I can get you bridesmaid dresses,  
Crystal. Easy. I worked on 'Big  
Love' they got a million of 'em.

Evelyn enters and hands Crystal a piece of paper.

EVELYN  
It's a map to your desk.

Crystal rushes out.

ADRIAN  
Evelyn, have you read this?  
(reading) "Unlike her other  
bombastic, divisive books, DEMOCRAP  
manages to keep it's tirades afloat  
with buoyant nuggets of  
entertainingly wicked humor..."  
That's a good--

She snatches the magazine.

EVELYN  
That's great! *Time Magazine* gave us  
a good review!

Celebratory hug. Even Adrian is joyous.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
And that's all you, Adrian. You are  
"buoyant nuggets of humor!"

A little less joyous.

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE - LATER

Gail does Evelyn's makeup. Joan is giving the hard sell.

JOAN  
--Tomorrow, noon at Shutters you have a lunch date with your new best friend. She's a travel writer, a client of mine. You two have tons in common. You've both been to Bethlehem. And she's got gorgeous arms.

EVELYN  
Probably from carrying luggage.

JOAN  
You'll have great wedding pictures and I won't have to have arm reduction surgery. Everyone wins.

EVELYN  
Just tell me her name.

JOAN  
No. I don't want you picking her apart before you even meet her.

EVELYN  
I don't pick people apart. (then) What kind of "travel writer?" She doesn't carry a rainstick does she? (nevermind) And what if I don't hit it off with her?

JOAN  
I've made a list of alternates.

Crystal enters.

CRYSTAL  
The photographer called he's running late. (then) Ms. Wright, I just want you to know that if you need me, I'd be honored to offer my bridesmaid services. I have a ton of experience, great references and I probably already have the dress.

EVELYN  
Thank you, Crystal, that won't be necessary.

Crystal nods, bites her lip and leaves.

JOAN  
Why not Crystal?

EVELYN  
I can't cross that line with her. She'd think we're actually friends. It would be cruel.

JOAN  
(scratching off) That cuts my list  
in half. How about Gail?

GAIL  
Going to Burning Man that week.  
Already got my tent. What about  
Columbus?

JOAN  
The front desk guy?

GAIL  
He does an amazing Diana Ross  
impersonation. You've got to see it  
to believe it.

JOAN  
I bet he's got amazing arms.

EVELYN  
No. Although, I would love to have  
a woman of color in my lineup?

Crystal pops in.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
I said no, Crystal. Don't make me  
hurt your feelings.

CRYSTAL  
(huh?) Keri Daly is on line one.

Crystal pops out. Whaaa?

EVELYN  
Did you--

JOAN  
No! I did nothing.

They race to Crystal's desk...

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE SUITE, CRYSTAL'S DESK - CONTINUOUS  
Adrian is already standing there ready to stir the pot.

EVELYN  
What did she say?

CRYSTAL  
It was her assistant, Samson. He  
said "Ms. Daly would like to speak  
to Ms. Wright."

ADRIAN  
Are you going to take it?

JOAN  
Yes, she is. Aren't you?

EVELYN  
Of course I am. The Bible says turn  
the other cheek.

CRYSTAL  
Matthew 5:39 "Whoever smite thee on  
thy right cheek, offer him also--

EVELYN  
--the other cheek." I'm familiar.

CRYSTAL  
"And if he taketh action to...

EVELYN  
Crystal, no one likes a bible bore.

CRYSTAL  
Sorry.

Crystal tries to hand Evelyn the phone.

EVELYN  
Not just yet. Let her sit a minute.

JOAN  
Don't do this.

Beat.

EVELYN  
How is everyone enjoying their  
health insurance coverage?

CRYSTAL  
It's nice. Thank you.

ADRIAN  
Tami has a sonogram tomorrow  
afternoon. Can I take off early?

EVELYN  
Of course. Family first. (then) She  
can't drive herself?

ADRIAN  
I want to be there.

EVELYN  
Right. (then) Okay, I'm ready.

Crystal hands Evelyn the phone. The blinking light vanishes.

CRYSTAL  
The light went away. She hung up.

Uncomfortable beat. PHONE RINGS. Evelyn immediately answers.



EVELYN  
 Evelyn Wright.

CUT TO:

INT. CASH CAB - SAME

Baker and Cameron are in the CASH CAB (yes, the gameshow.)  
 Baker talks slowly into his cell phone.

BAKER  
 (excited) Evelyn, Cameron and I are  
 in the Cash Cab. What year was  
 Clare Boothe Luce born?

EVELYN (O.S.)  
 Nineteen-o-three.

BAKER  
 (to driver) Nineteen-o-three.

The bells go off. Cameron and Baker cheer!

INT. EVELYN'S HOME, WALK-IN CLOSET - LATER THAT NIGHT

Evelyn and Gail root around in Evelyn's closet. The  
 television is blaring.

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION)  
 --Ms. Daly was scheduled to appear  
 on the conservative morning show to  
 promote her new book, but was  
 bumped at the last minute by urgent  
 developments in the Middle East--

EVELYN  
 Well, how about that? That along  
 with the *Time Magazine* review, this  
 has been a stellar day. Cheers.

They click enormous glasses of red wine.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
 Now if I could only find something  
 suitable to wear for my lady blind  
 date. I own nothing fun and  
 playful.

GAIL  
 If you'd given me a heads-up I  
 could have shopped for you.

EVELYN  
 Can't you go tomorrow morning?

GAIL  
 No. I'll be hung-over. Kiss is in  
 town.

Gail holds up a nautical ensemble

EVELYN  
I'm not auditioning for South  
Pacific. It's a lunch date.

GAIL  
You've got a great ass, you need a  
perfect pair of jeans to put it in.

EVELYN  
No. I just can't bring myself to do  
*jeans*. They are a sign of the lack  
of individualism and ingenuity that  
plagues this country. It's mindless  
dressing.

Note Gail is head-to-toe denim.

GAIL  
Know what would be perfect? That  
Donna Karan, cream colored linen  
suit. Where is that?

Evelyn thinks...suddenly remembers!

INT. EVELYN'S HOME - LATER

Evelyn is on the phone.

EVELYN  
No, Scarletta. It's a pant suit. A  
cream colored linen pant suit.  
Cream...White. Pant suit...Yes,  
with gold and white buttons! You  
found it?...Ohthankgoodness...I  
need to wear it one more time, then  
it's all yours. Gracias...You can  
iron it when you get here.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT - THE NEXT DAY

Evelyn, wearing a cream linen suit that she makes her look classy and young, is escorted into the dining room by the HOSTESS. Evelyn spots Keri Daly sitting alone.

EVELYN  
Joan, you little sneak.

Evelyn saunters over to Keri's table and sits.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
Hello. I'm sorry I wasn't able to take your call yesterday. It's been a crazy week. I hope you can forgive my rudeness.

KERI  
I called to apologize for my behavior. I let you get to me. I'm sorry. I forget it's just an act.

EVELYN  
Interesting apology, but I'll take it. (then) Frankly, I'm touched you'd go to such lengths to have lunch with me.

KERI  
I'm not having lunch with you. I'm having lunch with Gwyneth Paltrow. (spotting her) Gwyneth!

Keri embraces a lean blonde we assume is Paltrow. Evelyn stands so Gwyneth can take her seat. Evelyn is confused.

DONNA (O.C.)  
Evelyn! Evelyn Wright.

Evelyn turns to find her lunch date, DONNA, long grey hair, Indian skirt, sandals, sitting by the window waving.

INT. SHUTTERS - LATER

Donna talks and eats without taking a breath. Keri is in the background cooing over Gwyneth's baby pictures.

DONNA  
Loved India. The food is amazing. You can eat all you want because the clothes are so forgiving.

EVELYN  
True. All figures look the same wrapped in a sheet.

DONNA  
Exactly. But my book isn't just a culinary journey, it's a spiritual one to understand how I traveled the world without acquiring a single friend. Joan said we share that peculiar trait.--

Evelyn smiles and fills her wine glass to the rim.

INT. OFFICE SUITE, KITCHETTE - LATER

Crystal pours rootbeer into a coffee mug, slurping it to keep it from over flowing.

CRYSTAL  
Rootbeer tastes like a birthday party in your mouth.

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE SUITE, CRYSTAL'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Crystal runs to phone.

CRYSTAL  
Evelyn Wright's office.

INT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT, BATHROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Evelyn sits in a stall.

EVELYN  
Should I just move your desk into the kitchen? Would that help?  
(then) Listen, I've had too much to drink. I can't drive and I need to be rescued from this nightmare. Have Adrian drive you to the restaurant so you can drive me home.

CRYSTAL (O.C.)  
In your Hummer? You want me to drive--

Someone enters the bathroom.

EVELYN  
(whispering) Can't talk now.

Evelyn lifts her feet and huddles on the toilet.

INT. ADRIAN'S PRIUS - LATER

Adrian tries to calm Crystal down.

ADRIAN  
It'll be fine. Just take it slow.

CRYSTAL  
I'm not a strong driver, Adrian.  
Can't you drive her home and I'll  
follow in your car?

ADRIAN  
I can't. I have to pick up Tami for  
a doctor's appointment. I'm going  
to be late as it is.

CRYSTAL  
(in tears) I've side swiped two  
cars in my Beetle. Behind the wheel  
of a Hummer, I'll kill someone.

ADRIAN  
Hey, no, don't cry. (then) I'm not  
going to let you kill anyone.

INT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT, BATHROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Evelyn is still sitting on the toilet. Her cell rings "JESUS  
LOVES ME THIS I KNOW."

EVELYN  
Where are you?

ADRIAN (O.C.)  
We're outside.

EVELYN  
Do you see a grey haired witch in a  
peasant skirt outside?

ADRIAN (O.C.)  
No, it's all clear.

Evelyn emerges from the stall, she pauses in the mirror.

EVELYN  
(sloppy wink) Pretty girl.

Someone enters. Evelyn darts back in the stall. She peers  
out. It's not Donna. It's Keri.

Keri catches Evelyn's eye in the mirror.

KERI  
Evelyn?

EVELYN  
Yes.

She emerges from the stall with as much grace as she can  
muster.

KERI  
Are you okay?

EVELYN  
Splendid.

They fix their faces in the mirror.

KERI  
I meant what I said earlier about burying the hatchet. Gwen and I were just talking about how divided our country is. I don't want to be part of the problem. We have this amazing new President. I want to follow his lead. Set an example for young people everywhere that despite our differences we can stand united. (then) I'm a little drunk.

Off Keri's flowery speech.

EVELYN  
Would you like to be a bridesmaid in my wedding?

Long. Long pause. Did she hear the question? Then...

KERI  
No.

Evelyn clenches her jaw, steadies her dignity and makes for the door, SLIPPING slightly on the slick floor on her exit.

INT. ADRIAN'S PRIUS - MOMENTS LATER

Crystal is behind the wheel driving like an old lady. Evelyn rambles.

EVELYN  
--Oh, they talk a good game about unity and hope, but when you put their words to the test they are spineless hypocrites-- Ack, there's Donna!

Evelyn huddles in the floorboard.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
I left her with the check. Let Joan reimburse her.

EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - LATER

Tami stands outside, checking her watch. The Hummer pulls up.

TAMI  
You are friggin' kidding me?

INT. EVELYN'S HUMMER - LATER

Adrian drives. Tami won't even look at him.

ADRIAN  
I'm sorry. She didn't want to drive  
drunk. I had no choice.

TAMI  
I can't hear you over the burning  
of fossil fuels.

Adrian straddles the road. Other cars HONK.

KERI  
(softening) Know what I think? I  
think you like her. I think you see  
through her act and relate to her  
on a deeper level. A human level.

ADRIAN  
(realizing) I guess I do. There's  
something about her that's  
vulnerable and kind of endearing--

He freezes in Tami's cold stare. He's been trapped.

TAMI  
Go to hell.

INT. ADRIAN'S PRIUS - LATER

Crystal and Evelyn are as we left them. "JESUS LOVES ME THIS  
I KNOW." Evelyn digs out her cell phone.

EVELYN  
(livid) It's Joan. (into phone) You  
know I hate grown women with  
backpacks, that should have been  
your first red flag--

INT. JOAN'S OFFICE - SAME

Joan sits behind her desk.

JOAN  
Evelyn--

INTERCUT BETWEEN PRIUS AND JOAN'S OFFICE.

EVELYN  
I am insulted on so many levels--

JOAN  
Your book is number one, Evelyn.

EVELYN  
What?!!

JOAN  
Number ONE!!! We just got word!

CRYSTAL  
(excited) What?!! What is it?

EVELYN  
We're number five Crystal!!

The women squeal sharing a real sister moment. Evelyn puts up a high five hand. Crystal, trying to drive, misses and slaps Evelyn in the face.

CRYSTAL  
Sorry, sorry. I'm so sorry.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW