

Aces High

written by

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EXT. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - DAY

Establishing.

We see images of DREAMERS from all walks of life pursuing their ambitions in the creative space.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Small, cramped, and full of movie posters tacked to the wall.

Through the screen of an older iPhone, we see actress SCARLETT KANE (25) performing an audition for a movie role.

She's an All-American blonde in a tight red dress staring seductively at the camera.

SCARLETT

Let's say a woman like me is at your place.

THANDIE (O.S.)

(reading)

Uh-huh.

SCARLETT

And I decide to slip into something more... comfortable.

THANDIE (O.S.)

(reading)

Oh God, yes.

SCARLETT

(barely containing laughter)

If you saw my vagina... how hard would you cry?

Scarlett laughs uncontrollably. She looks up at her roommate and struggling screenwriter THANDIE RACKETTS (25) laughing.

She has short hair with a Sri Lankan Death Metal Band t-shirt hanging off of her. A script is in her hands.

THANDIE

How can you read for this shit?

Thandie stops the recording.

SCARLETT

It pays.

Thandie groans.

THANDIE

This shit is getting made and--
 (deep breath)
 --I'm not going to be that woman,
 let's just do it again.

SCARLETT

I need a minute.

Thandie walks to the fridge and opens it up. She grabs two bottles of water and closes it.

Scarlett walks over and grabs one from her.

THANDIE

There has to be better stuff.

SCARLETT

I talked to my agent and she said
 if I want better stuff, I should
 learn to write and direct.

THANDIE

Learning both and acting is kind of
 hard, you know.

SCARLETT

Based on what I've seen, a monkey
 can do most, if not all, of what a
 director is supposed to do.

THANDIE

That's wildly dismissive.

SCARLETT

I was on set once and the director
 showed up, unprepared, and in
 between takes it was just--
 (mock British accent)
 --can you do it with more energy?

Thandie takes a swig of her water.

THANDIE

That's one time.

SCARLETT

If I can't get a role, I'll have to
 write. The downside is writing is
 really hard.

THANDIE

Welcome to my life.

SCARLETT

I see you screaming at the laptop
and I just keep thinking that being
an actor is hard enough.

THANDIE

There's a reason why I stay on this
side of the camera.

SCARLETT

At least you haven't been told to
be more fuckable for a part.

PSYCHIATRIST (PRE-LAP)

You've used that word before.

Scarlett takes a swig of water.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Scarlett lies on a couch.

Her PSYCHIATRIST (50) writes something down.

PSYCHIATRIST

How does that--

SCARLETT

Make me feel?

The Psychiatrist glares at her.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

You say that all the time.

The Psychiatrist motions for her to continue.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

It kills that little part of me
that wants to do this for a living.

PSYCHIATRIST

So why do you keep doing it?

Scarlett thinks for a moment.

SCARLETT

Part of me thinks if I keep at it,
I'll find that part that reminds me
I'm still alive.

INT. AGENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Downtown Los Angeles is visible through a bay window.

Scarlett's agent YASMIN O'HARE (40) looks out it, her finger on her headset.

She's tall with fierce eyes.

Scarlett is across from her.

YASMIN
I watched your tape.

SCARLETT
I can't believe they looked at the script and chose *that* fucking scene as the one they wanted people to audition over.

YASMIN
How did you keep a straight face?

SCARLETT
We spent four hours on it.

Yasmin takes a deep breath. She reaches into her desk and takes out a check. Her hand pushes it towards Scarlett.

YASMIN
One perk of them being SAG signatories, I suppose.

Scarlett looks inside.

SCARLETT
What part of Ohio is he from?

YASMIN
I thought you were from Michigan.

Scarlett shakes her head.

YASMIN (CONT'D)
All of those flyover places are the same, I swear.
(beat)
Either way, it's an audition.

Scarlett sighs.

SCARLETT
What's the role? I couldn't tell from the sides.

YASMIN

It's the best friend but those are always the fun roles, right?

SCARLETT

I thought I was just going out for lead roles now.

YASMIN

I was told they have a name for the lead but want an unknown for the friend. You're unknown!

SCARLETT

This is where I should probably write something for me to be the lead in, right?

YASMIN

It wouldn't be the worst idea in the world.

SCARLETT

What would you suggest?

YASMIN

Write what you know.

SCARLETT

All I know is about being a struggling actress.

YASMIN

And that was every other web series ten years ago.

SCARLETT

I'll sit down with Thandie and figure something out.

YASMIN

If it's good, we can talk about it.

SCARLETT

And if it isn't?

YASMIN

There's a reason why you act, dear.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Scarlett and a dozen DUPPLEGANGERS sit around, waiting.

An ASSISTANT walks in and hands her a script.

She follows the assistant into the room, reading it.

PERVY PRODUCER (PRE-LAP)
Can you do it naked?

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Several PRODUCERS lustily stare at Scarlett.

SCARLETT
Excuse me?

PERVY PRODUCER
We're reworking the scene and the character is naked in it.

LESS PERVY PRODUCER
It'll make it more emotional.

PERVY PRODUCER
Very more emotional, yes.

Scarlett looks at the door and then back to them.

SCARLETT
It doesn't feel like it's needed.

PERVY PRODUCER
That's because you're not seeing the whole script. Once you do, you'll understand why.

She points at the camera.

SCARLETT
Can you turn that off?

PERVY PRODUCER
We need it for posterity.

LESS PERVY PRODUCER
We'll delete it once the whole casting process is over.

Scarlett sighs and walks out.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY

Scarlett takes her phone out and calls her agent.

YASMIN (V.O.)
How'd it go?

INT. AGENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Yasmin looks out her window.

SCARLETT (V.O.)
They asked me to get naked for no
real reason, Yasmin.

She curses under her breath.

INTERCUT BETWEEN YASMIN AND SCARLETT

Yasmin looks at her computer.

YASMIN
It's just your clothes.

SCARLETT
They had sex pest vibes.

YASMIN
Still... it was a paying gig.

SCARLETT
My dignity isn't worth it.

YASMIN
For what they were paying--

SCARLETT
What else do you have?

Yasmin thinks for a moment.

YASMIN
We haven't heard back from your
self-tape yet. And the one before
that, too.

SCARLETT
Those things never work out.

YASMIN
They will... at some point.

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

SCARLETT
I think I'm done with this.

YASMIN
Self-taping?

SCARLETT
Acting.

YASMIN
Don't say that.

SCARLETT
So what should I say?

YASMIN
John Krasinsky said he was quitting acting but his mom convinced him to do one more audition. That was The Office and look at him.

SCARLETT
Is this The Office?

YASMIN
It's a paying gig.

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

YASMIN (CONT'D)
We're in a slow period and people in your territory are having a rough go.

SCARLETT
So what can I do?

YASMIN
Maybe some new headshots--

SCARLETT
I can barely afford rent.

YASMIN
This'll turn around, I can feel it.

SCARLETT
I'll call you when I'm ready.

Scarlett hangs up.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Thandie types on a laptop.

Scarlett walks in and straight to the refrigerator. She opens it and takes out a beer. Scarlett slams it in one go.

SCARLETT

Yes.

THANDIE

What?

SCARLETT

You're supposed to say--
(mocking Thandie's voice)
--that bad, huh?

THANDIE

That's hack shit and I'm above it.

Scarlett shakes her head.

THANDIE (CONT'D)

I'm above it if it's not paying.

SCARLETT

There were three of them and they
didn't hear a word I said.

Thandie stops and looks at her.

THANDIE

I'd consider it a compliment.

Scarlett glares at her.

THANDIE (CONT'D)

No one asks to see me naked, not
even on Tinder.

SCARLETT

It's no picnic.

THANDIE

On to the next one, right?

Scarlett looks around.

SCARLETT

If this is all I'm getting, I'm OK
walking away from all of this.

Thandie takes a deep breath.

THANDIE

You know what comes next.

SCARLETT

How much longer do we have on the lease?

THANDIE

The landlord stopped by an hour ago to see if we're extending.

SCARLETT

I don't want to be this person--

THANDIE

A friend of mine from college is coming out here, looking for a place to live, and asked if she could crash.

SCARLETT

Just tell me what I need to sign.

THANDIE

We're paid up for two more weeks... you can reflect on your life.

SCARLETT

Two weeks isn't going to change much, Thandie.

THANDIE

Then at least have a little fun before you call it quits.

SCARLETT'S BEDROOM

A twin bed and furniture scavenged from the trash are all crammed into what's charitably described as a bedroom.

Scarlett grabs a suitcase and tosses it on her bed. Her hands yank at clothing in her closet and tosses them into it.

Scarlett's phone buzzes with a call from her sister, Aurora.

AURORA (V.O.)

My Spidey-Sense is tingling.

SCARLETT

I'm done with this.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Three large, expensive computer monitors are on an older kitchen table.

Polish Slap Fighting is on the middle monitor. An Excel spreadsheet with ten years of gambling bets is on the left monitor. An offshore gambling website is on the right.

Scarlett's sister (and gambling degenerate) AURORA KANE (30) stares at the middle monitor.

Aurora is a brunette version of her sister.

AURORA

I showed a guy I went out with the movie you were in.

SCARLETT (O.S.)

Why?

AURORA

I'm proud of you!

INTERCUT BETWEEN SCARLETT AND AURORA

Scarlett stares at the suitcase.

SCARLETT

You see my face for like three seconds at the most.

AURORA

You've been in one more movie than anyone else I know.

SCARLETT

It was a shitty movie.

Aurora focuses on the middle monitor.

AURORA

Oh, come on!

SCARLETT

Should I ask?

AURORA

Face Punch in Estonia gave great odds on this Samoan to go ten slaps with this giant Himalayan.

SCARLETT

I don't know whether to be sad or disappointed right now.

AURORA

Samoans are like God's gift to
combat sports, Scarlett.

SCARLETT

Slap-fighting makes cage-fighting
look respectable.

AURORA

I got minus five hundred for him to
go the distance and he's gone down
twice so far.

(watches the monitor)

Three times.

(stares at the monitor)

GET UP YOU SON OF A BITCH!

SCARLETT

Can't you just gamble on real
sports for once?

AURORA

Normally you can hit a Samoan with
a steel girder and nothing. This
one takes a little slap and he's
inventing a new break dance.

(beat)

I swear every time I think I find a
good beat it blows up in my face.

(beat)

What's your plan?

SCARLETT

I'm rolling home.

AURORA

I'm on the way. A couple of nights
in Vegas will make you feel better.

EXT. LAS VEGAS CITY LIMITS - NIGHT

Establishing.

A small pickup truck with a mountain bike and suitcases in
the back flies past the Welcome to Las Vegas sign.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - NIGHT (DRIVING)

Scarlett's phone is on the passenger seat, a GPS app up.

Scarlett looks around.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Are you looking for the best odds
 on the Strip? Call the Sports Guru,
 a proven eighty percent winner--

She turns the radio off and looks into the distance. An ocean of identical townhomes is right off a nearby highway exit.

Scarlett drives in that direction.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

A new Dodge Hellcat is parked in the driveway.

Scarlett's pickup parks in front of it.

Aurora emerges from inside as Scarlett exits.

Scarlett grabs her suitcases from the cargo area.

SCARLETT
 So you traded in the Corolla.

AURORA
 Australian Pig Racing has been very
 good to me.
 (spots the mountain bike)
 There isn't anywhere to ride around
 here that isn't desert.

SCARLETT
 I think I'll miss that about SoCal.

AURORA
 There are lots of pawn shops here.

SCARLETT
 I saw trails on the way here.

AURORA
 What's mom said about it?

SCARLETT
 I was just gonna show up and--

AURORA
 You can't do that.

SCARLETT
 She'll be happy, right?

Aurora shakes her head.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Surprised?

AURORA
She just retired from the hospital.

SCARLETT
Bullshit.

AURORA
I spoke to her yesterday. She's finally decided to start living her life in the post-dad world.

SCARLETT
And she'll want someone who can guide her through it.

AURORA
I had to talk her out of moving out here and joining me.

Scarlett and Aurora walk inside.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Scarlett places her suitcases down by the front door.

Aurora points to the couch.

AURORA
The guest room isn't ready.

SCARLETT
I just want to lay down for a bit.

AURORA
Feel free.

Aurora sits down in front of her laptop. Scarlett lays down on the couch. She falls asleep.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Do you want to grab a pizza?

Aurora turns to see Scarlett asleep. She shrugs,

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Scarlett wakes up and looks around.

Aurora's eyes are glued to her monitor.

Scarlett looks at the other monitors.

Aurora is gambling on Chinese Cricket Fighting.

SCARLETT
Have you slept?

AURORA
It's the final half of my parlay.

Scarlett yawns and rubs her head.

SCARLETT
You think Mom's up by now?

AURORA
Probably.

SCARLETT
Here goes nothing.

Scarlett takes her phone out and calls her mother.

JOANNA (V.O.)
Hey honey.

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

INT. OHIO KITCHEN - DAY

Older but well-maintained and immaculately clean.

Scarlett and Aurora's mother JOANNA (55) makes breakfast.

She's a redheaded version of her daughters

SCARLETT (V.O.)
So you remember when Dad said that
I could come back home if and when
the whole acting thing failed?

JOANNA
And you said you'll tell that story
when you win an Independent Spirit
Award, too.

INTERCUT BETWEEN SCARLETT AND JOANNA

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

SCARLETT

You can say I told you so.

JOANNA

Honey, I'm so sorry.

SCARLETT

I'm at Aurora's right now.

JOANNA

Are you going to relocate to Vegas?

SCARLETT

I was hoping I could get my old room for a while. You know, until I can get back on my feet.

JOANNA

I just listed the house, honey. It's time... I've got a couple of cruises booked and I'll figure the rest out sometime next year.

Beat.

SCARLETT

I'll figure it out.

JOANNA

You always do.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Scarlett hangs up.

Aurora turns to her.

SCARLETT

Mom's selling the house.

AURORA

You can stay here for as long as you need.

SCARLETT

I'm not going to sponge off you.

AURORA

There are a lot of jobs here. Most of them are at the casinos but there's more than that to the city.

SCARLETT

How many jobs are out there for an unemployed actress?

AURORA

You could always do Uber Eats.

SCARLETT

Let me see what Craigslist has.

Scarlett takes her phone out and pulls up Las Vegas's Craigslist jobs section. She quickly scans it and settles on a job for a "Bet Runner." Her eyes focus on several phrases: "Pays well, no resume, no experience needed."

AURORA

What creepy shit does someone want a person to do for them?

SCARLETT

I would be running bets.

AURORA

What about a temp agency?

SCARLETT

What's so wrong with being a runner for someone?

Scarlett's eyes focus on the ad. A phone number is listed on it. She lingers on it.

AURORA

Someone who needs that usually has done something to deserve it.

SCARLETT

I lose nothing but a little bit of time if I call, right?

AURORA

If that's how you want to describe it, sure I guess.

Scarlett walks out.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Scarlett dials the number in the ad.

FRANK (V.O.)

This is Frank.

SCARLETT

I saw your ad on Craigslist and--

FRANK (V.O.)

Do you know where Tucci's Diner is?

SCARLETT

I can find it.

FRANK (V.O.)

I'm here for the next hour. If you're serious, join me.

Frank hangs up.

Scarlett closes the door and walks to her truck.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

Scarlett places her keys in the ignition. She goes to start it but stops.

SCARLETT

I should just call a temp agency.

(beat)

I bet Thandie probably hasn't had her friend move in yet.

(beat)

Every actor who makes it says they have this moment and then they get booked. You're having it.

(beat)

This afternoon Yasmin is going to call and you'll have an audition for your Office role.

Her phone buzzes with a text from Yasmin: "The guys from that audition you walked out of said you have spunk. They want you to come back and do a chemistry read. You interested?"

Scarlett replies: "I'm good." She starts the engine. She texts her sister: "Got an interview, see you later."

INT. DINER - DAY

Older and filled with LOCALS.

Gambling legend FRANK STEIN (75) is in a corner booth, drinking a cup of coffee.

He's tall with salt and pepper hair.

Scarlett walks in and looks around. Her eyes spot Frank.
He waves her over.

CORNER BOOTH

Scarlett sits down.

FRANK
Frank Stein.

SCARLETT
Scarlett Kane.

They shake hands.

FRANK
So what interests you in the world
of bet running?

SCARLETT
Would you believe I've got a desire
to get into the gaming industry?

Frank chuckles.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
I need a job.

FRANK
How long have you been here?

SCARLETT
About 24... hours.

FRANK
I'm surprised you didn't go to a
temp place. Or deliver food.

SCARLETT
I did Uber Eats in Los Angeles and
I wasn't a fan.

FRANK
I'm not the resume type.
(beat)
What'd you do before you came here?

SCARLETT
I was trying to be an actress.

FRANK
Were you in anything I'd have seen?

SCARLETT

Do you like low-budget horror?

He shakes his head.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Then probably not.

FRANK

I'm looking for someone who is a de facto personal assistant and drops off bets to my runners.

SCARLETT

How come you don't do it yourself?

FRANK

I'm on the exclusion list so I can not be anywhere near a casino.

SCARLETT

Why not text people?

FRANK

An old friend of mine has a son who did a tour in the sandbox. The one thing he said about the Taliban was that to keep information from falling into the wrong hands they would do it hand to hand so that there's a line you can follow to how it got out. With my track record in this industry, I figured going a little old school would help keep me off the radar.

SCARLETT

It feels a little... illegal.

FRANK

It's safer than trying to do it on the internet.

SCARLETT

So how does this... work?

FRANK

Once upon a time, someone took a chance on me because I needed a fresh break. This is my way of paying it forward.

(beat)

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

I employ people looking for a second chance because I got one a long time ago.

SCARLETT

It didn't say anything about money in the ad.

FRANK

It's \$5,000 a week, cash.

SCARLETT

No taxes?

FRANK

Most people don't last long enough to fill the paperwork out.

SCARLETT

Hence a Craigslist Ad.

He nods.

FRANK

If you stay longer than a month, we will talk about a raise.

SCARLETT

I'm just curious why you'd trust a stranger to do this.

Frank points around.

FRANK

The universe, my dear, is random and yet everything happens for a reason. Most people don't show up and yet you did. The universe is saying something and I've learned over the years to trust that.

A WAITRESS walks over.

Frank hands her \$50.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Whatever she wants.

The Waitress nods.

SCARLETT

I'll need a minute.

The Waitress walks away.

Frank takes out a business card and a pen. He writes his address on the back of it.

FRANK
Tomorrow, be here and we start.

SCARLETT
And if I don't show up?

FRANK
I hope you enjoy the city for as long as you stay here.

He stands up and leaves.

The Waitress walks over with a menu.

WAITRESS
I'm assuming you'll want this.

Scarlett grabs the menu and looks at it.

SCARLETT
Is he a regular?

WAITRESS
Frank's one of the few good eggs that come in here.

Scarlett's eyes focus on the menu.

SCARLETT
What would you recommend?

WAITRESS
The meat omelet.

SCARLETT
I'll go with that.

EXT. DINER - DAY (LATER)

Scarlett walks out. Her eyes glance at Frank's card and then across the street.

A small CROWD is gathered near an alley.

SCARLETT
What else do you have to do?

Scarlett walks across the street.

EXT. ALLEY BY DINER - DAY

The body of HAL BANKS (25) is surrounded by CRIME SCENE PERSONNEL taking photos.

Hal is short with a mustache and several bullets in his face.

Scarlett looks at it for a moment.

A POLICE DETECTIVE pushes his way past her and towards the crime scene.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Aurora cooks lunch.

Scarlett walks in and sits down on the couch.

SCARLETT
I have a job.

AURORA
Who's the creep who hired you?

SCARLETT
Frank Stein.

Aurora pauses in her tracks.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
I should've asked what his middle name was. It'd be hilarious if it was Ned or something.
(looks at Aurora)
Frankenstein, get it?

AURORA
Frank Stein is a legend.

SCARLETT
At gambling?

AURORA
He's banned from the casinos because he won.

SCARLETT
How good do you have to be to have that happen?

AURORA
Fifty-six percent.

Scarlett looks at her oddly.

SCARLETT

A guy on the radio was advertising
that he won eighty--

AURORA

Anyone claiming above fifty-six
percent is full of shit.

SCARLETT

How do you know he did it for real?

SCARLETT'S BEDROOM (LATER)

Scarlett pulls up an internet browser on her laptop and types
in "Frank Stein, gambling."

AURORA (V.O.)

Frank Stein sued Luxor over it.

A dozen local news stories about his lawsuit come up.

AURORA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He submitted his entire gambling
ledger as part of his evidence.

Scarlett clicks on one of them.

A photo of Frank in court comes up. She focuses on the words
"Case settled after casino witnesses change testimony. Stein
placed in the Nevada Black Book of Banned Gamblers."

AURORA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I based my Excel spreadsheet on the
one he submitted in court.

SCARLETT (V.O.)

So should I work for him?

Scarlett clicks back and spots a Wikipedia entry on Frank.
She clicks on it.

AURORA (V.O.)

I wouldn't.

Her eyes quickly scan it.

SCARLETT (V.O.)

It's cash.

Frank is a widower with no kids and a net worth estimated at
20 million dollars.

AURORA (V.O.)
I bet you could find something in a
law firm's mailroom quickly.

MAIN ROOM (PRESENT)

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

SCARLETT
I can do it once and if I hate it,
I'll do that.

EXT. FREEDOM PARK POOL - DAY

POOL GOERS are all over.

Scarlett and Aurora are in bikinis, relaxing in long chairs.

Aurora motions to a sign that says they're hiring lifeguards.

AURORA
It's an honest paycheck.

SCARLETT
The running is a legal job, right?

AURORA
How much does it pay?

SCARLETT
How much did Dad make a month?

AURORA
I don't recall.

SCARLETT
Five grand a week.

AURORA
The job is very illegal.

SCARLETT
It could just be a well-paying job.

AURORA
The more money someone is willing
to pay, especially if it's off the
books, well... all I'm saying is
you don't offer a lawyer cash to
write a will.

SCARLETT
Yeah, you write a check.

AURORA
You know what I mean.

SCARLETT
What if you're wrong?

AURORA
If I was you, I'd be more worried
if I was right about this.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF FRANK'S HOUSE - DAY

A large gate and an older stone wall surround a mansion.

Scarlett's pickup pulls up. She reaches out and presses a button on the gate entry.

A large buzzing pierces the air.

The gate opens.

Scarlett's truck drives inside.

EXT. FRANK'S HOUSE - DAY

Large and immaculate.

Scarlett's truck parks. She exits.

Frank walks out and motions for her to come inside.

FRANK
Hello, Scarlett.

INT. FRANK'S LANDING - DAY

Expensive oil paintings are on the wall.

Frank grabs a cup of coffee and takes a drink.

Scarlett walks inside and looks around.

SCARLETT
You have a beautiful home.

FRANK
My wife designed most of it.

He motions to the Kitchen.

She walks in.

INT. FRANK'S KITCHEN - DAY

Large and straight out of Martha Stewart's dreams.

A large Italian coffee machine dominates the room.

Scarlett walks in and looks around.

SCARLETT

You could fit the house I grew up
in inside of here.

Frank walks in behind her.

FRANK

It took us longer to get that
coffee machine here than anything
else if you can believe it.

SCARLETT

This is nicer than my Keurig.

FRANK

Everything you'll need is in the
cabinets and the fridge. Once a
week I have a service stock it.

(beat)

If you need anything in particular,
just let me know and I'll place it
on my list.

Scarlett nods.

Frank motions to his office.

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

A large executive desk overlooks twelve monitors mounted to
the wall. The monitors have sports news, gambling lines, and
Excel spreadsheets on them.

A smaller one is in the corner with a brand-new laptop on it.

A server farm is on the opposite side.

Scarlett and Frank walk inside.

Her eyes look over everything.

FRANK
(points to large desk)
That's me.
(points to small desk)
That's you.

Scarlett's eyes focus on the monitors.

SCARLETT
That's a lot of information.

FRANK
In a previous life, I programmed
computers. That's a fancy algorithm
that helps decipher all of the
stats and information out there.

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

FRANK (CONT'D)
During the first half of your day,
you'll be here, assisting me. The
other half will be driving my picks
to my runners.

SCARLETT
That seems... easy.

FRANK
There are four of them but we'll
talk about them when we get to it.

Scarlett nods.

Frank walks over to his desk and hands her an older digital
recorder and a notepad.

FRANK (CONT'D)
I recorded an interview on this and
need it transcribed.

SCARLETT
You could use an AI service and do
it in half of the time.

FRANK
I spend ten grand a month on NSA-
level security on everything here.
I don't want an AI Engineer seeing
anything related to this and
putting two and two together.

She nods.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I need your phone for a second.

Scarlett hands it to him.

Frank quickly installs a tracking app on her phone.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Everyone who works for me has this on their phone. Non-negotiable.

SCARLETT

What happens if I delete it?

FRANK

You no longer work for me.

She nods.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Right now, I need you to get me a fresh cup of coffee before you transcribe that.

SCARLETT

I can do that.

Scarlett walks to the kitchen.

Frank sits down in front of his desk.

INT. FRANK'S KITCHEN - DAY

Scarlett walks up to the coffee machine and presses a button.

It's all in Italian.

She takes her phone out and pulls up a translation app. Her fingers quickly type it in.

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Frank sits at his desk, typing on his laptop.

One of the monitors has a formula on it.

Scarlett walks down with a cup of coffee.

He hands her an old digital recorder and a notepad.

Frank grabs it from her.

She sits down at her desk and transcribes the recording.

INT. FRANK'S KITCHEN - DAY (LATER)

Scarlett fills up a cup of coffee.

Frank walks in with four envelopes full of cash and taped shut. He hands them to her.

FRANK
It's time for the other portion of
your job, Miss Kane.

Scarlett goes through them.

The first envelope has "Circus Circus" written on it and a photo of DRAKE BROKENBOSCH (35) is taped to it.

He's tall, dark, and handsome.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Drake loves poker and fast women.

SCARLETT
Is that a warning?

FRANK
Yes.

The second envelope has "Las Vegas Sign" written on it and a photo of MILDRED VAN CASTLE (55) on it. She's a former supermodel who looks older than she is.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Mildred is a scheduled person. She
wants her picks on time, every
time, or else she won't be happy.

The third envelope has "Luxor Pyramid" written on it and a photo of BENTLEY STANLEY (35) taped to it. He's short and very muscular with a big bushy beard.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Bentley doesn't talk much.

The fourth envelope has "Park Bench" and a photo of a map taped to it.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Leave it there and walk away.

SCARLETT
Is the person shy?

FRANK

It's George. He became reclusive after the first COVID-19 wave and this is how he prefers to do things since.

SCARLETT

It feels like a James Bond movie.

FRANK

You drop everything off now and the guy who works the night shift picks up the tickets. Any winners go back the next day.

(beat)

A lot of people feel what's in there and get ideas. I know people, in case you have them.

Scarlett nods and sprints outside.

Frank looks at his watch.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Several FAMILIES are all over.

Scarlett walks up to the bench in the photo, the Park Bench envelope in hand. She takes off the photo and puts it in her pocket. Her hand places it on the bench. Her eyes look around.

SCARLETT

(singing to herself)

I always feel like, somebody's watching me.

Scarlett's eyes look all over. Nobody is.

She walks back to her truck.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY (DRIVING)

Wall-to-wall traffic is visible through the windshield.

Scarlett looks at her phone.

She has 30 minutes left.

Her phone buzzes with a call from Yasmin.

YASMIN (V.O.)
I've got good news.

SCARLETT
Not a good time.

YASMIN (V.O.)
The producers are in love with you.

SCARLETT
They were perverts.

YASMIN (V.O.)
Perverts offering you a lot of
money for a movie.
(beat)
They sent me the script. It's full-
frontal but it's classy.

SCARLETT
It's still a no.

YASMIN (V.O.)
You proved your point, kid.

SCARLETT
I'm still not ready.

YASMIN (V.O.)
I'll tell them that but that's only
going to make them offer even more
than what they are now. Whatever it
is you're doing can't be as fun.

SCARLETT
I'll know in an hour if I'll even
want to take the job.

Scarlett hangs up. She looks at the clock and then her phone.

THUMP!

EXT. LAS VEGAS STREET - DAY

The pickup truck pulls over.

Scarlett exits and walks around her.

Her rear passenger tire is flat.

SCARLETT
If you can't make it on time, don't
show up.

(MORE)

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

(beat)

So what, I go back to L.A and act
for a bunch of perverts?

Her eyes focus on the tire.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

You can do this.

Her eyes look around and spot a parking lot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Scarlett's truck parks.

Scarlett exits and looks into the cargo area. Her hands grab a spare and she walks over to the flat. She grabs a lug wrench and tries to unloosen the bolts. They don't move.

She looks up and spots her mountain bike in the cargo hold. Her hands grab it and place it on the ground. She gets on it and pedals towards the Circus Circus.

EXT. LAS VEGAS STREET - DAY

Scarlett pedals and gets behind a car. Her eyes look around and then to her watch.

20 minutes left.

A POLICE OFFICER spots her.

POLICE OFFICER

Ma'am, you need a helmet.

He approaches her.

Scarlett mouths "fuck it" and cuts through traffic. She pedals between cars and towards Circus Circus.

The Police Officer runs after her.

EXT. CIRCUS CIRCUS CASINO - DAY

Drake smokes a cigarette.

Scarlett pedals up to him and hands him an envelope.

There's an immediate, chemical attraction between them.

DRAKE

Frank said he had someone new.

SCARLETT

What can I say? I had a deep desire to get into the gambling industry.

DRAKE

I never thought of using a bike.

SCARLETT

My truck had a flat.

DRAKE

There's a great tire place off the strip you should go to.

He spots the Police Officer running towards her.

Her eyes follow his.

SCARLETT

I'll... see you around, I guess.

Scarlett pedals away.

Drake walks into the casino. He opens the envelope and takes out a sheet with gambling picks. His eyes look at the cash.

Several thousand in mixed bills are in there.

EXT. EXTENDED LAS VEGAS STREET - DAY

A pair of cars in a recent accident are in the middle.

Scarlett pedals between them.

EXT. LAS VEGAS SIGN - DAY

Mildred looks around, tapping her foot.

Scarlett pedals towards her.

Mildred holds her hand out.

Scarlett places the envelope in it.

MILDRED

Took you long enough.

SCARLETT

I had a flat and--

MILDRED

Next time I won't be so nice.

Mildred walks away.

SCARLETT

OK, then.

Scarlett pedals towards the Luxor.

EXT. MORE LAS VEGAS STREET - DAY

Scarlett pedals and looks at her watch.

She has five minutes left.

A crowd of TOURISTS is on the street.

SCARLETT

Move!

Scarlett pedals straight towards them.

The Police Officer yells at her in the distance.

The Tourists split to either side of the sidewalk, Scarlett pedaling between them.

EXT. LUXOR CASINO - DAY

Bentley's feet are up a small wall as Bentley cranks out elevated push-ups.

Scarlett pedals towards him.

He looks up and spots her.

She stops and holds out the envelope.

Bentley stands up and grabs it, sprinting into the casino.

Scarlett pedals away.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Scarlett pedals up and looks at her truck.

Drake finishes replacing her flat tire.

SCARLETT

I could've done that myself.

DRAKE

You should be worried more about
finding dry clothes.

Scarlett looks at her shirt. She's covered in sweat.

SCARLETT

I didn't feel it while I was
peddling, swear to God.

He hands her a bottle of water.

She takes a long sip.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

I never thought water could taste
this amazing.

DRAKE

Dehydration will do that to you.

SCARLETT

What's the name of that tire store?

Drake reaches into his wallet and hands her a coupon for a
tire store.

DRAKE

Tell Buster I sent you.

SCARLETT

I don't know what to say.

DRAKE

Need some company?

She thinks for a moment and then nods. Her phone buzzes with
a text from Aurora: "How's the first day going?"

Scarlet thinks for a moment and then responds. "I haven't
felt this alive in a very long time."

INT. TIRE STORE - DAY

Tires are all over.

Scarlett and Drake sit in chairs.

DRAKE

So what's your story?

SCARLETT

Excuse me?

DRAKE

Nobody just takes a job running numbers without severely fucking up something in their life.

SCARLETT

I was going to Meryl Streep and the industry decided my peak would be as Large Breasted Woman Four.

DRAKE

It beats Large Breasted Woman Five.

SCARLETT

What's the difference?

DRAKE

It was underwritten.

She smiles.

SCARLETT

Frank said you were into, how did he say, fast women.

DRAKE

You know how some old people try their best to feel young and it is just peak cringe? Well, Frank just embraces his inner Boomer.

SCARLETT

He seems pretty harmless.

DRAKE

Stay around long enough and you'll see the rough side of him.

SCARLETT

So what side of you should I be seeing right now?

DRAKE

Once upon a time, I thought I was going to win a Pulitzer.

SCARLETT

And then?

DRAKE

I got laid off.

(beat)

(MORE)

DRAKE (CONT'D)

I pitched a story about Frank and when I asked to interview him, he offered me a job.

SCARLETT

What did you have on him?

DRAKE

Nothing at all but this job pays the mortgage, you know?

She nods.

Tire Employee BUSTER walks in.

BUSTER

The pick up?

Scarlett raises her hand.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

The tire's done.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

Scarlett gets into the truck.

Drake walks up to the passenger window.

DRAKE

So how was your first day?

SCARLETT

Mildred hates me. Bentley didn't say a word to me.

DRAKE

Mildred hates everyone and I do not think Bentley has ever said a word.

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

SCARLETT

What about the park?

DRAKE

Don't ask questions about that.

SCARLETT

Now I'm curious.

DRAKE

The last person who did was your predecessor. Frank said she was moving back home.

SCARLETT

And you don't believe him.

DRAKE

Lots of people leave Vegas. Hear enough stories and some of them just stayed in the desert.

Scarlett starts the engine. It roars to life.

SCARLETT

I'll see you tomorrow.

DRAKE

Take care.

Scarlett starts the engine.

Drake nods and walks away.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Scarlett's pickup parks.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

Scarlett looks at the bench.

The envelope is gone.

She looks around the park.

Nothing but families and dogs playing.

She starts the engine.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Mildred eats wings.

Frank sits across from her.

MILDRED

I didn't think you were a wings guy, Frank.

FRANK

I ran your slips for the last three months and the count is off.

She stops eating.

MILDRED

There's a good explanation.

FRANK

I'm listening.

Mildred looks around.

MILDRED

I got better odds at the Luxor.

FRANK

You didn't give me the slip.

MILDRED

My mother has medical issues and--

FRANK

It's not your money.

MILDRED

I've got it in my car, I swear.

Frank motions outside. She nods.

EXT. REAR OF SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Frank and Mildred walk towards a Jeep parked in the rear.

She opens the passenger door and opens the glove box. A knife is inside it. Her hand grabs it, her body tensing up.

Frank takes out a silenced revolver and aims it at her. BANG!

Her body hits the ground, bleeding out.

Frank walks over and empties the gun into her.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Aurora stares at a WNBA game on her monitor.

A chyron announcing the discovery of a dead body outside of the sports bar quickly flashes across the screen.

Scarlett walks in.

AURORA

Have you eaten? I was going to order a pizza.

Scarlett sits down on the couch.

AURORA (CONT'D)

How was it?

SCARLETT

It wasn't as bad as I thought.

(beat)

I had to get a tire changed, and I dropped ten pounds of water on the bike, but it was kind of fun.

AURORA

I was kind of hoping you'd be going back to Los Angeles.

SCARLETT

What, you don't want me to stay?

AURORA

I just thought you'd be here for a day and go back to acting.

SCARLETT

I think I need to take a break and, if I'm going to do that, what could be worse than this?

AURORA

If this is a permanent thing, we'll talk about rent.

SCARLETT

That's fair.

Beat.

AURORA

I had IKEA drop some stuff off for the guest room.

SCARLETT

I get my first check--

AURORA

Don't worry about it.

SCARLETT

We should do something to celebrate this new chapter.

AURORA

Let's go to Circus Circus. They've got a great chip deal.

Scarlett thinks for a moment and then nods.

EXT. CIRCUS CIRCUS CASINO - NIGHT

TOURISTS and LOCALS are all over.

Scarlett and Aurora walk towards the entrance.

Aurora groans.

SCARLETT

You should be happy that they're keeping your property taxes down.

AURORA

The downside is that they show up and act like it's New Year's.

SCARLETT

What happens in Vegas, right?

Aurora groans louder.

AURORA

Some of us have to live with the consequences of people getting out their once-a-decade bullshit.

SCARLETT

So like New Year's Eve?

AURORA

Multiplied by about a dozen.

Scarlett and Aurora walk inside.

INT. CIRCUS CIRCUS CASINO - NIGHT

Cheap and clown-themed.

Aurora and Scarlett walk inside.

AURORA

I'm headed to the sportsbook.

Scarlett glares at her.

AURORA (CONT'D)

I get better odds on the WNBA here.

Scarlett sighs.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Not a word on pig racing but that's what gets me the Scarlett side-eye.

SCARLETT

I didn't think you were the type.

AURORA

I crush the books because I found a quirk in the injury report.

SCARLETT

I'm not a sports person.

AURORA

Once a month for every major player they either sit or are questionable because of muscle soreness.

Scarlett thinks for a moment.

SCARLETT

Seriously?

AURORA

The best part is that since they all have it at once, you can learn when they're going to be great and when they're not.

Scarlett sighs.

Aurora points to the Bullpen (the place where they cash in and sell casino chips to gamblers). A long line is in front of it.

SCARLETT

What's that?

AURORA

I'm assuming you're going to the poker tables.

SCARLETT

Have fun at the sportsbook.

Aurora walks to the Sports Book.

Scarlett walks over to the Bullpen and gets in line.

DRAKE (V.O.)
Is this the line for Star Wars?

BULLPEN

Scarlett turns and sees Drake.

SCARLETT
How often does that line work?

DRAKE
You tell me.

SCARLETT
You're not that cute.

DRAKE
I hate cute.

SCARLETT
Cute is reasonable.

DRAKE
Cute is for puppies and little
fuzzy things. I was hoping for
tall, dark, and handsome.

SCARLETT
Does this routine work on all the
out-of-towners?

DRAKE
Usually just on the cute ones.

Scarlett playfully rolls her eyes.

SCARLETT
We never formally introduced each
other, I think.

DRAKE
Drake Brokenbosch.

SCARLETT
Scarlett Kane.
(beat)
Why did we use our full names?

DRAKE
My last name is awesome. You're
just jealous because Scarlett Kane
sounds like a femme fatale in an
old detective movie.

SCARLETT
It kind of does, doesn't it?

DRAKE
Do you have any sisters?

SCARLETT
Aurora and Cinnamon.

He laughs.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
What?

DRAKE
That sounds like the opening line
up at the Peppermint Rhino.

She groans.

DRAKE (CONT'D)
What's your game of choice?

SCARLETT
What do you think?

DRAKE
It can't be the slots, since you
are under the age of 70. And you
are getting chips, so you aren't a
degenerate sports gambler.
(beat)
Blackjack.

Scarlett reaches the front of the line. She trades in \$200 in
cash for chips.

SCARLETT
Texas Hold 'Em.

Drake trades in the same amount for chips.

DRAKE
That's a nice surprise.

SCARLETT
You?

DRAKE
Same.

SCARLETT
Then this is going to be fun.

Drake smiles.

They walk to the poker room.

POKER ROOM

Scarlett and Drake sit down at a table.

Three PLAYERS and a DEALER are there.

The Dealer deals out cards.

Scarlett peaks at hers. Pocket Aces. She smiles.

Drake peaks at his and shrugs.

DRAKE

We all know who has a good hand on
this one.

SCARLETT

I could just be happy.

Drake chuckles.

Everyone antes up.

The Dealer deals the Flop.

An Ace, a Two of Hearts, and a King of Spades are in it.

He motions to her.

She tosses a handful of chips in.

Drake folds, as do the next two people.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Oh come on--

DRAKE

Smiling and raising means you've
got something, Scarlett Kane.

SCARLETT

You don't have to use my full name.

DRAKE

You pass the WWF test.

She motions for him to elaborate.

DRAKE (CONT'D)

Like if Howard Finkel grabs the mic
at Madison Square Garden and says--
(Howard Finkel impression)
--and NEW WWF Champion!

She thinks for a moment.

DRAKE (CONT'D)

If it sounds awesome after that,
it's a winner of a name.

SCARLETT

I never thought about it like that.

DRAKE

Besides, poker's about playing the
man, not the cards, and you're
about to play the cards.

Scarlett looks at him oddly.

The Person next to Scarlett raises her.

SCARLETT

The game doesn't change from my
phone to here. The randomness of
cards never changes.

DRAKE

If you say so.

She looks at her cards and matches it.

The Dealer deals the Turn.

King of Clubs.

Scarlett looks at her chips and taps the poker table.

The Player next to her does the same.

The Dealer deals the River.

Five of hearts.

Scarlett looks at her cards and then the five in the middle
of the table. She bets \$50.

The Player next to her looks at his cards, the pot, and then
calls her.

POKER DEALER

Show your cards.

Scarlett flips both of hers.

The Player next to her flips his.

He has a four of hearts and an eight of clubs.

Scarlett wins.

Drake's phone buzzes. He looks at it and sighs.

DRAKE

This is where I must depart. It was
nice meeting you.

He leaves.

AURORA (O.S.)

Who was that fine piece of man?

Scarlett watches Aurora sit down next to her.

SCARLETT

Drake Brokenbosch.

Aurora looks at her oddly.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Long story.

The Dealer deals.

AURORA

We have the time.

A WAITRESS walks past. Scarlett waves to her.

SCARLETT

Can I get a beer?

AURORA

I'll take a Diet Coke.

EXT. CIRCUS CIRCUS CASINO - DAY

Drake takes a long puff of his cigarette. He exhales and tosses it. His eyes spot Scarlett riding towards him.

She's wearing a helmet.

DRAKE

I'm surprised you returned.

SCARLETT
You know I had to gloat.

Drake holds his hand out.

She hands him the envelope.

DRAKE
Mildred will be happy you're here.

SCARLETT
I'll even be early.

DRAKE
Take it easy.

Scarlett peddles away.

Drake walks inside.

EXT. LAS VEGAS SIGN - DAY

Newly hired runner HANSON (25) waits.

He's short and rail thin with a bushy beard.

Scarlett rides up and stops. Her eyes look at the envelope. A photo of Hanson is stapled to it. She walks over to him.

HANSON
You must be Scarlett.

She hands him the envelope.

SCARLETT
Frank said people come and go.

HANSON
Take it easy.

Hanson walks away.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Scarlett places her bicycle into the cargo hold of the truck. She grabs a bottle of water and takes a long swig. Her eyes look up to see a gun pointed at her.

A CRIMINAL holds it.

Scarlett quakes with fear, stammering.

CRIMINAL
Keys, now.

SCARLETT
This is all I have.

CRIMINAL
I don't care.

He looks into the truck and smiles.

SCARLETT
I just need to--

The Criminal walks towards her, gun pointed at her head.

CRIMINAL
You need to what?

SCARLETT
Those are Frank's envelopes and--

CRIMINAL
Frank who?

SCARLETT
Frank Stein.

The Criminal stops dead in his tracks. A cold sweat comes down his brow.

CRIMINAL
Are you serious?

SCARLETT
I work for him and--

CRIMINAL
Fuck that.

The Criminal turns around and runs away.

Scarlett watches him sprint away, breathing rapidly.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Aurora watches a movie on her laptop.

Scarlett sprints in and locks the door behind her.

AURORA
What happened?

Scarlett looks around.

SCARLETT
Some guy tried to carjack me.

Aurora pauses the movie and turns to her.

AURORA
Did you fight him off or--

SCARLETT
I panicked and I said I worked for Frank Stein. The guy ran away.

AURORA
What did I tell you about the way this city works?

SCARLETT
He's a sweet old man and--

AURORA
How much money do you need?

SCARLETT
To do what?

AURORA
Go back to Los Angeles and keep trying to act.

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

AURORA (CONT'D)
If this isn't your sign to get out, I don't know what is.

SCARLETT'S BEDROOM (NIGHT)

Scarlett lays in bed, staring at the ceiling. Her phone buzzes with an email from Yasmin: "They upped the offer and took out the nudity."

A PDF with an offer is attached.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

Scarlett gets inside, a mug of coffee in her hand. She goes to start the engine but stops. Her hand grabs her phone and looks at the email. Her eyes focus on "They upped the offer and took out the nudity."

SCARLETT

I'd be a moron to turn it down.

(thinks)

They'll find a way to get you to take off your clothes off, right?

(sighs)

And you had a gun in your face. A real one, too!

(beat)

Just get in and the road will take you where you want.

(starts the engine)

So far Frank hasn't asked you to get naked.

Scarlet responds: "I'm still not ready to come back to acting, Yasmin. I'll let you know."

INT. FRANK'S KITCHEN - DAY

Frank looks at his watch. His foot taps on the ground.

SCARLETT (O.S.)

Sorry, traffic was a nightmare.

Scarlett walks in with a pair of coffee mugs.

Frank grabs one.

FRANK

These things happen.

SCARLETT

It won't happen again.

(beat)

This is going to sound weird but... since I'm carrying money, would you mind if I carry a gun on the job?

FRANK

Nevada is holster carry, so you don't have to get a permit. Did someone try to rob you?

She nods.

His face turns into a scowl.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I'll take care of it.

SCARLETT

Do I need--

He motions for her to not worry.

FRANK

I'm going out. There's some filing that needs to be done.

SCARLETT

I can do that.

FRANK

Thank you.

Frank exits.

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Scarlett walks downstairs. She spots a large group of folders on Frank's desk. Her eyes look around.

A filing cabinet is in the server room.

Scarlett grabs the folders and walks over to the filing cabinet. She opens it up and looks at the folders.

"Profit/loss statements" is on the tab.

Her eyes spot that in the filing cabinet. Her hands place them inside.

Scarlett looks down and spots a file marked "Personnel." Her eyes look around and then towards it. She opens it up and looks inside.

Folders on everyone currently working are in there. A sealed file for "Former Employees" is in the rear.

She opens her file. Her entire work history is in there, including a DVD of a movie she was in. A business logo of a private detective is in there.

A folder marked "Hal Banks" is in the rear.

Scarlett looks inside. A photo of Hal Banks is stapled to it. Images of Hal's body in the alley flash through her mind.

EXT. LONG ALLEY - DAY

The Criminal who tried to rob Scarlett smokes a cigarette next to a dumpster. He looks up to see Frank swinging an iron pipe at his face.

WHAM!

The Criminal hits the ground, his nose broken and bleeding profusely all over him.

CRIMINAL

I didn't know, Mister Stein!

Frank smashes the Criminal's body with the pipe repeatedly.

FRANK

You tell everyone in this town that if they mess with my people, I will dig as many holes in the desert as I have to. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

The Criminal nods.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY (DRIVING)

Traffic as far as the eye can see.

Scarlett looks at her envelopes on the passenger seat.

There are five of them.

She goes through them, landing on the last one. It's marked "Scarlett." Her hands open it up. In it are \$7,000 in cash and a handwritten note from Frank saying "Vegas is hard, here's your first week early. The extra is because you're doing well and I appreciate it."

Scarlett's phone buzzes with a call from Thandie.

THANDIE (V.O.)

I miss you!

SCARLETT

I'm going to call it Hollyweird if you tell me that again.

THANDIE (V.O.)

I've got another crazy Nancy story for you, too!

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Thandie types on her laptop.

SCARLETT (V.O.)

I need you to figure out how crazy what I'm doing is.

THANDIE

Oh no.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THANDIE AND SCARLETT

SCARLETT

On a 1 to Nancy going to a Tinder
guy's apartment to watch Netflix.

Thandie nods.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

I'm running bets for a guy who
might be a mobster.

THANDIE

Is he hot?

SCARLETT

He reminds me of my grandfather.

Thandie shrugs.

THANDIE

So far you're running Full Nancy.

SCARLETT

I haven't felt this alive... ever.

THANDIE

Have you had a gun pointed at you?

SCARLETT

Is it weird that it didn't make me
immediately pack everything up and
move back to Los Angeles?

THANDIE

Yes.

SCARLETT

He gave me a bonus because he knows
moving here is hard.

THANDIE

So what's the problem?

SCARLETT

He hired a private detective to
look into my background.

THANDIE

Every job I've ever had made me go through a full background check.

SCARLETT

He did this whole speech about the randomness of the universe and--

THANDIE

My father always said trust but verify. Maybe you need to do a little bit of verification?

SCARLETT

That could be.

Thandie phone buzzes with another call.

THANDIE

I got to run.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Scarlett's truck parks.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

Scarlett takes a deep breath. She takes her phone out and pulls up an internet search engine. She googles "Las Vegas Temp Agency."

A dozen results come up, including a news article about the "Ten Latest Temp Agency Scams" from a local newspaper.

Her fingers pull up a job recruiting board. She types in "no experience needed" and searches.

Jobs paying the minimum wage of \$4 an hour plus tips come up.

Scarlett looks into her envelope from Frank.

SCARLETT

So far... you know, maybe a little bit of trust won't hurt you?

EXT. CIRCUS CIRCUS CASINO - DAY

Drake smokes a cigarette. He looks up to see Scarlett riding towards him on her bike.

She stops and hands him the envelope.

DRAKE

All that money to get that tire fixed and you're still riding.

SCARLETT

Frank's time to get everything out coincides with the worst traffic.

DRAKE

You could get a motorcycle.

SCARLETT

(points to helmet)
It was cheaper.

Drake tosses his cigarette away.

DRAKE

Time to get to work.

She smiles and rides away.

He walks inside.

INT. GUN STORE - NIGHT

Guns of all types are all over.

A CLERK is behind the counter.

Scarlett walks in and looks around.

GUN STORE CLERK

Can I help you?

She walks up to the counter.

SCARLETT

I'm looking to buy something for self-defense.

GUN STORE CLERK

We've got plenty.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

Scarlett trades her pickup truck in for a brand new Ford Mustang. She pays for it in cash.

Scarlett rides her bicycle through Las Vegas, delivering the envelopes on time every time. She has an impossibly large smile on her face as she does so.

Scarlett places a small pistol into her glove box.

Drake and Scarlett flirt in front of Circus Circus.

Aurora and Scarlett are at the townhome, enjoying their time together and gambling.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Scarlett walks up to the bench. An envelope is still on it.

She looks around. No one is watching her.

SCARLETT

A little kid might take it, right?

Scarlett grabs the envelope off the bench and replaces it with the one in her hand. She walks back to her Mustang.

INT. FORD MUSTANG - DAY

Scarlett gets in and closes the door. Her eyes turn to the envelope from the bench. She shakes it for a moment.

SCARLETT

It's just cash, right?

(presses down on envelope)

It doesn't feel like it.

(deep breath)

I'll just say it wasn't there.

She opens up the envelope.

A thumb drive and newspapers are inside.

Scarlett takes out the thumb drive and looks at it. She empties the envelope onto her passenger seat.

Nothing but blank paper comes out.

EXT. CIRCUS CIRCUS CASINO - DAY

Drake walks out. He looks up to see Scarlett waiting for him.

DRAKE

This is a surprise.

SCARLETT
I've got a hypothetical for you.

DRAKE
Shoot.

SCARLETT
You know the bench, right?

Drake nods.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
What if someone didn't pick up the envelope?

DRAKE
Do you have it on you?

SCARLETT
I just feel like I should give it back to Frank. You said this is a dangerous world.

DRAKE
I can dispose of it for you.

SCARLETT
Part of me is curious and the other part... you know?

DRAKE
Do you want some advice?

She nods.

DRAKE (CONT'D)
Either get rid of it or give it back to Frank immediately. The longer you hold onto it, the worse it's going to be.

SCARLETT
I'll destroy it and toss it into my sister's trash, OK?

Drake nods.

INT. SCARLETT'S LAS VEGAS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett looks at her laptop. The thumb drive is next to it.

Aurora knocks on her door.

AURORA

I was going to order some sushi.

SCARLETT

This is what my boss has me put on a park bench every single day.

Aurora looks at the thumb drive.

AURORA

You're the person who grabs the handle after being told it's hot, just to check, right?

SCARLETT

I know it's stupid but--

AURORA

What did the hot guy say?

SCARLETT

Get rid of it or give it back.

Scarlett turns to her.

AURORA

You should do one of those things.

SCARLETT

Aren't you curious?

AURORA

If a gun in your face would not scare you off, I should not be surprised that this would not.

SCARLETT

I should plug it in, right?

AURORA

Don't.

SCARLETT

Why not?

AURORA

Did you not watch your own movie?

SCARLETT

I fast-forwarded to my part and that was it. I knew it was shit.

Aurora groans.

AURORA

They solve the murder because they plug in a thumb drive that has a backdoor way of notifying someone.

SCARLETT

That sounds made up.

AURORA

I Googled it and it's a real thing that can happen.

SCARLETT

So what do I do?

AURORA

If you're smart, you throw that away and nobody saw nothing.

SCARLETT

And if I'm dumb?

Aurora sighs.

AURORA

I've got a friend who can help.
(beat)
Let me make a call.

INT. MANDALAY BAY ARCADE - NIGHT

Video games from the last 20 years are all over.

Aurora's friend BRADLEY (15) plays a video game. He's short with thick glasses and a laptop bag strung over him.

SCARLETT (O.S.)

You don't look like a Bradley.

Scarlett walks up next to him.

BRADLEY

What does Aurora want this time?

"Game Over" comes across the screen.

He turns to her.

SCARLETT

I'm her sister.

Bradley motions to a table.

They walk over to it.

BRADLEY
What do you want?

SCARLETT
How do you know her?

BRADLEY
I needed someone to place a bet on
Czech ping pong once.

SCARLETT
Of course, it's something weird.

He places his laptop on the table.

She hands him the thumb drive.

BRADLEY
Where'd you get it?

SCARLETT
Why does it matter?

BRADLEY
Are they into anything... how do I
call it... questionable?

SCARLETT
I run bets for them.

Bradley reaches into his laptop bag and takes out a small box
with several USB drives on it.

BRADLEY
Do you know what a dead box is?

She shakes her head.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
You plug a thumb drive in and any
sort of tracer dies inside.

SCARLETT
He's old, you know?

Bradley turns his laptop on. After a moment the dead box
comes up as an application.

BRADLEY
Age and degeneracy aren't mutually
exclusive, either.

He places the thumb drive inside the dead box. His laptop registers a trace program coming out.

SCARLETT

I almost put that in my computer.

Bradley types some more. Cryptocurrency keys for a dozen types of crypto come up. He types some more.

A cryptocurrency account with a badge next to it comes up.

BRADLEY

Thank God you didn't.

SCARLETT

I don't know what any of this is.

Bradley points to the badge.

BRADLEY

This account is being monitored by the feds. I've got a plug-in that works the back end to see, just in case someone wants to fuck with me. It's hidden in the code of an NFT.

SCARLETT

So what do I do?

Bradley looks at the crypto for a moment.

BRADLEY

There's three million you'll never be able to spend on this and some files that are encrypted with NSA-level security.

SCARLETT

What does that mean in English?

BRADLEY

You plug it in and you're dead.

She gulps.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

If I was you, I'd toss this into a dumpster and never think about it.

Scarlett looks around and grabs the thumb drive.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Aurora stares at her monitors.

Scarlett walks in and crashes onto the couch.

AURORA

I don't want to know.

SCARLETT

Why are you friends with an actual child, Aurora?

Aurora turns to her.

AURORA

He's very good with a computer.

SCARLETT

Are you hungry?

AURORA

Order something and--

SCARLETT

Why do you always order in when we could go out?

AURORA

Tourists.

Scarlett stands up.

SCARLETT

I heard an ad on the radio for a new place on the strip that just opened up. We're going.

Aurora groans.

AURORA

I've got a five-team parlay going on right now.

SCARLETT

And you can keep track of that on your phone, right?

Aurora looks around and sighs.

AURORA

But it's more fun this way.

Scarlett points to the door.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

French, posh, and packed with WEALTHY PEOPLE.

Frank and a HIGH-END ESCORT are in the rear, eating.

LOBBY

Scarlett and Aurora are among twenty-plus PEOPLE waiting for a table.

Aurora looks around.

AURORA

Do you think they're on Uber Eats?

SCARLETT

They add ten percent.

AURORA

It's easier than waiting for a god-damn table, too.

Frank and the Escort walk towards the exit. He spots Scarlett and smiles.

FRANK

Small world, huh?

Scarlett spots him and waves.

Frank looks Aurora over.

SCARLETT

(to Aurora)

This is my boss, Frank.

FRANK

You must be Aurora.

AURORA

Holy shit.

SCARLETT

They said it's an hour wait and--

Frank walks over to a HOSTESS and whispers in their ear.

The Hostess motions to Scarlett and Aurora.

FRANK

The Chicken Salvaterra Del Guerra is worth it.

Frank and his Escort leave.

Aurora and Scarlett follow the Hostess into the dining area.

SCARLETT AND AURORA'S TABLE

Scarlett and Aurora sit down.

Menus are on the table.

The Hostess walks away.

Aurora grabs a menu and looks at it. Her eyes open wide.

AURORA

This is way out of our price range.

Scarlett grabs a menu and looks at it. Her jaw drops.

SCARLETT

We can wait a minute and--

A WAITER approaches them.

WAITER

Mister Stein sends his regards.

Scarlett and Aurora look at each other for a moment.

SCARLETT

I'm sorry but we--

WAITER

Any friend of Mister Stein is a friend of our establishment.

Aurora looks at Scarlett and then at the Waiter.

The Waiter leans in.

WAITER (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

All we ask is you tip the usual percentage, so other diners don't ask questions.

Scarlett nods.

SCARLETT

Thank you.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

The Hellcat parks.

Scarlett and Aurora exit.

AURORA

I can't believe that meal was three hundred dollars.

SCARLETT

That was our tip, dear.

AURORA

Thank you--

Aurora stops in her tracks.

Her trash bags have been torn open, trash all over.

Scarlett's eyes follow Aurora's.

SCARLETT

What the hell?

AURORA

We don't have raccoons out here.

SCARLETT

You do now.

Aurora groans.

EXT. CIRCUS CIRCUS CASINO - DAY

Drake yawns and looks at his phone. He looks up and spots her approaching him on her bicycle.

Scarlett hands him the envelope.

SCARLETT

Do you have a moment?

DRAKE

Of course.

Scarlett looks in either direction.

SCARLETT

How illegal is all of this?

Drake sighs.

DRAKE

Proxy betting is legal, as long as you use a registered proxy betting service, in the state of Nevada. The problem is Frank's banned from the books, so it's a moral gray zone but highly illegal.

SCARLETT

What would happen if we got caught?

DRAKE

To you? Probably they offer a deal to nail Frank.

SCARLETT

Fuck me.

Drake shrugs.

DRAKE

I said the same thing when I figured it out.

SCARLETT

If the Feds or the police--

DRAKE

If the FBI, let's say, decides to bust Frank... well... they're not going to bide their time with the small fish like us.

SCARLETT

It sounds like you know a bit more about this than you're letting on.

DRAKE

It's not hard to figure out.

SCARLETT

I never even thought of it. I just took the job and look at me now.

DRAKE

If you're that worried, there's a statute of limitations on it.

SCARLETT

Thanks.

Drake nods and walks inside.

INT. FORD MUSTANG - DAY

Scarlett watches the park bench. The envelope is on it. She takes her phone out and calls Aurora.

SCARLETT

This guy is a ninja, I swear.

AURORA (V.O.)

I can't believe you're still stuck on that.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Several sports news TV shows are on her monitors.

SCARLETT (V.O.)

So are you gambling on Turkish Oil Wrestling right now?

AURORA

I'm watching Sports Center.

INTERCUT BETWEEN AURORA AND SCARLETT

SCARLETT

That's surprising.

AURORA

Not as surprising as you talking to my buddy and still trying to dive into this.

SCARLETT

I thought you didn't want to know.

AURORA

You spooked him and nothing ever spooks that kid.

SCARLETT

Drake said not to look into it and that just made me curious.

AURORA

You're acting like a cat and you know what killed that, right?

EXT. LAS VEGAS STREET - DAY

Scarlett rides down the Strip. She spots Hanson by the Welcome to Las Vegas Sign.

EXT. LAS VEGAS SIGN - DAY

Hanson looks around and then at his watch. He looks up and spots Scarlett riding towards him.

HANSON

You're late.

SCARLETT

Something came up.

She goes to hand him the envelope.

An outstretched HAND grabs it.

Hanson and Scarlett watch a RUNNING CRIMINAL yank the envelope out of Scarlett's hands and haul ass away from them.

Scarlett chases after him.

EXT. MORE LAS VEGAS STREET - DAY

The Running Criminal weaves in and out of Tourists.

Scarlett rides out into the street, chasing after him.

SCARLETT

Do you know who we work for?

The Running Criminal spots a sports car in the distance and turns to her.

RUNNING CRIMINAL

I don't care, lady!

He turns and runs right into a parked car.

SCARLETT

Ha ha!

The envelope flies out of his hands and into the air.

Scarlett rides over and grabs it, riding back towards the Welcome to Las Vegas sign.

EXT. LAS VEGAS SIGN - DAY

Scarlett looks at Hanson.

He points to the Horseshoe Casino.

She rides towards it.

EXT. HORSESHOE CASINO - DAY

Scarlett rides her bicycle through TOURISTS and GAMBLERS, going right inside.

INT. HORSESHOE CASINO - DAY

Scarlett rides in and looks around. She spots the sports book and sprints towards it.

HORSESHOE CASINO SPORTS BOOK

Scarlett gets off the bike and runs up to the counter.

A CLERK walks up to her.

HORSESHOE CLERK

Can I help you?

Scarlett opens the envelope and spots a paper with sports picks on it and some cash. She places the money on the counter and quickly looks over the picks.

SCARLETT

I've got some picks to make.

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Scarlett walks back in.

Frank looks up from his monitor.

FRANK

I got a call from Hanson that you rode your bike into the Horseshoe.

She shrugs.

SCARLETT

No sign says I couldn't do it.

He laughs.

FRANK

Next time, let Hanson get there.

SCARLETT

It was the last one and I know you are a stickler.

Frank nods.

FRANK

Do you know how hard it is to get Tubi on my TV?

SCARLETT

Is anything good on?

FRANK

I got curious about your movie.

Scarlett groans.

SCARLETT

Here's a bit of trivia that's not on the IMDB; my check for that film bounced the first time.

Frank laughs.

FRANK

It was better than I thought.

SCARLETT

I still haven't watched it.

FRANK

You're not missing much but it's still kind of cool to see someone who was in a movie.

SCARLETT

It's just what I did.

FRANK

I think it's kind of interesting.

SCARLETT

I just wish my father could've seen it, you know?

FRANK

What happened?

SCARLETT

Small town and some prick had too much to drink before getting behind the wheel.

FRANK

My condolences.

SCARLETT

Thank you.

Frank takes out a small wad of cash and hands it to her.

FRANK

I have a deal with all of the bet placers that they get a cut of the winnings. Since Hanson didn't place the bet, this is your end.

SCARLETT

The games are tonight, right?

FRANK

Consider it a bonus for going above and beyond.

SCARLETT

Thank you.

Scarlett exits.

EXT. FRANK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Scarlett walks up to her Mustang. She takes her phone out and texts Aurora: "Up for some gambling?"

INT. CIRCUS CIRCUS CASINO, POKER ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett tosses some chips onto a table.

SCARLETT

Raise.

Aurora is next to her and tosses her cards in.

A GAMBLER across from them tosses their cards in and leaves.

Scarlett grabs the chips.

AURORA

Who's this ruthless woman and what happened to my kid sister?

Three more GAMBLERS sit down at the table.

The Dealer taps the table. Everyone antes up.

SCARLETT

Someone told me when I got here
that Texas Hold 'Em is about
playing the man, not the cards.

DRAKE (O.S.)

I wonder who that charming and very
handsome man was.

Scarlett watches Drake sit at the table.

SCARLETT

Less charming and handsome than he
thinks he is.

DRAKE

(to Aurora)

Now I know what Scarlett would look
like as a brunette.

AURORA

I'm Aurora.

The Dealer motions for them to start.

Scarlett and Aurora place the big blind and little blind.

The Dealer tosses in cards.

Drake looks at his.

Scarlett looks at hers and smiles: She has a King of Hearts
and Queen of Spades.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Are you going to introduce your
friend, Scarlett?

SCARLETT

(to Aurora)

Aurora, this is someone I work
with. Drake Brokenbosch.

(to Drake)

Drake, this is my sister Aurora.

AURORA

You're the hot guy she works with.

DRAKE

Hot, huh?

SCARLETT

That was before I got to know you.

Drake tosses in the big blind. Aurora does so as well.

The Dealer deals the Flop.

Jack of Clubs, Five of Hearts, Eight of Spades.

DRAKE

And now I'm devastatingly handsome
and charming.

SCARLETT

Frank said you had a high opinion
of yourself.

DRAKE

What else did he say?

SCARLETT

and that you're the only one who
has it.

Aurora pushes her cards forward.

AURORA

There's a reason I bet on sports.

SCARLETT

Have fun.

Aurora grabs her chips and leaves.

Scarlett tosses \$20 onto the pile.

Drake does the same.

DRAKE

You've gotten better at this.

SCARLETT

I've been watching some videos on
YouTube just for this moment.

DRAKE

And here I was thinking you had
gotten better at this.

The Dealer deals the Turn.

10 of Hearts.

SCARLETT

When I take your money, then you
can say I'm good.

DRAKE

I don't think you have the cards.

The Dealer deals the River

It's the Ace of Spades.

Scarlett tosses in \$50.

SCARLETT

It'll cost you to find out.

DRAKE

I'm game.

Drake does the same.

POKER DEALER

Show your cards.

Scarlett turns her cards.

DRAKE

In any other world, I'm winning.

Drake turns his cards over.

He had a pair of fives.

She grabs the chips.

SCARLETT

Sometimes the cards matter, right?

Drake chuckles.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Scarlett and Drake walk towards her truck.

SCARLETT

Do you need a ride home or--

DRAKE

I drove here.

Drake points towards an older Ford Mustang.

SCARLETT

I swear everyone drives a muscle car here.

DRAKE

I've had that for ten years now.

SCARLETT

I grew up in Ohio, so I'm just used to everything getting rusty.

DRAKE

Welcome to one perk of year-round dry weather, right?

Their hands touch.

DRAKE (CONT'D)

I never would've guessed Ohio.

SCARLETT

You could fit my hometown in most of this parking lot, I think.

(beat)

Where are you from?

DRAKE

New Jersey.

SCARLETT

You don't sound like it.

DRAKE

Not everyone from Jersey sounds like they could be on the Jersey Shore, you know.

SCARLETT

Shut up and kiss me.

They lightly kiss and then passionately make out.

INT. DRAKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Large with a king-sized bed.

Scarlett and Drake make out, stumbling towards his bed.

Clothes come off and are thrown all over.

They have intense, passionate sex.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DRAKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (3 HOURS LATER)

Six condom wrappers on the floor.

Scarlett and Drake are wrapped up around one another, under the covers. Both are covered in sweat.

DRAKE

Please tell me you don't want to do that again.

SCARLETT

I think I'm good.

DRAKE

Don't get me wrong, it's great, but a little flag might come out of my pecker if you want to try again.

She laughs.

SCARLETT

I need to take a shower.

DRAKE

I've got towels in there.

Scarlett passionately kisses him.

SCARLETT

You're more than welcome to wash my back for me.

DRAKE

Give me a moment to make sure I don't collapse on the way.

She gets up and goes into the bathroom.

Drake watches her.

The door closes. The faint sound of the shower turning on is heard. Water flows.

Drake reaches into an end table and pulls out a tracking device the size of a coin battery. He opens her phone up and places it inside.

Drake grabs his phone and pulls up a tracking app. He types in a number. Scarlett's phone pops up on it.

He puts his phone down and sprints into the bathroom.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DRAKE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Scarlett and Drake are under the covers, wrapped around one another. She wakes up and looks around. He yawns.

DRAKE

Hey.

SCARLETT

For the record, normally I'm not this kind of woman.

DRAKE

What kind of woman are you, then?

SCARLETT

I don't know... just not this type.

He chuckles.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

What?

DRAKE

I get it.

SCARLETT

I never thought I'd be living in Las Vegas, you know?

DRAKE

I like it... outside of the awful heat year round.

SCARLETT

I just keep thinking about going back to acting.

DRAKE

So you can be large-breasted girl number eight in a movie?

She playfully smacks him.

SCARLETT

Maybe being away from there for a couple of months is what I needed.

DRAKE

Frank doesn't have a retirement plan. Or health insurance.

SCARLETT
Have you thought of what you'll do
after this?

DRAKE
Get a job at a casino, maybe.

SCARLETT
I'm probably going to go back.

DRAKE
How do we handle whatever this is?

She rolls on top of him.

SCARLETT
We can worry about that later.

DRAKE
That sounds like a plan.

SCARLETT
Since we're here, right?

He smiles.

They make love.

EXT. DRAKE'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Scarlett exits and walks to her truck.

It roars to life and drives away.

After a moment a governmental sedan parks in the distance.

FBI Special Agent NICK MAXWELL (50) exits and walks around.

He's tall, muscular, and has soul-piercing eyes.

INT. DRAKE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Drake cooks breakfast. He looks up to see Nick standing
outside the back door.

Nick opens the door and walks inside.

NICK
Frank's delivery girl, huh?

DRAKE
Her name is Scarlett.

NICK
I know her name, genius.

DRAKE
She's nice.

Nick takes a deep breath.

NICK
You're supposed to be collecting
evidence, not notches on your
bedpost, Agent Boulder.

DRAKE
We've got enough to bust him on
illegal proxy betting. You get him
on that and he caves on everything
else. What's the hold-up?

NICK
He's connected and we don't have a
clue as to whom.

DRAKE
Bust him with this and it's a
simple you spend the rest of your
life in federal pound me in the ass
prison or else.
(beat)
I put a tracker on her phone.

NICK
We don't have a warrant for her!

DRAKE
She's curious about the bench. We
have no clue where it goes and
maybe she can lead us there.

NICK
This is dangerous, Jim.
(beat)
Are you sure you can turn her?

Drake looks around.

DRAKE
I did my research. No crimes, no
arrests, no bullshit.

NICK
I hope you're right.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Scarlett walks up to the bench and places the envelope down. She walks away and takes her phone out.

In the reflection, she spots a GANGSTER watching her.

She takes a deep breath and walks back to her car. Her fingers turn her camera on and reverse the image. The Gangster walks up and grabs the envelope. Her eyes follow him as he sprints back to a luxury sedan.

INT. FORD MUSTANG - DAY (DRIVING)

Scarlett is stuck in traffic. Her eyes look around, spotting the luxury sedan. She watches it make a turn.

EXT. SOCIAL CLUB - DAY

The Gangster parks the Sedan and walks inside.

Moments later Scarlett's Mustang passes by.

INT. FORD MUSTANG - DAY (DRIVING)

Scarlett drives past, her eyes glancing at the social club. She pulls over in the distance and grabs her phone. Her fingers quickly type "Eaton Social Club" on an internet search engine and click "Search." Hundreds of results come up. All have "Las Vegas Mobster Hangout" in them.

Scarlett gulps.

EXT. SOCIAL CLUB - DAY

The Mustang parks.

Scarlett exits and walks toward the club.

SCARLETT
(under her breath)
This is stupid.
(beat)
Think of it as researching a role.
(beat)
This is fucking stupid.

Scarlett's phone rings with a call from Thandie.

Scarlett walks back to her Mustang.

INT. FORD MUSTANG - DAY

Scarlett gets inside.

THANDIE (V.O.)
Who's got two thumbs and a staff
writing job?

She smiles.

SCARLETT
Oh my God!

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Thandie stares at her laptop. A contract for a staff writer job is up on it.

THANDIE
It's a shitty Law and Order clone.
Want to know the best part?

INTERCUT BETWEEN THANDIE AND SCARLETT

Scarlett thinks for a moment.

SCARLETT
Health insurance?

THANDIE
The Bible.
(beat)
It's a document about all of the
rules of the world.

SCARLETT
What's so special about it?

THANDIE
They say that a suspect in the
crime has to say a certain amount
before they call a lawyer.

SCARLETT
I've never been arrested, so--

THANDIE
As soon as a cop says anything, you
always say lawyer and silence.

SCARLETT

There's a story you've never told me about this, huh?

THANDIE

I just hate it in movies because no one should do that... but now I'll be writing that every week.

SCARLETT

Congratulations!

Scarlett starts the engine.

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Frank pulls up a massive spreadsheet labeled "Crypto transfers" onto his main monitor. Tens of millions in Crypto are listed with a payment schedule.

One payment hasn't cleared.

He quickly pulls up a crypto wallet. It's full of crypto.

He takes his phone out and pulls up "Fat Tony" on his speed dial. His finger presses Call.

FAT TONY (V.O.)

Your guy didn't deliver last week.

FRANK

She didn't say anything.

FAT TONY (V.O.)

It's a lot of money. *My money.*

FRANK

People know what happens when they steal from me.

Frank hangs up. He opens the cabinet up and takes out a file marked "Scarlett Kane." His hand opens it up, quickly going through it. His eyes spot Aurora's address.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

The bar is packed with SPORTS FANS watching MMA on virtually every single TV. The Pro Fighter from earlier is fighting.

Scarlett and Aurora are in a corner booth, eating wings and drinking beer.

AURORA

This fight will pay for the next three months of my mortgage.

SCARLETT

It's better than people slapping each other.

AURORA

Xavier Holiday is an absolute lock to finish this.

SCARLETT

Were the odds good?

AURORA

Someone was pounding the line and--

The crowd groans.

Aurora curses under her breath.

SCARLETT

That's not good, I take it.

AURORA

Short notice, unranked fighter, and the number three middleweight in the world is stopped like *that*.

SCARLETT

Upsets happen, right?

The WAITRESS drops off their bill.

Aurora reaches for her purse.

Scarlett looks around.

Aurora looks in either direction.

AURORA

This feels like it was fixed and I have to log in to my laptop to see.

SCARLETT

Dad always talked about the Olympics and the fat guy who beat the giant Russian in wrestling.

AURORA

It's stupid but indulge me, please.

Scarlett thinks for a moment and then nods.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Aurora types on her laptop.

On her left monitor is the gambling line for the fight. A large mid-fight bet was placed.

Scarlett focuses on it.

SCARLETT

It's as if someone knew.

AURORA

Or they made the exact right bet at the exact right time.

SCARLETT

How often does that happen?

Aurora turns to her.

AURORA

How many auditions did you win in the room? Like they offered you the part right then and there.

SCARLETT

That doesn't happen a lot.

AURORA

Same with bets.

Scarlett thinks for a moment.

SCARLETT

Who'd place that sort of bet?

AURORA

Someone with knowledge and enough cash to do something.

SCARLETT

Like a criminal.

AURORA

Or someone in his camp.

SCARLETT

I keep thinking of something I saw and it makes me think of something I shouldn't.

AURORA

The state will investigate it.

SCARLETT
What if I'm involved?

AURORA
What did you do?

SCARLETT
I dropped off an envelope and the
people there weren't... good.

Aurora sighs.

AURORA
Could be a coincidence.

SCARLETT
My boss, the expert gambler, gave
something to someone to take to a
mob hideout. Either it's a payoff--

AURORA
Or they're potentially coordinating
the fix.

Scarlett motions for her to continue.

Aurora points to the monitor.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Look at the line bumps.

Scarlett looks at the monitor.

They look at each other.

SCARLETT
I just dropped the envelope off.

Scarlett thinks for a long moment.

AURORA
You can quit the job.

SCARLETT
This'll be hanging over my head no
matter what I do.

AURORA
You can always just ignore it.

SCARLETT
I know who can tell me the truth.

Scarlett walks outside.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Scarlett takes her phone out and calls Drake.

DRAKE (V.O.)
Are you coming over tonight?

SCARLETT
Did Frank bet on the fight?

Beat.

DRAKE (V.O.)
He put three units on the underdog
to win in the distance. Why?

SCARLETT
I was just curious, that's all.

She hangs up.

Aurora motions for her to speak.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
He did.

Aurora curses under her breath.

AURORA
This is jail time for you.

SCARLETT
Or I can head it off at the pass,
go to the cops, and cut a deal.

AURORA
I've got ten grand in cash. Take
it, head back to California, and--

SCARLETT
I know and that--

AURORA
Are you one hundred percent sure
that he did it? The numbers say
someone did it but it could be the
wrong guy.

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

SCARLETT
I just assumed and you know...
maybe all of this is just a stupid
misunderstanding.

AURORA

Maybe.

SCARLETT

There's one way to find out, right?

Her fingers pull up Frank's phone number. She calls him..

FRANK (V.O.)

You can come in late tomorrow if
you need to.

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The monitors are active indicating major wins for the fight.

Frank types.

SCARLETT (V.O.)

I need to know something.

FRANK

Are you sure?

INTERCUT BETWEEN SCARLETT AND FRANK

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

SCARLETT

Did you fix a fight?

FRANK

I don't know what you're talking
about, Scarlett.

SCARLETT

I got curious about the park bench.

FRANK

Oh no.

SCARLETT

I looked at the betting lines, and
Drake said you bet a lot on it. I
just need to know.

He looks around.

FRANK

If it gets out, we all go to jail.

(beat)

How much do you want?

SCARLETT

What?

FRANK

I'll get some cash tonight. Then obviously you and I never talk again after it.

She nods.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I can be at the park--

SCARLETT

Not there.

(beat)

Freedom Park.

FRANK

I know where it is.

SCARLETT

The pool is closed. Leave it by the cabanas to the far left.

FRANK

When?

SCARLETT

Two hours from now or else I take a thumb drive straight to the FBI.

Scarlett hangs up.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Aurora stares at Scarlett.

SCARLETT

I'm so fucked.

AURORA

Why did you act like a gangster?

SCARLETT

He mentioned money and I just... I am a moron who got into character.

AURORA

You got him on tape, right?

Scarlett shakes her head.

Aurora curses under her breath.

SCARLETT

I thought--

AURORA

Just get in the car, drive home,
and if anyone asks I never saw you
leave Vegas.

Scarlett looks around.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Call me when you get to L.A!

Aurora grabs her hand and drags her to the Mustang. Her hands reach over and open the door.

SCARLETT

Are you sure?

AURORA

Just get out of here, please.

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Frank pulls up a tracking app. He spots Scarlett's Mustang driving away. He opens a drawer in his desk.

A pistol is in there.

He grabs it and leaves.

INT. FORD MUSTANG - NIGHT (DRIVING)

Traffic as far as the eye can see.

Scarlett is behind the wheel. Her phone rings with a call from her mother.

JOANNA (V.O.)

Hey honey, how's it going?

SCARLETT

I fucked up, Mom.

JOANNA (V.O.)

We can fix this.

SCARLETT

I don't know what to do.

JOANNA (V.O.)
What did your sister say?

SCARLETT
Go to California and don't come
back.

JOANNA (V.O.)
Then you should do that.

EXT. DRAKE'S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Nick walks up to the front door and knocks.

Drake opens the front door.

DRAKE
What's going on, boss?

Nick walks past him and inside.

INT. DRAKE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Drake closes the front door.

NICK
We're pulling you out.

DRAKE
What for?

NICK
DC wants an easy busy, so we're
going to bust Frank's people and
get one of them to flip.

Drake's phone buzzes with a call from Scarlett. He sends it
to voicemail on instinct.

DRAKE
This is bullshit and you know it!

INT. FORD MUSTANG - NIGHT (DRIVING)

Scarlett drives like a maniac, cutting around traffic. She
spots a sign for I-15 South to Los Angeles.

The Mustang drives towards it.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Frank walks up to the front door and knocks.

It opens, revealing Aurora.

AURORA
Can I help you?

He pushes his way inside and slams the door behind her.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Frank looks all over.

FRANK
Where is she?

AURORA
I don't know--

He takes his gun out and points it at her head.

FRANK
Don't play stupid with me!

Aurora breaks out in a cold sweat. Pure fear comes across her face. Her breathing intensifies.

AURORA
I don't know where she is and--

FRANK
She just left here.

She takes a deep breath.

AURORA
I don't know anything and--

FRANK
Give me your phone.

Aurora hands it to him.

INT. FORD MUSTANG - NIGHT (DRIVING)

The highway blazes past her. Her phone rings.

Scarlett looks and sees "Aurora" on the Caller ID. She answers it.

SCARLETT
I'll be in Los Angeles--

FRANK (V.O.)
I'm going to give you a choice.

Scarlett gulps.

SCARLETT
This is between us, Frank.

INTERCUT BETWEEN SCARLETT AND FRANK

FRANK
It was until you decided to run
away instead of facing me.

SCARLETT
I can go to the police.

He pulls the hammer of his pistol back. His eyes focus on
Aurora's face.

FRANK
And that won't bring your sister
back to life.

AURORA
He's got a gun!

Scarlett takes a deep breath.

FRANK
The park where you drop off the
thumb drives. Two hours.

SCARLETT
If you harm my sister--

FRANK
That's up to you now, dear.

Frank hangs up.

Scarlett turns around.

INT. DRAKE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nick looks around.

DRAKE
I can call Scarlett and tell her to
walk away. We've got two and--

NICK
 Since when did you catch feelings
 for women like that?

DRAKE
 She's different, Nick.

NICK
 That's not your problem anymore.

Drake takes his phone out and pulls up the tracking app.

NICK (CONT'D)
 I didn't see a warrant for that.

DRAKE
 Once she pleads, it won't matter.

Drake looks at the app. Scarlett's Mustang is at the park.

Nick looks at the app and takes his phone out.

NICK
 I need you to get to the office.

DRAKE
 I should be the one to--

NICK
 You'll be lucky to not be scrubbing
 toilets if this goes sideways.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Aurora and Frank sit on the bench.

Frank has a pistol jammed into her ribs.

AURORA
 I'm praying my sister called the
 FBI as soon as she hung up.

He pushes the gun into her ribs just enough to make it hurt.

FRANK
 For your sake, you better hope she
 isn't that stupid.

The sound of a car parking pierces the air.

Frank turns to see Scarlett exit her Mustang.

Scarlett walks towards him, thumb drive in hand. Her pistol is in her lower back.

Frank stands up with Aurora, his pistol still in her ribs.

SCARLETT

Just let her go and you can have the thumb drive.

FRANK

I get the thumb drive and then you get her back.

SCARLETT

No chance.

Frank motions to the gun.

FRANK

You're in no position to dictate the terms, my dear.

SCARLETT

Yes, I am.

Scarlett takes out her pistol and points it at him.

AURORA

What the shit, Scarlett?

FRANK

Didn't see that one coming.

SCARLETT

Let her go, Frank!

FRANK

Drop the gun and then--

SCARLETT

No. You let her go, I throw you the thumb drive, and then--

Frank aims his pistol at her. His finger quickly moves to the trigger. His eyes focus on her.

BANG!

Frank hits the ground, dead. Aurora passes out.

A full FBI TACTICAL SQUAD descends upon them.

Scarlett drops her pistol and raises her hands.

INT. FBI CONFERENCE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Scarlett is escorted to a room by two FBI AGENTS. Her eyes look each way. She spots Bentley and Hanson in separate rooms, handcuffed to their respective tables.

The Agents shove her into a room.

INT. FBI CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett is shoved into a chair and handcuffed to a table.

The FBI Agents leave.

Drake walks in, his FBI badge around his neck. A folder full of photos and paperwork is in his hands.

She takes a deep breath.

DRAKE
Scarlett Kane.

Her eyes focus on his badge.

SCARLETT
Agent Boulder. Jim Boulder.

Drake sits down across from her.

DRAKE
It doesn't sound as good, does it?

SCARLETT
I can't believe this.

DRAKE
I can explain this.

SCARLETT
I thought we were something but it turns out you were just using me.

DRAKE
That wasn't the case.

SCARLETT
It certainly feels like it.

DRAKE
Let's deal with that later.

Scarlett shakes her head.

SCARLETT
How's my sister?

DRAKE
She needed a change of clothes but
we just released her.

SCARLETT
So why am I still here?

DRAKE
I've got about a dozen felony
charges that you're good for.

SCARLETT
You said I could give up Frank and
I'd walk.

DRAKE
That deal ended once you put a
round in his head.

SCARLETT
He had a gun on me and--

DRAKE
There are three of you and one
deal. Do the math.

Scarlett thinks for a moment.

SCARLETT
Frank worked with mobsters, right?

DRAKE
What proof do you have of that?

SCARLETT
The envelope!

He laughs.

DRAKE
Did you see any mobsters, directly?

SCARLETT
Once, but--

DRAKE
What proof do you have?

SCARLETT

(to herself)

As soon as a cop says anything, you
always say lawyer and silence.

DRAKE

Here's how it works.

(beat)

You cooperate and you can maybe get
out of prison in a decade with a
handful of pocket change.

(beat)

You can continue to be a pain in my
ass and fight this. You'll come out
of jail a decade later with nothing
left to your name.

SCARLETT

I want my lawyer and I'm invoking
my right to silence.

DRAKE

Only guilty people do that.

Scarlett pushes the folder back.

SCARLETT

Lawyer, Silence.

Drake glares at her and then leaves.

A US DISTRICT ATTORNEY walks into the room.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

You seem to know a lot of things.

SCARLETT

In my possession is a thumb drive
that will show where every dime--

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

We're monitoring that account.

SCARLETT

Are you an MMA fan?

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Not particularly.

SCARLETT

How about fixed fights?

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

I'm listening.

SCARLETT

Frank admitted he fixed the fight
to me. Aurora was there.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Scarlett's pickup truck pulls up.

She exits and walks up to the front door.

Aurora opens it up.

AURORA

What the hell happened?

SCARLETT

The US Attorney person heard fixed
fight and I just had to fill out a
form that said what I know. I guess
it was enough to walk away with no
charges... lucky me, right?

AURORA

Please tell me you're going to get
a job as a temp.

SCARLETT

I'm staying as far away from your
industry as I can. And this city.

AURORA

Good.

(beat)

So what's next?

Scarlett shrugs. Her phone buzzes with a call from Yasmin.

YASMIN (V.O.)

Is your little vacation over?

SCARLETT

When do you sleep?

INT. AGENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Yasmin yawns.

YASMIN

Fridays, usually.

(beat)

Do you want to star in a movie
that's going to be in theaters?

INTERCUT BETWEEN SCARLETT AND YASMIN

SCARLETT
Is this a joke?

YASMIN
Remember your self-tape?

SCARLETT
That script was shit.

YASMIN
They're amenable to your input.

SCARLETT
I'd rather have Thandie--

YASMIN
Because they came back with an offer and are so desperate I can practically taste it.

SCARLETT
How big?

YASMIN
Think of every gig you've ever done, add that up, and then add a zero at the end.

Scarlett's jaw drops.

SCARLETT
What do I have to sign?

YASMIN
Check your email and a DocuSign will be there soon. Stop by the office and we'll talk.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Scarlett hangs up.

SCARLETT
I got a gig.

AURORA
Congratulations, I think.

SCARLETT
I'll be back tomorrow if it's bullshit.

AURORA
It's not like you've got anything
better to do, right?

Aurora and Scarlett hug.

Scarlett walks back to her Mustang and gets inside.

Aurora watches Scarlett drive away.

INT. FORD MUSTANG - DAY (DRIVING)

Scarlett gets on the highway towards Los Angeles.

An idea hits her. She calls Thandie.

THANDIE (V.O.)
Hey stranger.

SCARLETT
I've got an idea and I can't drive
and write at the same time.

Beat.

THANDIE (V.O.)
I want a Story By, at a minimum.

SCARLETT
So we're in an alley and--

EXT. LOS ANGELES ALLEY - NIGHT (SIX MONTHS LATER)

Rats scurry about a dumpster.

A small FILM CREW is all over, working.

Thandie is behind the camera, focused on the viewfinder.

A clapboard with Scarlett's name as the Director is near her feet.

Struggling Actor RIGGS (25) and Scarlett passionately make out next to a building.

She stops for a moment.

RIGGS
What?

SCARLETT
We should go to my place.

MARVIN (O.S.)
Hands where I can see them.

Struggling actor MARVIN (25) approaches them. He has brightly colored hair, facial tattoos, and a gun in his hand.

Riggs turns and sees him.

MARVIN (CONT'D)
Good evening.

Riggs shakes in pure, genuine fear.

SCARLETT
Hi.

Scarlett's eyes focus on the gun.

MARVIN
I'm assuming the two of you know
how this works.

Silence.

Thandie looks around and shrugs.

Scarlett looks around and then to the sky.

SCARLETT
Where's the Bat signal?

MARVIN
Excuse me?

A SCRIPT SUPERVISOR looks at Thandie, mouthing "They're off page." Thandie mouths "Let's see where they go."

SCARLETT
You look like the homeless guy's
Joker, when they want to redo one
of the older stories but he's in
Arkham or something.
(to Riggs)
He'd be Shecky the Clown, right?

Riggs shakes his head in terror.

MARVIN
Seriously?

Scarlett turns back to Marvin.

SCARLETT
Are we being punked for a TikTok
video or something?

MARVIN
This isn't a prank.

SCARLETT
Kind of feels like one.

MARVIN
I'm going to shoot you if you do
not stop making god-damn jokes!

SCARLETT
I've seen enough real guns to know
that's just an Airsoft gun spray
painted to look legit.

MARVIN
This is a real gun!

SCARLETT
How many people from the valley
have just given it up because
they're scared of that?

Marvin points the gun at Scarlett.

Scarlett breaks out laughing.

THANDIE
And cut.

Everyone stops filming.

RIGGS
I fucked up my line, huh?

SCARLETT
It's OK, I just sort of went with
it since we aren't going to be
using the take anyways.

MARVIN
A Batman villain?

SCARLETT
I know there's a term but--

RIGGS
Rogues' Gallery.

Scarlett nods and turns to Thandie.

THANDIE

Again but with more energy, right?

SCARLETT

If you're seeing anything--

THANDIE

You're all good, Miss Director.

Scarlett looks around.

Everyone's eyes are focused on her.

SCARLETT

Let's reboot and do one more take,
to get it right *and serious!*

Everyone gets back in position.

Scarlett smiles. **This is what she lives for.**

FADE OUT.