

DIPPING THE PEN

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ACT I**SCENE I**

FADE IN:

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

CAKE

Sits on a conference table. It reads, "CONGRATULATIONS KAY".

Kay Whitaker sits, surrounded by her fellow co-workers, as they have a going-away party for her. Kay smiles warmly at her co-workers, as they fete her. Among the revelers are her boss, SAMANTHA GAINES, with her close friend and co-worker, DINA LANSING. The two watch the festivities and quietly converse.

DINA

(sotto voce)

I can't believe Kay got the job in Vancouver. Not only another city, but a whole other country.

SAMANTHA

(sotto voce)

You're telling me. Kay's been the only secretary I've ever had. And a damn fine one to boot.

DINA

(sotto voce)

Well, nothing lasts forever. People come, people go. Speaking of coming, where's Josh? You said he would be here.

SAMANTHA

(looks at her watch)

He was supposed to. Josh wouldn't be Josh if he wasn't running late.

DINA

(suggestive; sotto voce)

I also hear he's quite the one in bed.

SAMANTHA

(lightly hits her on shoulder; sotto voce)

Easy, now. We talk about that outside the office.

DINA

(sotto voce)

So, who's your new secretary?

SAMANTHA

(sotto voce)

Some guy. I forget his name.

DINA

(sotto voce)

A guy secretary? There's a first.

SAMANTHA

(sotto voce)

Tell me about it. What self-respecting executive has a male secretary?

DINA

(sotto voce)

I think you should be open-minded about this. He may fare well.

SAMANTHA

(sternly; sotto voce)

Well, he's gonna have to prove himself. There'll never be another Kay.

DINA

(sotto voce)

Speaking of Kay, whadya say we go and have a piece of cake with her?

SAMANTHA
(sarcastic; sotto voce)
Sure. Nothing say I'll miss you
like eggs, flour, and icing.

Dina and Sam join the celebration, as they warmly greet Kay.

FADE OUT.

SCENE II

FADE IN:

MONTAGE - AROUND CHICAGO

The top of the Sears Tower illuminates in the Chicago night sky.

The lights of COMMISKEY PARK incandesce, as the scoreboard reads, "SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!"

The Ferris Wheel lays still after another busy day.

The waters of Lake Michigan sits peacefully in the crisp, evening air.

The Chicago el train travels on the rail, dropping off and picking up late-night commuters.

END MONTAGE

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Samantha's BMW pulls into an empty parking space. Samantha gets out, as she closes the door and pushes the car alarm button on her key chain, as the ALARM BEEPS.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

An exhausted Samantha arrives at the front door of her apartment, as she opens it and enters.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Samantha tiredly walks in, as she turns on a light, and tosses her purse and papers on a nearby table. She then notices something.

SAMANTHA'S POV

SMALL LIGHT

Flickers from a far corner in the apartment.

BACK TO SCENE

A leery Samantha tentatively walks in the direction of the light.

BACK OF SAMANTHA

As a hand comes INTO VIEW and rests itself on her shoulder. A startled Samantha leaps up and screams, as she quickly turns around. JOSHUA BARNES, Samantha's beau, stands behind her and smiles.

SAMANTHA
 (slightly out of breath)
 Josh, don't do that! You scared me
 half to death!

JOSHUA
 Sorry, Sam. I just couldn't
 resist.

Samantha looks exasperated at him.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua sit at the kitchen table, enjoying some Chinese takeout by candle light. They converse.

JOSHUA
 So, how's the food?

SAMANTHA
 (with mouth half full)
 Delicious. Wong's is always a sure
 bet.

JOSHUA
 Just thought the candles would add
 a little ambiance.

SAMANTHA
 Everything's lovely.

JOSHUA
 (looks frustrated at
 chopsticks)
 Never could learn how to use these.

Joshua looks and smiles at Samantha, who reciprocates.

SAMANTHA
So, how was work?

JOSHUA
(sighs)
Oh, you don't wanly know.
Merriweather griped all day about
how we could be cutting down on
expenditures. It couldn't have
ended any faster. How about you?

SAMANTHA
Said goodbye to Kay. She got the
position in Vancouver. I'm really
gonna miss her.

JOSHUA
(with mouth half full)
Vancouver? Who is she going to
work for, a grizzly bear?
(presents envelope to her)
Well, maybe these will cheer you
up.

Samantha takes the envelope from him and removes its
contents. They are two tickets to a basketball game.

SAMANTHA
(reads tickets)
Two court side seats, Bulls versus
Pacers, Thursday night. Neat.

JOSHUA
(sarcastic)
I got 'em from Frank. We had a few
drinks after work and he told me he
couldn't make the game.

SAMANTHA
Great.

JOSHUA
(sarcastic)
Try not to sound too excited.

SAMANTHA
Nothing says intimacy like tall,
sweaty men fighting for rebounds.

JOSHUA
(slightly offended)
What's that supposed to mean? I
know you like the ballet, but I --

SAMANTHA
(strongly interjects)
That's just it, Josh. You don't understand.

JOSHUA
(confounded)
Don't understand what?

SAMANTHA
(strong)
The party for Kay, Josh! You promised me you would be there tonight.

JOSHUA
(strong)
I'm sorry, Sam. I went with Frank to have a few drinks at Houlihan's after work, we shot the breeze, and I lost track of time.

SAMANTHA
(strong)
Another one of your flimsy excuses isn't going to cut it this time. You know, ever since I've got promoted...

JOSHUA
(angrily intervenes)
Yes, ever since you got promoted, you've always been too busy and demanding. Business meeting, dinner appointments, lunch. I feel like a total stranger to you.

SAMANTHA
(pertinent)
Well, excuse me for trying to have a career and not slaving over a hot stove all day!

JOSHUA
You are being so unreasonable. I couldn't make Kay's party, so I thought I'd make it up to you with a nice dinner. I guess my efforts went for naught.

Joshua gets up to leave, when Samantha halts him.

SAMANTHA
 (calls out)
 Josh, wait.

Joshua stops in his tracks and turns to Samantha.

SAMANTHA
 (soft)
 You're right.

JOSHUA
 Am I hearing okay? Did you
 actually say I was right?

SAMANTHA
 (contrite)
 Yes I did. You didn't make Kay's
 party, but you went through all
 this trouble to surprise me. I'm
 sorry.

JOSHUA
 Am I in the Twilight Zone?
 Samantha Gaines says "you're right"
 and "I'm sorry"?

SAMANTHA
 (humbled)
 Yes, you heard right. We'll go to
 the game Thursday.

JOSHUA
 (pumps his fist in
 exultation)
 Yes!

SAMANTHA
 (stern)
 However, I get to choose the next
 two dates.

JOSHUA
 (mock-complains and moans)
 Sam, that's not fair.

SAMANTHA
 Did I mention that Swan Lake will
 be showing at the theater on Rush
 Street?

JOSHUA
 (concedes)
 Alright, alright. Deal.
 (MORE)

JOSHUA (cont'd)
 (beat; mock-complains)
 Is there ever a time when you don't
 get your way?

SAMANTHA
 (witty)
 I'm a business woman. It's my
 nature.
 (beat)
 Whadya say we finish dinner? I
 gotta get up early tomorrow to meet
 my new secretary.

JOSHUA
 (witty)
 Who's the unlucky girl?

SAMANTHA
 The unlucky guy is from St. Louis.

JOSHUA
 You have a guy secretary?

SAMANTHA
 I know. I feel the same way. No
 offense, but you aren't exactly the
 most organized gender.

JOSHUA
 (suggestive)
 Whadya say we finish dinner and you
 tell me about it?

Samantha and Joshua get back to eating their dinner.

FADE OUT.

SCENE III

FADE IN:

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - FOURTH FLOOR - MORNING

The elevator door opens, as Samantha steps out and walks down
 the hallway to her office. Dina comes INTO VIEW, as she
 walks with Samantha.

DINA
 (hands her a cup of
 coffee)
 Good morning, sunshine. I got you
 some coffee.

SAMANTHA

(takes cup of coffee)
Thanks. Where would I be without
you?

DINA

So, you up for that movie Thursday
night?

SAMANTHA

Sorry, but I'm going with Josh to
the Bulls game. He got the tickets
last night. Can we make it for
Friday?

DINA

Sure. See you at lunch?

SAMANTHA

Look forward to it.

Samantha arrives at her office door, as she hugs Dina and
enters her office.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Samantha sits at her desk, reviewing some papers and
statistics, when there is a KNOCK on her DOOR.

SAMANTHA

Come in.

The office door opens, as one of AD-Lib's assistants to the
Head Executive and Samantha's boos, MARK WELSH, enters.

SAMANTHA

Hello, Mister Welsh. Can I help
you?

MARK

Good morning, Samantha. I've come
to inform you that your new
secretary is here.

SAMANTHA

Send him in. Thank you, Mark.

Mark departs OUT OF VIEW, as the slightly ajar door opens, as
CALEB GIBSON, Samantha's new secretary, slowly and shyly
enters. He tentatively approaches her desk.

CALEB

(coyly extends his hand)
Hello, Ma'am. My name is Caleb
Gibson, and you must be--

SAMANTHA

(sternly intervenes)
And you are over an hour late!
Rule number one, bucko. Tardiness
of any kind will not be tolerated
on my watch, starting now.

(beat)

Also keep in mind that I take my
coffee with half and half and one
sugar, and you are to address me as
Miss Gaines.

CALEB

(soft)

I'm sorry, Miss Gaines, but my car
broke down last week, and I missed
the train to wor--

SAMANTHA

(sternly interrupts)

Save your excuses. When you work
for me, you are to be prompt and
punctual.

CALEB

(soft)

Yes, Ma'am.

SAMANTHA

(sternly)

Miss Gaines.

CALEB

(flustered; soft)

Yes. I'm sorry, Miss Gaines.

SAMANTHA

(unhearing; stern)

What was that? Please turn up the
volume. Speak clear and audibly
when addressing me.

CALEB

(audibly; flustered)

Yes, Ma'am.

SAMANTHA

(stern)

Miss Gaines. Excuse me, but when speaking to me, you are to maintain proper eye contact.

Caleb looks up at Samantha.

SAMANTHA

(points to his eyebrows)

And trim those eyebrows. I will not have Cro-Magnon working for me. When working here, you are to look and conduct yourself as a professional. Am I clear on that?

CALEB

Crystal.

SAMANTHA

Wonderful. Now that we have that out of the way, I'm your new boss, Samantha Gaines. You've got big shoes to fill, Mister, and I'm going to be the shoehorn that makes you fit.

(beat; looks at her watch)

Your shift starts now.

Samantha works OUT OF VIEW, as Caleb stands, shaken but composed.

EXT. RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN CHICAGO) - PATIO AREA - DAY

Samantha and Dina are having lunch, al fresco, as they converse.

DINA

(peruses newspaper)

Whose movie do you wanly see?
Renee Zelwegger's or Nicole
Kidman's?

SAMANTHA

I like Renee, but I loved Nicole in The Human Stain. Let's go with Nicole.

DINA

(notices stain on
Samantha's blouse)

Speaking of stains, what is that on your blouse?

SAMANTHA

(looks at stain)

Oh, this little number was courtesy of Mister New Guy. He was bringing me a cup of coffee and spilled it on me. Luckily, it was lukewarm.

(beat)

My dry-cleaner should have a field day with this one. I miss Kay already.

DINA

(reassuring)

Cut the guy some slack. It's his first day on the job. I seem to remember you feeling the same way when Kay first worked for you.

(beat)

Give him a week. If it doesn't work out, axe him.

SAMANTHA

I guess you're right.

(laughs)

You should see what he looks like. Let's just say he's spent many a Saturday night alone.

DINA

(witty)

Unlike Josh.

Suddenly, a VOICE emerges.

JOSHUA (O.S.)

Unlike who?

Josh comes INTO VIEW, as he has come to pay Samantha a surprise lunch visit.

SAMANTHA

Baby, what are you doing here?

Samantha rises from her seat and hugs and kisses Joshua.

JOSHUA

Well, I called you at work, and your secretary told me you were here.

SAMANTHA

That's about the only thing he's done right.

JOSHUA
 (turns to Dina)
 Dina-saurus! How are you?

DINA
 Hello, Josh.

JOSHUA
 Are you making sure Sam behaves
 herself?

DINA
 I'm trying.

JOSHUA
 (turns to Samantha)
 Well, I just thought I'd pay you a
 lunch visit.
 (pulls out envelope and
 hands it to her)
 And to give you these.

Samantha takes the envelope and removes its contents.

SAMANTHA
 (looks and exclaims)
 Oh, my God! Tickets to the Chicago
 Symphony Orchestra!

JOSHUA
 I got them from Frank. He knows
 somebody at the box office.

SAMANTHA
 (hugs and kisses him)
 Oh, I love you.

JOSHUA
 I hate to cut it short, but I have
 to get back to work. Don't
 forget, we leave at five sharp for
 the game tomorrow. See ya later.
 (kisses Samantha; turns to
 Dina)
 Good bye, Dina. And may I say, for
 someone still looking for Mister
 Right, you look fabulous.

Joshua departs OUT OF VIEW, as Dina smiles and waves, then
 gives him the finger, as an amused Samantha looks on.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE -
RECEPTION AREA - AFTERNOON

Samantha has returned from lunch, as she passes by Caleb's desk on the way to her office. She makes a quick stop.

SAMANTHA

I'm back. Did anyone call when I was away?

CALEB

(reads from memo)

Yes, a Mister Durkin's office. I told him he had the wrong number.

SAMANTHA

(incredulous)

You did what?!

CALEB

(soft)

I told him he had the wrong number. You said to expect a call from a Mister Duncan.

SAMANTHA

I can't believe you. Mister Duncan is from Nabisco. I'm supposed to meet with him next week. Mister Durkin's from Budweiser.

(beat)

I'm trying to make deals with both companies.

CALEB

Miss Gaines, I'm so sorry.

SAMANTHA

Sorry? Sorry is not going to help us regain the client we just lost. You are skating on thin ice, buster. Don't fall in, cause you're gonna drown!

Samantha storms OUT OF VIEW to her office, as Caleb remains at his desk, stirred and ashamed.

FADE OUT.

SCENE IV

FADE IN:

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - EARLY EVENING

Work is done for the day, as Caleb gathers his things and is about to depart from the disaster of his first day. Samantha appears INTO VIEW, as she has some final words for him.

SAMANTHA

Hey, you. I know I may not be the easiest person to work for, but if you listen well and do your job, I'll see to it that you go places.

CALEB

(soft)

Well, Miss Gaines, I appreciate your kind words, and will do my best to improve upon and satisfy my role as your personal secretary.

SAMANTHA

Spoken like a true pro. Good night, Caleb.

CALEB

Good night, Miss Gaines.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua lounge idly on her couch, as they share a bottle of wine and cuddle.

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Meanwhile, Caleb lies in his bed, trying to put his disastrous first day behind him. He stares pensively at the ceiling, as he then turns toward his bedroom window and looks out.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Samantha walks into her office.

CALEB'S DESK

Sits unoccupied.

SAMANTHA

(looks disappointedly at desk; sotto voce)

Late again. Shame on you, Cal.

Suddenly, a VOICE emerges.

CALEB (O.S.)
Good morning, Miss Gaines.

Samantha, slightly startled, swiftly turns around. A clean-cut Caleb stands, cup of coffee in hand, as he warmly greets Samantha.

CALEB
(presents cup of coffee to her)
Your coffee, Miss Gaines. To your preference, of course.

A small smile fissures from beneath Caleb's lips.

MONTAGE - AROUND WORK

At his desk, Caleb talks on the phone, while swiftly writing down a memo.

In a conference room, Samantha goes over a pie chart with her fellow co-workers, trying to explain AD-Lib's future plans and directions.

On his computer, Caleb diligently works on a statistics project, assigned to him by Samantha, using Excel.

Caleb walks into Samantha's office, handing her mail and memos for the day. Samantha warmly thanks him.

END MONTAGE

INT. LOCAL COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

After the movie, Samantha and Dina both enjoy a nice cup of java, as they converse.

DINA
(takes a sip of coffee)
So, what did you think of the movie?

SAMANTHA
(mock-complains)
Nicole was brilliant, but the plot line really sucked.

DINA
Where's Josh?

SAMANTHA

He stayed in tonight.

DINA

Guess he was too tired after the game last night. Not to mention, drunk.

SAMANTHA

Tell me about it. I think his blood type is Killian's Irish Red.

DINA

So, you doing anything this weekend?

SAMANTHA

Nah. I'll probably rent a chick flick and have some double fudge Haagen-Daaz.

DINA

Doesn't sound too exciting.

SAMANTHA

Weekends never are. Either one of us is too tired to go out, and the weekend ends as quickly as it begins.

DINA

How's the new guy working out?

SAMANTHA

What a difference a day makes. Caleb's batting a thousand.

DINA

I guess I was right, then?

SAMANTHA

Let's not get carried away now. This is only his first week on the job. He hasn't experienced crunch time. That'll be the true test.

DINA

You just wouldn't be Samantha if you weren't so hard to please.

SAMANTHA

(strong)

Damn straight. I'll drink to that.

Samantha and Dina toast their coffee cups, as they smile at each other.

FADE OUT.

SCENE V

FADE IN:

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE -
RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

It's back to work, as Samantha enters through the door, as she passes by Caleb's desk and greets him.

SAMANTHA

Good morning, Caleb. How was your weekend?

CALEB

Good morning, Miss Gaines. Too short.

SAMANTHA

They always are. I have some more data that has to be entered, then I want you to bring me my agenda for today.

CALEB

Yes, Miss Gaines.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Samantha is trying to give a dissertation to some of her fellow co-workers and bosses, one of them FREDERICK WILSHIRE along with some very important investors.

SAMANTHA

(speaks aloud)

So, we have both Pepsi and Budweiser as the official beverages for WPZJ Radio's Race For A Cure Fund-raiser.

MISTER WILSHIRE

Yet we can't have two major beverage companies as the sponsors.

SAMANTHA

There in lies the challenge. It would be in our best interests to see which one of the two will outbid the other in hopes of landing the coveted spot.

MISTER WILSHIRE

No.

SAMANTHA

I beg your pardon, Sir?

MISTER WILSHIRE

It would not be in our best interests to see which one will outbid the other. We have a string of viable but modest sponsors. Yet we still need two major sponsors for the fund-raiser.

SAMANTHA

(confounded)

Mister Wilshire, I don't follow.

MISTER WILSHIRE

Our primary objective is to have two major sponsors for this fund-raiser. It will be your task to devise a way to acquire two major corporate sponsors for the fund-raiser.

SAMANTHA

(slightly nervous)

But Mister Wilshire, the fund-raiser's barely a week away.

MISTER WILSHIRE

Thus the reason of why you are being paid. This meeting is adjourned.

Everyone at the meeting gets up and departs, as a speechless and visibly worried Samantha remains standing.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua are enjoying a home-cooked meal, as they talk about the day.

JOSHUA
 (eats some food; with
 mouth half full)
 My goodness, this beef stroganoff
 is delicious. If only you could
 cook all the time.

Samantha is unresponsive, as she fiddles with her food with
 her fork. Joshua notices.

JOSHUA
 (concerned)
 You okay, Sam? It's the meeting,
 isn't it?

SAMANTHA
 (slightly worried)
 I just can't believe Wilshire.
 I've had tighter deadlines, but
 this one's too much.

JOSHUA
 (reassuring)
 If there's anyone who can pull it
 off, it's you, Sam.

SAMANTHA
 (exasperated)
 I guess I'm just going to have to
 put my nose to the grindstone.

JOSHUA
 (witty)
 And there's not a cuter nose to put
 to that grindstone.

Joshua smiles and gently puts his fingers on Samantha's nose,
 as she smiles happily. Samantha gets up, as she clears off
 the table, with Joshua's help. The two enter into the
 kitchen.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua scrape off their plates in the garbage,
 then place them in the sink.

SAMANTHA
 (heads to refrigerator and
 opens it)
 Would you like some dessert? I got
 some nice key lime pie from Trader
 Joe's.

JOSHUA

(wraps his arms around
her)

I've got all the sweets I need
right here.

SAMANTHA

Oh, is that a fact?

JOSHUA

You better believe it.

Samantha smiles at Joshua, as they kiss tenderly. They are quickly interrupted. Samantha, feeling something on her leg, unlocks lips and looks down.

AMBER-COLORED CAT

Named Butterscotch, Samantha's pet cat, lies at her and Joshua's feet, as she rubs up against them and lightly PURRS.

Samantha and Joshua look at Butterscotch, as Samantha lifts her off the floor.

SAMANTHA

(pets and talks lovingly
to Butterscotch)

What is it, Butterscotch? Yes,
you're a good girl, a very good
girl.

JOSHUA

(caresses Butterscotch on
head)

Butterscotch. Great to see you,
girl.

SAMANTHA

I can't believe it. You're the
only one of all the guys I've dated
who Butterscotch likes.

(beat)

She usually hisses or tries to
scratch their eyes out. I guess
animals can sense evil. Isn't that
right, girl?

JOSHUA

(complains)

I still don't know why you have a
cat. The smelly food, the cleanup,
the fur everywhere.

SAMANTHA

Are you kidding me? I've had Butter since my junior year of college. She's been there every step of the way. She's been the ultimate companion. Yes you are, Butter.

JOSHUA

(slightly offended)
Excuse me?

SAMANTHA

(looks seriously at him)
Did I stammer?
(beat; laughs heartily)
Got ya.

Samantha puts down Butterscotch, then embraces Joshua and kisses him tenderly.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - DAY

Samantha sits solemnly at her desk, a cigarette in hand. She takes a puff and exhales, when there is a KNOCK at her DOOR.

SAMANTHA

Come in.

The door opens, as Caleb enters, with papers in hand, and approaches her desk.

CALEB

Miss Gaines, I have the papers you requested.

SAMANTHA

(takes them from him)
Thank you, Caleb.

Caleb is about to exit, when he turns to Samantha.

CALEB

Please excuse my interjection, Miss Gaines, but I believe that smoking is strictly prohibited throughout the building.

SAMANTHA

(exasperated)

Yes, I know. I'm just under a lot of stress right now.

CALEB

If you don't mind my inquiry, what troubles you?

SAMANTHA

Well, in a nutshell, Mister Wilshire is asking me to land two major corporate sponsors for the fund-raiser, which is less than a week away. I'm at the end of my rope.

CALEB

I'm sorry to hear of your quandary. If I'm not mistaken, I believe that AD-Lib still has a contract with Planters.

SAMANTHA

Correct. But what does that have to do with this?

CALEB

Well, if you don't object to my suggestion, why don't you contact Planters Foods, try to receive their sponsorship, and have them team with Pepsi or Budweiser.

(beat)

Planters' array of salty snacks would impel someone to reach for a tall frosty Bud or an ice-cold Pepsi.

SAMANTHA

That's exactly it. It practically promotes itself. Thank you, Caleb. Find me the number to Planters Foods, STAT.

CALEB

(heads to office door)

Right away, Miss Gaines.

Caleb exits OUT OF VIEW from the office. Samantha organizes papers, as she picks up the phone and starts to dial a number.

SAMANTHA

Now we're in business.

(speaks over telephone)

Hello, Pepsi Co. This is Samantha Gaines.

A revitalized Samantha talks, as she speaks with Pepsi Co.

EXT. DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT - PATIO AREA - DAY

It's lunchtime, as Samantha and Dina are again having lunch, and speaking amongst themselves.

DINA

This is rare sight. You're actually in a good mood.

SAMANTHA

(relieved)

I feel like the Sears Tower has been lifted off my shoulders. Both Pepsi and Planters loved the sponsorship proposal. They'll both be the head sponsors of the fundraiser.

DINA

I guess that deal really made your day?

SAMANTHA

Like you wouldn't believe.

DINA

It doesn't surprise me. You always seem to come up with a sharp idea in the most pressure-packed situations.

SAMANTHA

That's just it.

DINA

(confounded)

What do you mean?

SAMANTHA

I can't take credit for the idea. It was Caleb's.

DINA

Get out of here. Since when do you take ideas from your secretary?

SAMANTHA

I know, I know. But I was in a bind, and he presented the perfect pitch.

DINA

I don't remember you asking Kay for any ideas.

SMA

(demonstrates with her hands)

Okay, open wound, salt, ouch!

DINA

Okay, okay. I'm being a bit harsh. But I hate to say I told you s...

SAMANTHA

(swiftly interrupts)

Alright, alright. So I misjudged the guy. He had first-day jitters, and I had my doubts. What's the crime?

DINA

I'm not asking you to go on a rooftop and shout it to the world. I just want to hear you say it right here, right now.

SAMANTHA

(strongly objects)

Absolutely not. Any logical, hard-working business woman would have had the same initial reaction as I did.

(looks at her watch)

Oh, look at the time. Lunch is over, and duty calls.

Samantha motions to the waiter for the check.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE -
RECEPTION AREA - EARLY EVENING

Caleb sits at his desk, working at his computer. The work day has come to a close, as Samantha comes INTO VIEW from her office, as she is set to head out for the night.

SAMANTHA

Caleb. Shouldn't you be packing up by now?

CALEB

Well, Miss Gaines, my computer has to download the company's new software. It'll take a few minutes.

SAMANTHA

You should get paid for overtime. Caleb?

CALEB

Yes, Miss Gaines?

SAMANTHA

I would like to thank you for your ingenious suggestions. Mister Wilshire loved it, and the fundraiser will go on as scheduled.

(beat)

You've done a fantastic job, and I just thought you should know that.

CALEB

(modest)

Well, thank you very much, Miss Gaines. That is quite a compliment from a woman of your caliber. I hope I can be of further service to you in the future.

Samantha smiles faintly at Caleb.

SAMANTHA

Good night, Caleb.

CALEB

Good night, Miss Gaines.

Samantha is about to exit, when she stops and turns to Caleb.

SAMANTHA

Oh, and Caleb. Just remember that work is like a root canal. The sooner it's over, the better off you'll be.

Samantha grins and exits. Caleb remains at his desk, as he watches her leave.

MONTAGE - AROUND WORK

Samantha talks on the phone, as she tries to make another transaction.

Caleb sits at his computer, working diligently on a pie graph chart for Samantha.

Samantha presents the very same pie chart to her fellow co-workers and bosses at a meeting, as she vividly explains current and prospective business plans for Ad-Lib.

Caleb enters Samantha's office, cup of coffee in hand, as he happily places it on her desk. Samantha, busy talking on the phone, smiles and whispers, "Thank you" to him.

It is hours past closing, as Samantha and Caleb burn the midnight oil, going over a very important advertising project for Ad-Lib.

The extra hours were worth it, as Ad-Lib has sealed a multi-year contract with some technology associates from Canada. Samantha shakes hands with the associates, as they smile for the cameras.

END MONTAGE

INT. THE ROSEBUD STEAK HOUSE - NIGHT

The restaurant is astir, as diners eat at their tables and banter amongst each other. In a corner booth, Joshua and Samantha enjoy a nice, quiet meal.

SAMANTHA

(ebullient)

Whadya say we go to the bar and have a shot of tequila?

JOSHUA

(astounded)

Since when do you drink?

SAMANTHA

(coercive)

C'mon. Here we are, on a Friday night, having a nice dinner, at the top of our games, in the prime of life.

(nudges Joshua)

Live a little.

JOSHUA

Thanks, but I'll pass on the drink.
You're sure in a celebratory mood.

SAMANTHA

(ebullient)

And why shouldn't I be? Wilshire's loving me, I'm already two months ahead of schedule, and to top it off, I was able to ink McClellan Tech to an exclusive, five-year deal.

(beat)

I'm ridin' high, and I've yet to get off the saddle.

JOSHUA

Boy, this was a far cry from the Sam I saw a few weeks ago. How's mister male secretary working out?

SAMANTHA

He's been a God send. I never thought these words would come from my lips, but Kay who?

JOSHUA

(slightly astounded)

That good?

SAMANTHA

Even better. He's the total package. He's punctual, organized, tech savvy, creative, and has no ego. If you he could cook, I'd marry him.

JOSHUA

(slightly offended)

Hey!

SAMANTHA

(quickly responds)

Just a figure of hyperbole!

JOSHUA

(calm)

That's better.

SAMANTHA

Then how about that tequila?

JOSHUA
Okay, let's get shot!
(motions to waiter)
Waiter!

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - DAY

Samantha sits at her desk, reviewing some papers, when there is a KNOCK at her DOOR.

SAMANTHA
(looks up from papers)
Come in.

The office door opens, as one of the assistants to the Chief Executive Officer, GUS DINNING, enters, with envelope in hand. He slowly approaches her desk.

GUS
Hello, Samantha.

SAMANTHA
Hey, Gus. What can I do for you?

GUS
Well, I've come here to give you
this.

Gus hands Samantha the envelope. A curious Samantha takes it, opens it, and pulls out a letter.

SAMANTHA
(reads letter aloud)
Dear Samantha. This letter is to
inform you that you have been named
Ad-Lib Employee of the Month for
February.
(looks at Gus in
disbelief)
You're kidding me, right?

Gus smiles and nods his head in a "no" motion.

GUS
Congratulations, Sam. You've been
working up a storm, and we all
agree that no one deserves it more.
(beat)
The award presentation and your
speech are next week.

Gus smiles at Samantha, as he exits OUT OF VIEW from her office. Samantha remains at her desk, looking both honored and flabbergasted.

EXT. SIDEWALK (DOWNTOWN CHICAGO) - DAY

Dina and Samantha stroll together down a busy sidewalk. They converse while they walk.

DINA

I'm so happy for you, Sam.
Employee of the Month. They just
don't give that to anybody.
Especially where we work.

SAMANTHA

Thanks, D. Well, I guess I finally
did something right for once.

DINA

Thanks for taking me downtown. I
had to fill this prescription and
this is the only pharmacy that has
it.

Samantha and Dina arrive at the pharmacy entrance, as Dina heads inside, but not before turning to Samantha.

DINA

You comin' in?

SAMANTHA

No, thanks. I'll wait here.

INT. GREEK RESTAURANT - CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Samantha and Dina are seated in their booth, enjoying some beverages, as they wait for their meals to arrive.

DINA

You will not regret this. This
place has the best slouvaki money
can buy.

SAMANTHA

But we have to leave as soon as
we're done. The car's on a meter.

DINA

Boy, I can't believe it. You're
making deals with top corporations,
you're employee of the month, and
you've got a great love life.

(MORE)

DINA (cont'd)
(beat)
wanly trade places?

SAMANTHA
I wouldn't barter lives too soon.
I have two of three.

DINA
(confounded)
What do you mean?

SAMANTHA
Josh and I went to the ballet.

DINA
Oh, yeah. How did it go?

SAMANTHA
(slightly disappointed)
He fell asleep during one act.

DINA
(stunned)
You're kidding?

SAMANTHA
I wish I was. Josh is a great guy,
and I really love him, but I'm
starting to grow weary.

DINA
Cut him some slack, Sam. I mean,
what guy do you know wouldn't saw
wood during Blue Danube?
(beat)
And let's be honest. Josh has been
the only guy that you've dated long-
term. Speaking as your friend, you
haven't exactly fared well in the
relationship department.

SAMANTHA
(sarcastic)
Gee, thanks for the pep talk,
coach.

DINA
C'mon. Don't be like that. Josh
is a true catch, and you know it.

SAMANTHA
Well, maybe I should throw him
back.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
 Ever since we've started dating,
 I've learned more and more about
 Josh. And I've arrived at the
 conclusion that maybe we shouldn't
 be together.

DINA
 Are you sure about that?

SAMANTHA
 I'm starting to feel it everyday.

DINA
 When do you plan on telling him?

SAMANTHA
 I'm a business woman. I'll find
 the time.

A Waiter arrives INTO VIEW with their meals, as he places
 them down before them, as Dina and Samantha dig in.

FADE OUT.

SCENE VI

FADE IN:

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is pitch black, as the CLICKING of LOCKS
 UNLOCKING emerges. Samantha enters her apartment, as she
 turns on the light. She closes and locks the door, as she
 places her purse on a nearby table. She quickly spots
 something.

SAMANTHA'S POV

SMALL AMBER CANDLE

Sits on a table, lighted and with a piece of paper
 underneath.

BACK TO SCENE

A curious Samantha lifts the candle, picks up the note,
 unravels and reads it.

INSERT SHOT - SMALL NOTE

Reads, "WE ALL MUST REMEMBER..." NEXT NOTE IN KITCHEN.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha carefully heads into the kitchen.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Now in the kitchen, Samantha flips on the light, as she vigilantly looks around, when she spots something.

SAMANTHA'S POV

BREAD BASKET

Contains a couple of loaves, as a note protrudes.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha removes the note, unravels it, and reads it.

INSERT SHOT - NOTE

Reads, "THAT THE LIGHT...". NEXT NOTE IN BATHROOM.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha hurriedly departs from the kitchen.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Now in the bathroom, Samantha looks around for the next note. She quickly spots it.

SHOWER CURTAIN RING

Holds the next note.

Samantha reaches up, as she takes the note, unravels, and reads it.

INSERT SHOT - NOTE

Reads, "AT THE END OF..." . NEXT NOTE AT DESK.

BACK TO SCENE

A slightly excited Samantha departs from the bathroom.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha has arrived in her computer at the desk corner in her living room, when she quickly spots the next note.

NOTE

Protrudes from underneath the mouse pad.

Samantha snatches it up, unravels and reads it.

INSERT SHOT - NOTE

Reads "THE TUNNEL OF LOVE..." . NEXT NOTE IN BEDROOM. DO NOT
TURN ON LIGHT.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha dashes over to her bedroom.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom is pitch black, as the door opens and Samantha
enters. She spots the next note.

LILAC-COLORED CANDLE

Sits lighted on the bedroom night stand, with a note
underneath it.

INSERT SHOT - NOTE

Reads dimly in the candle light, "STARTS WHEN WE SAY..."

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha turns on the light and is met with an amazing
surprise.

SAMANTHA'S POV

ROSE PETALS

Lay strewn on the bedroom floor. They spell out, "I'M
SORRY".

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha is speechless, as she beholds the marvelous sight.
She then notices something else.

SAMANTHA'S POV

ENVELOPE

Sits in the middle of the rose petal creation. It is marked,
"SAM".

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha kneels down, picks up the envelope, and removes its contents.

INSERT SHOT - NOTE

Reads, "SORRY ABOUT THE BALLET. THOUGHT I'D MAKE IT UP TO YOU". The note is accompanied by two tickets to a local art exhibit.

BACK TO SCENE

A surprised but happy Samantha looks at the tickets, as a small tear drops down from her cheek.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON

JONATHAN CAMBRIDGE, Chief Executive Officer and part owner of AD-Lib, approaches the dais, as an audience of fellow employees applaud him.

JONATHAN

(speaks aloud to audience)

Thank you very much. It is said that a pantheon contains a great lineage of individuals whose efficiency and excellence are both acknowledged and immortalized.

(two full beats)

Here at AD-Lib, we have been most fortunate to have such individuals, whose energy, efforts, and ingenuity have and will continue to make AD-Lib one of the foremost advertising firms in the world.

(beat)

One such individual is here with us today. It is my very esteemed privilege to present the Employee of The Month Award to Miss Samantha Gaines.

Samantha emerges INTO VIEW from the audience, as she gently approaches the dais to accept her award, as the audience applauds her. At the dais, Mister Cambridge hugs Samantha, smiles, and presents her award to her. Samantha carefully approaches the microphone, as the applause dies down and she begins to give her speech.

SAMANTHA

(speaks aloud to audience)

Thank you, Mister Cambridge. This is probably the first time I've been in this building, and I don't know what to say or do. This is a tremendous honor, but it's an even greater honor to work alongside all of you each and every day.

(two full beats)

Your support, endeavors, and strong spirit are a big part of why I am up here. I would especially like to thank my mother, for raising me in a single parent household to the person I am today, my best friend Dina for always being there, and especially my boyfriend Joshua.

(looks around for Joshua)

You there, Josh?

The audience looks with Samantha for Joshua, who is nowhere to be found. Suddenly, Joshua comes INTO VIEW, as he waves warmly at Samantha and to the crowd, who applaud him. Samantha finishes up her speech.

SAMANTHA

In closing, I would like to thank you so very much for making this a realization, and may God Bless you. Thank you.

Samantha takes her award and descends from the dais, as she is met with a standing ovation.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Caleb sits at his desk, as he looks pensively at an envelope in his hands.

INSERT SHOT - ENVELOPE

Marked "SAMANTHA".

BACK TO SCENE

Caleb continues to stare at the envelope, when a voice intervenes.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)

Whatcha got there?

Caleb, slightly alarmed, quickly puts away the envelope, as he looks up at Samantha.

CALEB

(nervous but composed)
Oh, good morning, Miss Gaines.
Just a notice for jury duty.

SAMANTHA

Tell them no way. I need you here more than anybody. We've got a lot of work to do this quarter.

CALEB

Yes, Miss Gaines. By the way, congratulations on being named Employee of the Month. I'm sorry I could not attend the ceremony.

SAMANTHA

Thank you, Caleb. I just wanted to tell you that you've played a big part in why we've been so successful. Just know that you are acknowledged and appreciated.

CALEB

(slightly awed)
Miss Gaines, I don't know what to say. Thank you very much.

SAMANTHA

No need to thank me. By the way, how did it go?

CALEB

(slightly confounded)
I beg your pardon?

SAMANTHA

Your dentist appointment.

CALEB

Oh, yes. Wonderful.
(opens his mouth to reveal teeth)
No cavities.

SAMANTHA

Well, keep brushing with Crest, which, by the way, is a major client of AD-Lib's.

Samantha smiles warmly at Caleb, who gives a coy grin to her.

SAMANTHA
Take care, Caleb.

CALEB
Yes. Thank you, Miss Gaines.

Samantha departs OUT OF VIEW to her office, as Caleb is again left alone. He pulls out the envelope and looks around for anyone. Seeing no one, he places kisses it and places it in a draw in his desk.

INT. LOCAL RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN CHICAGO) - CORNER TABLE - DAY

Josh and Samantha are enjoying a nice lunch, as they each have a pre-meal glass of wine.

JOSHUA
(lifts his glass)
Congratulations, Sam.

SAMANTHA
(lifts her glass and
smiles)
Thank you, baby.

They both CLICK their GLASSES, as they each take a sip and then kiss tenderly. A Waiter comes INTO VIEW, as she places both of their meals down. Joshua and Samantha kindly thank the Waiter, as she departs OUT OF VIEW. The two start to eat and converse.

JOSHUA
Employee of the Month. I'm so
proud of you.

SAMANTHA
I should be saying that to you.
That scavenger hunt was the most
romantic thing anyone's ever done
for me.

JOSHUA
(takes a fork full of
food; with mouth half
full)
And I'm just getting started. I
hope you're ready for tomorrow.

SAMANTHA

I can't wait.
(beat)
Can I tell you something?

JOSHUA

(takes a sip of wine)
Sure.

SAMANTHA

I spoke to Dina a few days ago.

JOSHUA

(takes a fork full of
food; with mouth half
full)
Okay. Is everything alright?

SAMANTHA

(serious)
Well, I was speaking to her about
us. Josh, we've been together for
quite some time now. And in that
time we've been through a lot.
(beat)
I was starting to think that we
were heading down a path to
Splitsville. But I think at this
phase in our relationship, we'll be
stronger than ever.

JOSHUA

(gently takes her hand and
looks straight at her)
Sam, I want you to look at me when
I say this. No matter what
happens, you will always be the
most important person in my life.
(beat)
Our jobs can really make the time
we have together sparse, but I will
do everything in my power to make
sure that we stay together, now and
forever. And I mean every word.

SAMANTHA

(slightly choked up)
Thank you.

JOSHUA

I don't mean to sound insensitive,
but my prime rib's getting cold.

Joshua smiles at Samantha as she looks warmly at him. The two continue eating their meals.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE -
RECEPTION AREA - EARLY EVENING

Caleb is at his desk, organizing some papers for Samantha. He goes to get a paper clip. However, there are no more in the holder. Caleb opens a desk drawer when he sees something.

CALEB'S POV

ENVELOPE

Marked "SAMANTHA", sits in Caleb's desk drawer, along with some office supplies.

BACK TO SCENE

Caleb looks pensively at the envelope, when he looks up.

SAMANTHA

Closes the door to her office, as she is about to go out for the night.

Caleb composes himself, as he is about to make his move. Samantha is about to exit, but not before passing by Caleb's desk to say good night.

SAMANTHA

Good night, Caleb. So, are you going home to your significant other on this most romantic of days?

CALEB

Sadly, Miss Gaines, I am single.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry to hear that. Some woman will be very lucky when she finds you.

CALEB

Thank you, Miss Gaines. I hope so.

Samantha smiles at him and is about to leave, when Caleb intervenes.

CALEB (O.S.)

Miss Gaines?

Samantha hesitates and turns to Caleb.

CALEB

(coyly)

Oh, Miss Gaines, I've been meaning to ask you. I was wondering if it's not asking too much...

SAMANTHA

(softly interjects)

I'm sorry, Caleb, but you gotta make it quick. I'm meeting my boyfriend in a few minutes.

Caleb, thunderstruck by the news, looks on despondently. The office door opens, as Joshua appears INTO VIEW.

SAMANTHA

(looks at Joshua)

And speak of the devil. Literally. Hello you.

JOSHUA

Hey there, wise girl.

Samantha and Joshua embrace and kiss tenderly, as Samantha turns to Caleb.

SAMANTHA

Oh, Josh, I want you to meet the biggest blessing in my professional life. My secretary, Caleb Norris.

Caleb rises from his desk and firmly shakes Joshua's hand.

JOSHUA

(shakes his hand)

It's a pleasure to meet you. Sam's told me all about you.

(turns to Samantha and hands her his car keys)

Why don't you wait downstairs in the car for me, baby? It's parked on the second level.

SAMANTHA

Okay.

Samantha departs OUT OF VIEW, as Joshua and Caleb are left together.

JOSHUA

I just wanted to say thanks for all you've done for Samantha. Work can be very stressful for her, but you've shouldered a lot of the load, and on behalf of Sam, I just wanted to tell you how much we appreciate it.

CALEB

(modest)

Well, I just show up and try to do the best I can.

JOSHUA

You've got a swell attitude. I like that. Keep it up and one day you'll get a girl like Sam. But just remember that she's taken.

(looks at his watch)

Shit, look at the time. I gotta get goin'. It was great to meet you and have a good one.

Joshua departs OUT OF VIEW from the office, as Caleb intently watches him.

MONTAGE - AROUND CHICAGO

Samantha and Joshua are at the art exhibit, carefully analyzing and taking in each painting they see.

In a shopping district, Joshua waits outside at Victoria's Secret, as Samantha shops inside. Samantha exits the store, with bag in hand, as an aroused Joshua tries to sneak a peak. Samantha jokingly pulls on his tie, as the two depart OUT OF VIEW.

At an exclusive, upscale restaurant, Samantha and Joshua sit at a private table, enjoying a meal. A Waiter comes INTO VIEW with a bottle of champagne. The Waiter pours the champagne into two flutes, as Samantha and Joshua look on.

At a local night club, the couple takes in a slow dance with a few couples on the dance floor. The song ends, as the next tune is a swinging jazz song. Samantha and Joshua dance accordingly.

At the night club's bar, the cozy couple share a strawberry daiquiri.

Outside Samantha's apartment, Joshua carries a visibly exhausted Samantha up to her apartment.

In her apartment, Samantha and Joshua are in her bedroom, lying down on the bed. Samantha goes over to her night stand, which has an array of chocolate-covered fruits. She takes a chocolate-covered cherry, and holds it up to Joshua's mouth. He takes a sensual and voracious bite out of the cherry. They both look amorously at one another, as they kiss and roll around on the bed.

END MONTAGE

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Caleb lies pensively on his living room sofa, staring up at the ceiling.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - DAY

Samantha sits at her desk, perusing through a business magazine, when there is a KNOCK at her OFFICE DOOR.

SAMANTHA

Come in.

The door opens, as Caleb, holding some piles of papers, enters.

CALEB

Miss Gaines, I have last year's statistics from Chevrolet and Ford.

SAMANTHA

Great. Just place them on my desk, please. Thank you, Caleb.

Caleb places down the papers, as he is about to depart, when Samantha halts him.

SAMANTHA

Caleb, wait.

Caleb stops and turns to Samantha.

SAMANTHA

(concerned)

Is something a matter?

CALEB

No. Why do you ask?

SAMANTHA

You have this very solemn look on your face.

CALEB

(somber)

Well, to be honest with you, a close cousin of mine passed away yesterday. Diabetes.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry. Why did you lie to me?

CALEB

About what?

SAMANTHA

About something not bothering you?

CALEB

Well, I figured that you would think my personal matters would get in the way of my work.

SAMANTHA

(strongly)

Caleb, I realize that you know I am your boss. But I want you to know that I am also a human being.

(beat)

If you ever have anything that you want to talk about outside the office, my door is always open.

CALEB

I appreciate that, Miss Gaines.

SAMANTHA

Are you gonna be okay?

CALEB

I think I'll manage. Thank you, Miss Gaines.

(beat)

Miss Gaines, I have to use the rest room.

SAMANTHA

Of course.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - MENS' BATHROOM - DAY

Caleb is in a bathroom stall, answering nature's call, when a VOICE suddenly emerges.

JOSHUA (O.S.)

Did you see that game the other night? Explain to me how the Bulls blow a fifteen-point lead with four minutes to go in the fourth?

Caleb hears the voice, and instantly recognizes it as that of Joshua. He remains in the stall, as he eavesdrops on Joshua. Joshua heads to a urinal, as he continues to talk.

JOSHUA

(talks into cell phone)

Get out of here. Jake Reynolds is getting married, and the fellas are having a bachelor party?

(beat; zippers up his pants and heads to the faucet to wash his hands)

Am I there?! Do you even have to ask? The only problem is trying to get past Sam. I don't know how I'll do it, but I'll find a way.

Caleb continues to attentively listen to Joshua from his stall, as he continues chatting.

JOSHUA

(takes some paper towels and dries his hands)

Okay, just tell me the date, time, and place. I don't need a pen and paper. Okay, Saturday night, midnight, Roscoe's House of Fuzz.

(excited)

Oh man, this is gonna be sweet!

Joshua finishes drying his hands, as he disposes the wet paper towels, and is about to exit, when he sees Caleb in the stall.

JOSHUA

(looks at bathroom stall)

You're not gonna believe this. This dude's been sitting on the can forever. Must be the cafeteria food.

Joshua departs OUT OF VIEW from the bathroom. The door to the bathroom stall opens, as a stoic Caleb emerges.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE -DAY

Moments later, Caleb has returned to his desk, as he is on the phone taking a memo for Samantha. Samantha and Joshua appear INTO VIEW, holding hands, as they are about to egress.

SAMANTHA

(happily)

Good night, Caleb. Try not to work too hard.

CALEB

Good night, Miss Gaines. I'll try not to.

JOSHUA

(witty)

Listen to her, Cal. If you keep working here, you'll end up like Sam.

SAMANTHA

(jokingly punches him in shoulder)

That's enough outta you!

(turns to Caleb)

Caleb, my office is locked up, so all you have to do is turn off the lights in here and lock up outside.

CALEB

Yes, Miss Gaines.

SAMANTHA

Thanks. Good night.

CALEB

Good night.

JOSHUA

Take it easy, Cal.

Samantha and Joshua egress OUT OF VIEW from the office, when something falls out of Joshua's coat pocket, unbeknownst to him. Caleb watches them leave and waves. Caleb notices the object, and gets up from his desk to see what it is.

SET OF KEYS

Lay idle on the office floor. They are Joshua's keys to Samantha's apartment.

Caleb kneels down, gently picking them up. He looks to see if anyone is around. Seeing no one, he swiftly places them in his shirt pocket.

INT. THE ROSEBUD STEAK HOUSE - CORNER BOOTH - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua are enjoying a quiet meal, as they start to converse.

SAMANTHA

(looks around restaurant)
You know I've always loved this place. It has great food, and the atmosphere's just right.
(beat; turns to Joshua)
But best of all, I get to share it with you.

JOSHUA

Now that is one Zaggat's guide I can agree with.

Joshua smiles warmly at Samantha, as they share a tender kiss.

JOSHUA

Oh, there's something I wanted to ask you.

Joshua delves into his coat pocket and pulls out a small box.

JOSHUA

(hands box to Samantha)
Here.

A curious Samantha takes the box from him, and slowly opens it.

INSERT SHOT - DIAMOND BRACELET

Brightly luminesces in the box.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha looks in awe at the fine piece of jewelry, then at Josh.

SAMANTHA

(incredulous)

Josh, this is so beautiful. It must've cost a fortune. Are you nuts?!

JOSHUA

No, just in love, but they're about the same. I was planning to give it to you on Valentine's Day. But me being so organized, I left it at my apartment.

(beat)

Just think of it as a little gift, for all the happiness you bring me.

SAMANTHA

(slightly choked up)

It's gorgeous.

JOSHUA

But not as gorgeous as you, mi amore.

Joshua tenderly kisses Samantha on her hand.

JOSHUA

I've been meaning to ask you something. My cousin Dylan's on winter break from college. He's coming to stay with me for the weekend. He arrives on Friday.

SAMANTHA

That's great. How is he?

JOSHUA

Dylan's Dylan. He's majoring in partying with a minor in binge drinking.

(beat)

I thought I'd take him out to Houlihan's for a bite to eat, maybe catch a Bulls game. You know, a little male bonding.

SAMANTHA

That's swell. I'm going out with Dina to catch the new Gwyneth Paltrow movie.

JOSHUA

Sounds like fun.

SAMANTHA

Now the two of you behave. I don't want to hear stories about any escapades.

JOSHUA

(puts his hand on his heart)
You have my word.

CLOSEUP - JOSHUA'S FINGERS

On his other hand behind his back, cross.

SAMANTHA

(yawns tiredly)
Man, I am beat.

JOSHUA

(whispers suggestively)
Whadya say we go back to your place for some dessert?

SAMANTHA

(mock-complains)
Again?! Can't you have the tiramisu?

JOSHUA

(jokingly kisses her neck; sotto voce)
But you're more tastier than tiramisu!

Joshua kisses Samantha, as she screeches in mock-discomfort.

SAMANTHA

(pushes him away)
That's enough!
(yells slightly)
Stop it!
(motions to waiter)
Check, please!

FADE OUT.

SCENE VII

FADE IN:

INT. AVERAGE JOE'S COFFEE SHOP - CORNER TABLE - SATURDAY NIGHT

Samantha and Dina are sitting quietly, as they get a caffeine fix. The two converse.

DINA

I'm surprised you're not out with Josh tonight.

SAMANTHA

Oh, his cousin Dylan came in from college. They're spending the weekend together.

DINA

(witty)

I can only imagine what that'll be like.

SAMANTHA

Besides, I can't spend all my time with Josh. You're my friend, too.

DINA

I appreciate that. Since we're friends, where did you two go last night?

SAMANTHA

For your information, we went to Morton's.

DINA

I'm impressed.

SAMANTHA

(looks curiously at her)

About what?

DINA

I'm impressed that a swanky place like Morton's would let in a guy like Josh.

SAMANTHA

You know, you really underestimate Josh. He's given me everything I could ever ask for in a boyfriend.

(pulls up her coat sleeve to show her bracelet)

Not to mention this.

DINA
 (looks in awe of bracelet)
 Holy shit, where did you get that
 paperweight?

SAMANTHA
 (takes a sip of coffee)
 Josh gave it to me last night at
 dinner.

DINA
 So?

SAMANTHA
 (confounded)
 What do you mean so?

DINA
 (suggestive)
 Did you give him any after-dinner
 dessert?

SAMANTHA
 (incredulous)
 I can't believe this. Is that
 what everyone's calling it these
 days?

DINA
 Please tell me you gave him some.
 With a piece like that, he had to
 have earned a blow job.

SAMANTHA
 (lightly hits her in the
 shoulder; sotto voce)
 Will you keep it down?

DINA
 (sotto voce)
 Sorry, but I have to know.

SAMANTHA
 (sotto voce)
 Know what?

DINA
 (sotto voce)
 Did you two do it?

SAMANTHA
 (sotto voce)
 Yes, we did it. Are you happy now?

DINA
(takes a sip of coffee;
sotto voce)
I knew it, I knew it.

SAMANTHA
(sotto voce)
So, my boyfriend and I had sex.
Alert Anderson Cooper.

DINA
(sotto voce)
It just proves one thing to me.

SAMANTHA
And what would that be?

DINA
That despite everything you two
have been through, you and Josh are
meant for each other.

SAMANTHA
How can you tell?

DINA
You just can. Every time we talk
about Josh, your eyes get this
twinkle, you let down your guard,
and you become a teenager again.
(beat)
Face it, Josh melts you, Sam.

SAMANTHA
(confounded)
Melts me?

DINA
Like a snow cone in Tucson.

SAMANTHA
I think you might be right, D.

DINA
I know I am. You know, we should
have these story swaps more often.

SAMANTHA
(stern)
Well, just remember that these
aren't bottle caps and baseball
cards.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
 This is my personal, private
 business, and I expect it to stay
 that way.
 (lifts her coffee cup)
 Promise?

DINA
 (lifts her coffee cup)
 Promise.

Samantha and Dina smile at each other, as they toast.

EXT. ROSCOE'S HOUSE OF FUZZ STRIP CLUB - ESTABLISHING SHOT -
 LATE NIGHT

Men smoke and get a breath of fresh air underneath the flashy
 neon signs of Roscoe's.

CUT TO:

INT. ROSCOE'S HOUSE OF FUZZ STRIP CLUB - LATE NIGHT

The club is in full swing, as scantily-clad waitresses bring
 patrons their drinks and food. Strippers dance seductively,
 much to the delight of their male customers, who lavish money
 in their direction. A Disc Jockey spins tunes on the wheels
 of steel inside his booth. At the entrance, Josh has just
 arrived, as the bouncer checks his id and pats him down, then
 admits him. Josh navigates the club, as he arrives at his
 friends' table, where they greet him warmly. One of them is
 the groom-to-be, JAKE REYNOLDS.

JAKE
 (affable)
 Oh my gosh, it's Josh! How's it
 goin' , ya shit head?!

JOSHUA
 If anyone's a sheathed, it's you,
 Jake. How can you get married?

JAKE
 (witty)
 What can I say? I've done my
 crimes, and now I'm gonna do the
 time.
 (looks at his right)
 Speaking of criminal, check that
 out.

JOSHUA
 (turns his head)
 What?

SEXY STRIPPER

Dances seductively on a pole.

Jake and Joshua closely and lecherously watch the stripper.

JAKE

(watches stripper)

Whadya say I drop a C-note down and
we'll have her for an hour?

JOSHUA

(watches stripper)

I'd say I like the way you think.

Jake WHISTLES loudly and motions to the stripper. The stripper slowly and seductively sidles over to the guys.

Meanwhile, over at a corner table, a suspicious-looking man with a thick beard, dark sunglasses, trench coat, and large hat sits quietly enjoying a drink.

Joshua and his friends are living it up, as they watch and dance along with the stripper. She dances for them, when she looks seductively at Joshua and motions to him. An aroused Joshua ascends the platform, as he starts to dance with the stripper, as his friends cheer raucously.

Back at the far end of the club, the suspiciously-dressed man closely watches Josh and his friends.

CELL PHONE

Rests idly in the man's hand.

The man pushes a few buttons on his cell phone and discreetly points it in the direction of Joshua and his friends.

SCREEN ON CELL PHONE

Records the guys frolicking with the stripper.

Joshua gets bold, as he pulls out a fifty-dollar bill, places it on his crotch, and motions to the Stripper. The Stripper sidles over to the Joshua, as she starts to give him a provocative lap dance, while his friends look on and cheer wildly.

CELL PHONE SCREEN

Records Josh with the stripper.

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

The man from the strip club is in his living room, the lights turned low, as he types on his laptop.

LAPTOP SCREEN

Displays footage of Joshua and friends with the stripper.

The man scratches his beard, then suddenly removes it. The man is Caleb, who is going to frame Joshua. He continues to type.

LAPTOP SCREEN

Displays an e-mail text box, as the Send To e-mail box reads, "SGAINES@AD-LIB.ORG" and the From Box reads, "JBARNES@hotmail.com".

The mouse arrow clicks on the send button, as the e-mail is transmitted. The prompt reads, "YOUR MAIL HAS BEEN SENT".

Caleb gives a sinister smile, as he continues to work on his laptop.

FADE OUT.

SCENE VIII

FADE IN:

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Caleb works diligently at his desk. The office door opens, as Samantha has arrived for work.

SAMANTHA

(warm)

Good morning, Caleb. How was your weekend?

CALEB

Good morning, Miss Gaines. Not long enough.

SAMANTHA

I hear ya. Any messages?

CALEB

Just one. Mister Dinning called. He said he sent you an e-mail and he wants you to read it. He sounded urgent.

SAMANTHA

Very well. I'll get to it right away. Thank you, Caleb.

Samantha departs to her office OUT OF VIEW. Caleb closely watches her, then goes back to his work.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Samantha sits at her desk, takes a sip of coffee, as she checks her e-mail(s).

COMPUTER MONITOR

Displays e-mail message box. It reads, "MEETING TOMORROW AFTER WORK. SIX SHARP. DON'T BE LATE! GUS."

Samantha a little amused by the message, gives a slight smirk. She continues checking her e-mails, when she quickly notices one.

SAMANTHA'S POV

E-MAIL MESSAGE

Reads, "FROM: LUVSG4EVER. SUBJECT: YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!"

BACK TO SCENE

A curious Samantha clicks on the e-mail message, and looks on in speechless astonishment.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - EARLY EVENING

Caleb sits at his desk, organizing some papers, as he gets ready to head home. The office door opens, as Joshua enters to see Samantha.

JOSHUA

(greet's Caleb)

Good evening, Cal. Getting ready to head home?

CALEB

Yes. Another day in the books.

JOSHUA

If anyone deserves a break, it's you. Is Samantha still here?

CALEB
 Yes. She's in her office. Would
 you like me to tell her you're
 here?

JOSHUA
 Please.

CALEB
 (talks into phone
 receiver)
 Miss Gaines, Joshua is here to see
 you.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
 (from over speaker)
 Send him in.

CALEB
 (looks at Joshua)
 Okay.

JOSHUA
 Thanks, Cal.

Joshua departs OUT OF VIEW into Samantha's office, as Caleb
 suspiciously watches him.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - EVENING

A smiling Joshua enters Samantha's office, as he stops in his
 tracks.

SAMANTHA

Sits solemnly at her desk, writing.

JOSHUA
 (enthusiastic)
 Hey, you. We had an early meeting
 today, so we all got to leave. I
 was thinkin' we could go to
 Applebees's for some big mouth
 burgers. How's that sound?

Samantha is unresponsive, as she continues to write at her
 desk.

JOSHUA
 (waves his hand past her
 face)
 Hello? Sam, are you there?

Samantha continues to look down and write, when she finally breaks her bow.

SAMANTHA

(looks up at him; stern)
Where were you over the weekend?

JOSHUA

(calm but worried)
I told you, Sam. Dylan came over for the weekend. We caught a flick, went to Houlihan's, and watched wrestling. Nothing major.

SAMANTHA

(gets up from her desk)
Oh, I beg to differ.
(turns around computer monitor and clicks mouse)
Then explain this to me.

COMPUTER MONITOR

Shows video footage of Joshua and his friends partying with the stripper.

Joshua watches the computer monitor, shocked and chagrined, as he turns to Samantha.

JOSHUA

(astounded)
Sam, I can explain.

SAMANTHA

(stern)
Then please do. Looks like there was college-boy bonding over the weekend after all.
(beat)
And to make matters worse, you had the nerve to send it to me yourself. A cruel joke, but I'm not laughing.

JOSHUA

Sam, I didn't...

SAMANTHA

(angrily interjects)
Get out, now.
(slightly choked up)
I want you out of my office and out of my life, for good!
(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
 (takes off bracelet and
 throws it at him)
 And keep this. Give it to someone
 you really care about.

Joshua catches the bracelet, as he looks despondently at
 Samantha.

JOSHUA
 (contrite)
 Samantha, I'm sorry.

SAMANTHA
 So am I, Josh. I thought you put
 those days behind you. Obviously,
 I thought wrong.

Joshua stands despondent and speechless, as he slowly departs
 OUT OF VIEW from the office.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - EVENING

Joshua walks slowly and despondently towards the door, as he
 passes by Caleb's desk, where he is on the Internet.

CALEB
 (looks up at Joshua)
 Good night, Joshua.

JOSHUA
 (soft)
 Good night, Cal.

CALEB
 (concerned)
 You okay, Josh?

JOSHUA
 (despondent)
 Yeah. I've seen better days. Take
 care of yourself, Cal.

CALEB
 Likewise.

Joshua slowly exits OUT OF VIEW from the office, while a
 visibly concerned Caleb looks on. His demeanor swiftly
 changes, as a sinister smile fissures from his lips.

A few seconds later, Samantha emerges INTO VIEW from her
 office, and suddenly beckons Caleb.

SAMANTHA
 Come on, Caleb.

CALEB
 (slightly confounded)
 I beg your pardon, Miss Gaines?

SAMANTHA
 (stern)
 I've had a rough one and I need a drink.

CALEB
 But Miss Gaines, I have to finish updating the statis...

SAMANTHA
 (sternly intervenes)
 Let it wait. Word to the wise, Caleb. I DO NOT like drinking alone.
 (beat)
 So, you in?

CALEB
 (hesitant)
 Yes.

INT. LOCAL TAVERN (DOWNTOWN CHICAGO) - CORNER TABLE - NIGHT

Samantha and Caleb sit at their table, as they wait for their drinks to arrive. A Waitress arrives INTO VIEW, as she hands them both their drinks. Caleb pays the Waitress, as he and Samantha thank her. The Waitress departs OUT OF VIEW, as Samantha and Caleb converse.

SAMANTHA
 Thanks for the drink.
 (lifts her glass)
 Cheers.

CALEB
 (lifts his drink)
 Your welcome. Cheers.

The two CLICK their GLASSES, as they take a sip and start to converse.

SAMANTHA
 You didn't have to treat for the first round. I've got the next one.

CALEB
 It's my pleasure. It is customary for a man to pay for a woman.

SAMANTHA

See, now you're someone who gets it.

CALEB

(slightly confounded)
I don't follow.

SAMANTHA

You know how to treat a lady.

CALEB

(concerned)
Is something wrong, Miss Gaines?

SAMANTHA

(strongly takes a sip of
her drink)
It's Samantha or Sam. We're not in the office.

CALEB

Okay, Sam. Is something wrong?

SAMANTHA

Why do you ask?

CALEB

Well, forgive my condescension, but it's immensely rare for a boss and her secretary to go out for drinks after work.

SAMANTHA

You're right. Yes, Caleb, there is something wrong.

CALEB

Would you care to discuss it?

SAMANTHA

(hesitant)
Well, to make a long story short, I caught Joshua cheating on me.

CALEB

(astounded)
Really?

SAMANTHA

(slightly choked up)
Yes.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
And to be honest with you, I'm
feelin' kinda blue at the moment.

CALEB
(sympathetic)
It's okay. Sometimes these things
happen. We're all human beings and
we all make errors in judgment.

SAMANTHA
(strongly)
I just can't believe it. How could
he lie to me?

CALEB
If we truly love another, why do we
have to hide the truth?

SAMANTHA
I wish I had the answer.

CALEB
Actually, it's a rhetorical
question.

SAMANTHA
(disappointed)
I've enjoyed so much success in my
professional life. If only it
could translate into my love life.

CALEB
If there's anyone that could do it,
it's you.
(beat)
To come from a single-parent home,
be valedictorian of your high
school and college classes. And
you helped to establish and
negotiate advertising for three
major airlines after nine-eleven.
Need I say more?

SA
(slightly astounded)
Wow. I never looked at it that
way.
(looks curiously at him)
You sure know a lot about me.

CALEB
I read the article on you in
Business Weekly, November 1998.

(MORE)

CALEB (cont'd)
Masterful piece on a masterful
woman.

SAMANTHA
Okay. If you know me so well, what
was my major in college?

CALEB
Economics/Business Administration,
with minors in Marketing,
Advertising, and Communications.

SAMANTHA
(slightly astounded)
Oh my goodness. I can't believe
you knew that. Joshua couldn't
even name them all.

CALEB
Again, I am a tremendous admirer.
Greatness is truly worthy of a
following. I just wish you could
have more authority in the
decisions of AD-Lib.

SAMANTHA
(modest)
Yeah, well that's Gus and the other
big wigs for you. They can be such
douches and assholes. Besides, I'm
not that great.

CALEB
I beg to differ. Try and name one
top female executive who
consistently increases her
company's profits, continues to
invent new methods of product
placement to an ever-fickle public,
succeed in a male-dominated field,
and not at all look her age.

SAMANTHA
Then why can't I find true love?

CALEB
Please excuse me for saying this,
but you keep drinking beer when you
should be sipping champagne.

SAMANTHA
(confounded)
I don't follow.

CALEB

You choose the wrong type of men.
You're an overachiever, go-getter,
eminence gris. You need someone
who will challenge you physically,
mentally, intellectually,
emotionally.

SAMANTHA

And who, may I ask, can satisfy all
of those for me?

CALEB

Your guess is as good as mine.
(looks at her wrist)
I notice you're not wearing that
lovely bracelet.

SAMANTHA

Oh, yeah. Josh gave it to me, but
I gave it back. We're not exactly
on speaking terms.

CALEB

I'm sorry to hear that.

SAMANTHA

I mean I love Josh...

CALEB

(quickly interjects)
But does he love you? I've read
somewhere that men lavish their
loved ones with gifts when they are
hiding or trying to atone for
something they've done wrong.

(beat)

Luxury overshadows indiscretion.
But you're not the type of person
that can be bought. That's what
makes you special.

SAMANTHA

You certainly have an incisive and
broad perspective on people.

CALEB

(takes a sip of his drink)
The many facets of a person can be
observed, but only their emotions
are unrecognizable to the human
eye.

SAMANTHA

Well, they say the eyes are the window to a person's soul.

CALEB

I strongly disagree.

SAMANTHA

Then what do you think?

CALEB

Hands.

(looks around room)

Look at the hands of any random person in this room. That's how you can learn about them.

CALEB'S HANDS

Gently place themselves on Samantha's hands.

CALEB

(stares closely at her hands)

The skin tone, bone and nail structure, skin texture, are indicative of many things.

(beat)

How hard they work, their many emotional stages in life, their past experiences. In my opinion, they're the true character gauges.

SAMANTHA

I find that very interesting.

CALEB

You're just saying that.

SAMANTHA

(objective)

No, I'm not. Really.

CALEB

You're lying.

SAMANTHA

How can you tell?

CALEB

Your nose. Every time you fabricate, it twitches upward.

(MORE)

CALEB (cont'd)
You did the same thing when you
told Dina you liked her perm on
Tuesday.

SAMANTHA
(flabbergasted)
You are unbelievable.

CALEB
I'm a secretary. It's my job.

SAMANTHA
(suggestive)
Since we're on the subject of
observation, would it be forward to
say that you look sexy in the
light?

CALEB
(takes away her drink)
And we're done with the alcohol.

Samantha laughs uproariously, as she composes herself and
looks at him.

CALEB
Whadya say we call it a night?

EXT. FRONT OF APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Samantha's car pulls up in front of Caleb's apartment
building.

INT. SAMANTHA'S CAR - NIGHT

Samantha and Caleb sit silently.

SAMANTHA
Well, here we are.

CALEB
(looks out window)
Yup. This is it.

Caleb and Samantha look coyly at one another, as an awkward
silence ensues.

CALEB
Thanks for inviting me. I had a
great time tonight.

SAMANTHA
So did I. Thanks for coming along.

CALEB
So, I guess this means good night?

SAMANTHA
Yup.

Samantha leans over and kisses Caleb on the cheek, as he looks semi-seriously at her.

CALEB
(coy)
Good bye.

Caleb quickly exits the car, as a curious Samantha watches him leave.

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The whole apartment is pitch black, as the front door is abound with the sound of LOCKS CLICKING. The door opens, as Caleb enters, turns on the light switch, and closes the door behind him. He stands speechless and pensively, when he suddenly dashes OUT OF VIEW.

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The bathroom DOOR BURSTS open, as Caleb dashes in and runs to the toilet, where he starts to vomit violently. Caleb stops, as he gasps for air and tries to compose himself. He then slowly rises and heads over to the sink. Caleb turns on the water, as he starts to wash his hands.

CALEB'S HANDS

Shudder uncontrollably under the steaming-hot water.

Caleb turns off the water, as he looks wide-eyed at his beet-red hands. He then starts to sob uncontrollably, as he lays listlessly on the bathroom floor.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

SCENE IV

FADE IN:

EXT. LOCAL RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN CHICAGO) - CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Dina and Samantha are enjoying lunch together on their weekend off. They start to converse. Samantha, weary from last night, gives a tired yawn, as Dina quickly notices.

DINA
You look beat.

SAMANTHA
(tired)
I am. I was out last night.

DINA
But I thought you weren't speaking
to Josh.

SAMANTHA
(takes a sip of her drink)
I'm not.

DINA
(curious)
Then who did you go out with?

SAMANTHA
(coughs)
Ca-leb!

DINA
(looks incredulously at
her)
Oh my God! Look at you! Dipping
the pen, are we?

SAMANTHA
(stern)
Relax, D. It was only for a couple
of drinks. Nothing more, nothing
less.

Samantha starts to stare closely at Dina's hands, when Dina notices.

DINA
(curiously pulls her hands
back)
What are you doing?

SAMANTHA
(comes to)
Oh, I'm sorry. I was just looking
at your hands.

DINA

I can see that. Rather closely,
may I add.

SAMANTHA

Caleb and I talked last night. He
told me that you can tell a lot
about a person just by looking at
their hands.

(beat)

Just thought I'd try it out on you.

DINA

(sarcastic; takes a fork
full of food; with mouth
full)

My goodness. A top ad-executive
and a licensed hand reader. Is
there anything you can't do?

SAMANTHA

Okay, it may seem a little
unorthodox. Yet, I must say, I
really had a great time with Caleb.

DINA

(turns serious)

Really?

SAMANTHA

Yes. He's incredibly articulate,
insightful, and can talk about
almost anything.

DINA

All this, and yet, he's your
secretary.

SAMANTHA

(takes a fork full of
food; with mouth full)

Don't get me wrong. We still have
a professional relationship. And I
don't intend to mix business with
pleasure.

DINA

(takes a sip of her drink)

You sure about that?

SAMANTHA

I don't know. Caleb's great, but
he works for me.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
 And despite everything, I still
 have a soft spot for Josh.

DINA
 Wow, looks like you've got decision-
 making that extends far beyond the
 office.

(beat)
 I hope you make the right one.

SAMANTHA
 So do I.

Samantha and Dina continue to eat their meals.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Samantha lays on her bed, looking pensively up at the
 ceiling. She looks over to her right.

SAMANTHA'S POV

SMALL PICTURE FRAME

Sits atop the small night stand by her bed. It contains a
 photo of Joshua and Samantha in happier times.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha gets up and reaches over for the picture frame.
 Samantha takes it and stares nostalgically at it. She looks
 up, as small tears start to trickle down her cheeks.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Caleb sits happily at his desk, getting ready for another
 work week. He powers on his computer, thumbs through his
 Rolodex, and pours a cup of coffee. The entrance door opens,
 as Samantha enters, as she heads toward the office, but not
 before passing by Caleb.

SAMANTHA
 (turns to Caleb)
 Good morning, Caleb.

CALEB
 Good morning, Miss Gaines.
 (hands her coffee)
 Here's your coffee.

SAMANTHA
 (takes coffee)
 Thank you, Caleb.
 (MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
Caleb, I was wondering if I could
speak to you in my office.

CALEB
Yes, of course.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Samantha sits at her desk, as she sips her coffee and peruses
through a periodical. There is a KNOCK at her office DOOR.

SAMANTHA
Come in.

The door opens, as Caleb slowly enters.

CALEB
Miss Gaines, you wanted to speak to
me?

SAMANTHA
Yes, Caleb. Please, have a seat.

Caleb slowly settles into one of the chairs in front of
Samantha's desk.

SAMANTHA
Caleb, I just wanted to say that I
had a great time last Friday night.

CALEB
Yes, Miss Gaines. I also
thoroughly enjoyed our get-
together.

SAMANTHA
(stern)
However, I want to remind you that
regardless of where our friendship
may lie, we still have a
professional obligation to this
company and to each other.

CALEB
Yes, of course.

SAMANTHA
From this point on, I expect the
same level of effort, dedication,
and professionalism from you as I
have from any stage in our working
relationship.

(beat)
Do I make myself clear?

CALEB
 Yes, Miss Gaines. I wouldn't
 expect anything else.

SAMANTHA
 Thank you, Caleb. That is all.

Caleb rises from his seat, as he exits OUT OF VIEW from the office. Samantha sits at her desk, as she looks at her agenda for the day, then at her office phone.

SAMANTHA
 (lightly exclaims)
 Oh, crap. I forgot to check my
 messages.

Samantha hits a button on her office phone, as the MESSAGE SIGNAL BEEPS.

OFFICE PHONE

Sits on the desk, as a red light flashes, and the messages play.

GUS (V.O.)
 (from over phone)
 Samantha, this is Gus. I was
 hoping I could speak to you some
 time today. Call me back if you
 can. Thanks. Bye.

The MESSAGE SIGNAL BEEPS again, as the next message plays.

JOSHUA (V.O.)
 (from over phone)
 Hey Sam, it's Josh. Just called to
 see how you're doing. I know
 there's not much I can do or say to
 atone for what I did. But I want
 you to know that I love and hope
 you can find it in your heart to
 forgive me. Take care, Sam.

Samantha listens pensively to the message, as she sits still at her desk.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

Caleb sits at his desk, working on his computer. Samantha comes INTO VIEW, as she turns to Caleb.

SAMANTHA

Caleb, I'm going to meet with Mister Dinning. If anyone calls, tell them I'm away from my desk. Take their name and number. That is all. Thank you.

Samantha exits OUT OF VIEW from her office, as Caleb continues to work at his computer. Suddenly, the TELEPHONE RINGS. Caleb picks up.

CALEB

(speaks into receiver)
Hello. AD-Lib Advertising Agency.
Office of Miss Samantha Gaines.
Caleb speaking. How may I help you?
(beat)
Oh, hello Joshua.

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

INT. MASS APPEAL MARKETING BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

JOSHUA

(over his cell phone)
Hey, Cal. I was wondering if I could talk to Samantha.

CALEB

I'm sorry, Joshua, but she had to meet with Mister Dinning. Would you like to leave a message?

JOSHUA

(slightly disappointed)
Oh, man. It's just that I really need to speak to her. I tried to reach her all weekend, and nothing.
(beat; resigned)
Alright. Do you have a pen handy?

CALEB

(picks up pen from desk)
Yes. Okay.

Caleb writes down Joshua's message, as he is about to hang up.

CALEB

Okay. Is there anything else?

JOSHUA

This may seem a bit personal, but could you tell Samantha that I love her?

CALEB

(touched)
Oh, how sweet.

Caleb smiles, then rolls his eyes in disgust.

CALEB

It'll be the first thing I tell her.

JOSHUA

Thanks a million, Cal.

CALEB

My pleasure. Take care.

Caleb hangs up the phone, as he looks at the paper with Joshua's message. He looks to see if anyone is around. Seeing no one, he slips the paper into his shirt pocket. Seconds later, Samantha returns INTO VIEW.

SAMANTHA

I'm back. Did anyone call?

CALEB

Just one. A tele-marketer. Wanted to know if you were interested in...

SAMANTHA

(interjects)
Whatever they're sellin', I ain't buyin'!

CALEB

(concerned)
Miss Gaines, is something wrong?

SAMANTHA

As a matter of fact, Caleb, there is. Do you want the good or bad news?

CALEB

Let's go with the bad news.

SAMANTHA

I've just been informed that Ad-Lib is close to acquiring exclusive advertising rights to Hasegawa Electronics.

CALEB

Doesn't sound like bad news to me.

SAMANTHA

(nervous)

Here's the kicker. They're asking me to entertain them. I mean, I've done a few dinner meetings, but nothing...

CALEB

(softly interjects)

Miss Gaines, Miss Gaines. It's okay. When will this party be held?

SAMANTHA

(nervous)

It's just two days away. I'm at the end of my rope.

CALEB

(calm)

Not to worry.

SAMANTHA

I mean, I just called Morton's and the Rosebud and they're both completely booked.

CALEB

Miss Gaines, I have an even better idea.

SAMANTHA

What do you suggest?

CALEB

How about a dinner party?

SAMANTHA

(looks incredulously at him)

A dinner party?! Are you insane?! I don't know the first thing...

CALEB
 (calmly interjects)
 Miss Gaines, please. Just make
 sure that your apartment's clean,
 and leave the rest to me.

Samantha curiously nods and departs OUT OF VIEW, as Caleb
 sits stoically at his desk.

FADE OUT.

SCENE X

FADE IN:

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN CHICAGO) - DAY

Samantha and Dina are enjoying their lunch, as they converse.

DINA
 I'm surprised you can even boil
 water.

SAMANTHA
 Easy now. I'm not that bad. I did
 have my mother over for
 Thanksgiving one year.

DINA
 Yeah. The food was from Boston
 Market.

SAMANTHA
 Okay, so I'm not exactly Rachael
 Ray. But I do know that Caleb
 better throw one helluva party.

DINA
 (confounded)
 What are you talking about?

SAMANTHA
 Caleb suggested that I throw a
 dinner party at my apartment.

DINA
 And you said, "Yes" ? That's
 unlike you, Sam.

SAMANTHA
 It's worth the risk. AD-Lib's been
 after Hasegawa for years.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

(beat)

Hey, you wanly come?

DINA

I'd be honored. But, I promised my cousin Pam I'd meet her at the gym after work. Sorry.

SAMANTHA

It's okay.

(raises her glass)

Here's to what will hopefully be the best damn dinner party Chicago's ever known. Cheers!

Samantha and Dina CLICK their GLASSES, as they continue to eat.

DINA

(with mouth half full)

How are things with Josh?

SAMANTHA

We're still not speaking. I haven't heard at all from him.

DINA

Maybe he's still licking his wounds. Much like yourself.

(beat; suggestive)

Why don't you invite him to the dinner party?

SAMANTHA

(strong)

Out of the question. Even though it's a party, I have to be on my game. Having Josh there would be too distracting.

DINA

You haven't lost your focus, that's for sure.

SAMANTHA

(strong)

In this line of work, no one can.

Dina and Samantha continue eating their meals.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

Samantha has returned from lunch, as she is about to re-enter her office, but not before getting an update from Caleb.

SAMANTHA

I'm back. How are the party plans going?

CALEB

Splendid. I've already found the catering and decorating.

SAMANTHA

Happy Pagoda?

CALEB

No. Their food's decent but overpriced. I found another place downtown.

SAMANTHA

Where? How is the food? What are the prices?

CALEB

(presents menu)

They e-mailed me a menu with appetizers. They cater for all occasions, and for an extra twenty dollars, they'll throw in all the plastic utensils, plates, and decorations you need. Not to mention homemade sake.

(hands her menu)

Look it over and tell me what you think.

SAMANTHA

I'm impressed. What about beverages?

CALEB

I know this distributor on Waveland Avenue near Wrigley Field. They'll give us a good deal on beer and soda.

SAMANTHA

What about liquor?

CALEB

I found this great place. It's located in a strip mall. They'll give us a full bar and case of wine for three hundred and fifty dollars.

(hands her piece of paper)

(MORE)

CALEB (cont'd)
Here's their number if you're interested. Is there anything else, Miss Gaines?

SAMANTHA
(slightly astounded)
No. That is all. Thank you.

Samantha walks away OUT OF VIEW, as Caleb, smiling smugly, gets back to his work.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Samantha and Caleb are scurrying around her apartment, as the party is about to get underway.

SAMANTHA
Okay, are the hors d' oeuvres warm?

CALEB
Check.

SAMANTHA
Is the bar set up? Are the sodas and beer on ice?

CALEB
Check, check.

SAMANTHA
What about the decorations?

CALEB
All set up in the dining and living rooms.

SAMANTHA
Are the plates, utensils, and glasses set up?

CALEB
Check.

SAMANTHA
Am I forgetting anything?

CALEB
Yes. Did you forget to pull the board out of your ass?

SAMANTHA
(stern)
This is no time to joke. My whole year depends on this night.

CALEB
 (contrite)
 Sorry.

SAMANTHA
 We have to be at our best.

Suddenly, the DOORBELL RINGS.

SAMANTHA
 (quickly turns around)
 Oh, there here. Let the games
 begin.

Samantha heads over to the door and opens it. Gus, along with the people from Hasegawa Electronics, enter INTO VIEW.

GUS
 (cordial)
 Good evening, Samantha.
 (introduces Hasegawa
 family)
 This is Mister and Miss Hasegawa
 and some of their associates.
 We're all looking forward to a fun
 and eventful evening.
 (leans over and whispers
 in her ear; sotto voce)
 And it better be, or your ass is
 grass, and I'm the lawn mower
 (turns to Hasegawas)
 Okay, whadya say we get this
 shindig started.

Gus and the Hasegawas enter the apartment, as Samantha and Caleb respectfully bow to them.

MONTAGE - DINNER PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

Guest happily fill their plates with appetizers and entrees from a full-fledged buffet.

Caleb, playing cohost and waiter for the night, happily arrives with a tray full of sake, as everyone gladly takes a tiny serving glass.

The Hasegawas, Gus, and Samantha look closely at the Chinese decorations adorning the apartment, as the Hasegawas explain to them the symbolism and history of each one.

Samantha, with the help of a multimedia DVD player, tries to illustrate to the Hasegawas the benefits of dealing with AD-Lib.

For dessert, guests treat themselves to a lush array of French and Italian pastries.

Everyone is seated, as the Hasegawas gladly shake hands with Gus and Samantha, thus sealing the deal.

END MONTAGE

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

The dinner party has come to a close, as Gus and the Hasegawas have their coats and are ready to depart.

GUS

(slightly drunk)

Samantha, I would like to thank you for a wonderful and festive evening.

SAMANTHA

Well, I can't take all the credit, Gus. I have a blessing here in my secretary, Caleb.

GUS

She must really like you, Cal. Sam throws around compliments like they were manhole covers.

Gus laughs uproariously, as Samantha and Caleb smile faintly. An ASSOCIATE for the Hasegawas warmly thanks Samantha for her hospitality.

ASSOCIATE

Mister and Miss Hasegawa would like to thank you for your kindness and hospitality, and look forward to starting transactions with AD-Lib.

SAMANTHA

(kowsows kindly)

Yes, thank you so much. On behalf of AD-Lib Advertising, I would like to say what an honor it is to have you as a client, and may the years we have together be happy and prosperous.

(beat; turns to Gus)

Do you want me to call you a cab?

GUS
I'm fine, Sam. The Hasegawas are taking me home. We came in a chauffeured car. Good night, and I'll see you on Monday.

The Hasegawas say goodbye, as they depart with their associates and with Gus. Samantha closes the door behind them, as she tiredly throws herself up against the wall.

CALEB
I know how you feel.

SAMANTHA
(relieved)
At last, I can breathe.
(turns to Caleb)
Thank you so much. I can't believe it worked.

CALEB
We prepared, took initiative, and never lost sight of the objective. Mission accomplished.

SAMANTHA
I have to know. How did you know all that stuff about planning a dinner party?

CALEB
My father operated a catering service with a friend of his. I guess you can say it rubbed off on me.

SAMANTHA
I bet he must be very proud of you.

CALEB
He would have been. He died five years ago last January. Colon cancer.

SAMANTHA
I'm sorry. How about your mom?

CALEB
She and my dad divorced when I was five. We grew apart as the years went by. I get a Christmas card every year, but that's about it.

SAMANTHA

Well, they must know they've made one helluva offspring.

(two full beats)

Listen, I can't thank you enough for everything you've done.

CALEB

(modest)

Think nothing of it. Seeing you happy and AD-Lib moving forward is thanks enough for me.

SAMANTHA

(objective)

Well not for me. You doing anything tomorrow night?

CALEB

Well, I was going to try and clean my apartment, order some deep dish, and see what's on the tube.

SAMANTHA

Sounds as fun as a C-SPAN marathon. Whadya say we go out to dinner?

CALEB

(slightly taken aback)

Like on a dinner date?

SAMANTHA

Well, yes.

CALEB

(hesitates)

Sure, I guess it couldn't hurt.

SAMANTHA

Great. Meet me at the Rosebud Steak House. Eight o'clock, sharp.

(beat)

You sure you'll get home okay?

CALEB

Sure. The sake wore off an hour ago. Is everything cleaned up?

SAMANTHA

(looks around apartment)

Yup. Everything looks up to par.

(turns to Caleb)

So, see you tomorrow night?

CALEB
I look forward to it.

Caleb smiles faintly at Samantha, as he heads toward the front door and leaves OUT OF VIEW. Samantha stands, as she looks pensively.

EXT. THE ROSEBUD STEAK HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

The sign of the Rosebud Steak House looms large above the entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. THE ROSEBUD STEAK HOUSE - CORNER TABLE - NIGHT

Caleb, dressed dapperly, sits patiently at a corner table, waiting for Samantha to arrive. A VOICE soon emerges.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
(calls out)
Sorry, I'm late.

Caleb quickly looks up.

SAMANTHA

Stands gracefully near the table, clad in an elegant skirt.

SAMANTHA
(apologetic)
I'm so sorry. Did you get my message?

CALEB
(rises from table)
It's okay. The hostess told me.
My, you are looking lovely tonight.

SAMANTHA
Thank you.

CALEB
(civil)
May I take your coat?

SAMANTHA
Yes, please.

Caleb gently takes Samantha's coat and places it on a nearby coat rack. He then takes Samantha's chair, as she kindly sits down.

SAMANTHA

You won't believe this. Just as I'm about to leave, the phone rings. It's my best friend, Dina. Her sister was just diagnosed with breast cancer, and we got to talking.

CALEB

It's perfectly fine. That's very admirable of you to be there for your friend. You're very loyal.
(beat)
Give your friend my regards.

SAMANTHA

I will.
(beat)
So, whadya say we get to dining?

A WAITER comes INTO VIEW, menus in hand, as she introduces herself.

WAITRESS

(amiably)
Good evening, and welcome to the Rosebud Steak House. I'm Amy, and I'll be your waitress this evening. Would any of you like a beverage?

SAMANTHA

Hello, Amy. I would like a martini, lightly shaken and stirred.

WAITRESS

(writes down order)
Okay.
(looks at Caleb)
And would you like anything, sir?

CALEB

I'll take a Bud Light, please.

WAITRESS

(writes down order)

Okay, one martini, stirred not shaken, and one Bud Light, coming up. I'll be right back to take your dinner orders.

SAMANTHA

Thank you.

CALEB

Thank you.

The Waitress departs OUT OF VIEW, as Caleb and Samantha look at the menus.

SAMANTHA

I've always loved this place. They have steaks that put even Morton's to shame.

CALEB

(reads menu)

My goodness, such a broad selection. Do you recommend anything?

SAMANTHA

(closes her menu)

I think I'm gonna go with the twenty-four ounce t-bone.

The Waitress returns with their drinks.

WAITRESS

(gently places down drinks)

Okay, here's your martini, and here's your Bud Light.

SAMANTHA

Thank you.

CALEB

Thank you.

WAITRESS

Okay, are we ready to order?

SAMANTHA

Yes. I'll have the twenty-four ounce t-bone, medium rare, baked potato on the side, please.

WAITRESS
(writes down order)
One twenty-four ounce t-bone.
(turns to Caleb)
And what would you like, sir?

CALEB
(vacillates)
Uh, uh. You know what, I'll have
the same. Well done, please.

WAITRESS
(writes down order)
Okay, two twenty-four ounce T-bones

The Waitress takes the menus from Samantha and Caleb, as they kindly thank her, and she departs OUT OF VIEW.

CALEB
(apologetic)
I'm sorry if I ordered the same
thing as you.

SAMANTHA
Will you relax? You're gonna love
it. Melts in your mouth like
butter.

CALEB
(takes a piece of bread
and lightly butters it)
So, when will the deal with
Hasegawa Electronics be finalized?

SAMANTHA
(happily)
Some time early next week. They
called me this afternoon.
Everything was a smash.

CALEB
(takes a bite of bread)
That's what I like to hear.

SAMANTHA
Gus also called me. He was more
than pleased with the gala. He
said I'm definitely in the
forefront for a promotion.

CALEB
That's wonderful. No one deserves
it more.

SAMANTHA

I've got even better news. I brought your name up, and Gus is talking a salary increase.

CALEB

(taken aback)

Wow. I've never gotten a raise before. Thank you.

SAMANTHA

And I can think of no one who earned it more.

(raises her glass)

A toast, to Kay Whitaker.

CALEB

(confounded)

Who?

SAMANTHA

My former secretary. If she didn't leave, I wouldn't have you.

CALEB

(modest)

Isn't that a bit much?

SAMANTHA

I think not. You've been the best thing that's ever happened to me. I only wish you could've worked for me sooner. We make a great team.

CALEB

You really mean that?

SAMANTHA

(strong)

Every damn word. Most people know where they stand with me. And you stand in very high regard.

CALEB

That means a lot coming from you.

SAMANTHA

And it should. We've gotten very far together, and we'll continue to go even farther.

CALEB

(witty)

I bet you wouldn't have said that to me my first week on the job.

SAMANTHA

Okay, I admit I was a little skeptical.

Caleb gives Samantha a look, as she quickly changes her words.

SAMANTHA

Alright, I was very skeptical. But time heals all wounds. And we're both alive and kicking.

The Waitress arrives INTO VIEW WITH their meals, as she places them before Samantha and Caleb. They both thank the Waitress, as she departs OUT OF VIEW, and they start to dine.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATE NIGHT

The apartment complex lies still in the quiet Chicago night.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - CORRIDOR - LATE NIGHT

Samantha and Caleb have arrived at Samantha's apartment, as they are about to say good night.

SAMANTHA

Here we are.

CALEB

(looks at door)

So, this is your apartment?

SAMANTHA

(coy)

Yup.

An awkward silence ensues, as the two look coyly at each other.

SAMANTHA

Thanks for escorting me. You really didn't have to, though.

CALEB

It's no problem at all. Every woman should arrive home safely.

SAMANTHA
 I couldn't agree more.
 (starts to unlock front
 door)
 Hey, you wanly come in for a drink?

CALEB
 (coyly objects)
 Oh no, I wouldn't feel comfortable.

SAMANTHA
 (insistent)
 Come on. The night still has some
 youth left. One drink, and that's
 it. I promise.

CALEB
 (reluctantly agrees)
 Very well then.

SAMANTHA
 (opens front door and
 turns to Caleb)
 Enter at your own risk.

Samantha and Caleb enter the apartment, as the door closes
 behind them.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Samantha flips on a light switch, as the living room is
 brightened, while she and Caleb slowly amble around.

SAMANTHA
 Welcome to casa de Sam. So, whadya
 think?

CALEB
 (looks in awe around
 apartment)
 I can't believe the size of this
 place. This room alone is bigger
 than my bedroom.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
 Not too shabby, eh? It costs me
 twenty-five hundred a month. The
 original cost was four grand, but I
 haggled with the realtor.

Caleb continues looking around, when he feels something near
 his feet. He looks down.

BUTTERSCOTCH

Sits at the feet of Caleb, roughly gnawing at his shoes and ankle part of his pants. She begins to BARK LOUDLY.

SAMANTHA

Oh, you two haven't met.
 (picks up Butterscotch)
 Caleb, this is my best friend who's
 not human. Butterscotch. Butter
 girl, say hello to Caleb.

A visibly disgruntled Butterscotch shows her teeth, as she angrily growls at Caleb.

SAMANTHA

(slightly alarmed)
 My goodness, Butter, you sure are
 ornery tonight. I'm gonna take you
 inside.
 (looks at Caleb)
 I'll be right back.

Samantha exits OUT OF VIEW with Butterscotch, as Caleb waits for her.

Samantha returns INTO VIEW, as she heads to her mini bar, pours some scotch in two tumblers, and hands one to Caleb, who takes it and nods politely.

SAMANTHA

(modest)
 Nothing flashy, just spacious and
 comfy. I wouldn't have it any
 other way.
 (beat)
 Please, sit down. You're not at
 the office.

Caleb gently takes a seat, as he continues to look around the apartment.

SAMANTHA

You must really like my flat, huh?

CALEB

It's beautiful, homey, and has a
 touch of elegance. Just like its
 tenant.

(beat; a little
 embarrassed)
 (MORE)

CALEB (cont'd)

I must admit, I feel a little uncomfortable being in my boss' apartment.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry you feel that way. You really shouldn't though.

(beat)

My door is always open.

CALEB

I deeply appreciate that.

SAMANTHA

I wanly thank you for dinner tonight, and for the ride home.

CALEB

My pleasure. Always.

(beat)

Thanks for the ice cream. There's nothing like a waffle cone of cherry vanilla after some prime beef. I really had a great time tonight.

SAMANTHA

Likewise.

An awkward silence ensues, as Samantha and Caleb stare long at each other.

SAMANTHA

You wanly know something?

CALEB

What?

SAMANTHA

You've been working for me for a while now, and I can honestly say I know little about you.

CALEB

Well, what would you like to know?

SAMANTHA

Well, I know about your parents, I know you're a gentleman, and I know you can throw one helluva dinner party.

(beat)

But what about you?

CALEB

I'd like to think of myself as someone who takes pride in my work, loves my job, and will do anything to serve my boss. And I just don't mean professionally.

(beat; looks at his watch)

Shit, look at the time. I really should get goin'.

Caleb quickly rises from his seat, and heads for the door, when Samantha intervenes.

SAMANTHA

Hold on. You'll insult me if you go. Please stay.

CALEB

Are you sure?

SAMANTHA

Yes. Don't ever feel embarrassed around me. Ever.

CALEB

It's kinda funny that you say that.
(pulls out envelope and hands it to her)

I hope this isn't too forward, but I've been meaning to give this to you for quite some time now.

Samantha takes the envelope, opens it, and unravels the letter. She starts to closely read it. Samantha puts down the letter and looks at Caleb.

SAMANTHA

(emotional)

This is the most beautiful thing I've ever read.

CALEB

(coy)

I've wanted to give it to you, my first day of work. But you were seeing Joshua, and I didn't want to infringe.

(beat)

I meant every word. If you're still involved with Joshua, and I'm crossing the line, I understand.

SAMANTHA

Joshua who?

Samantha and Caleb stare amorously at each other, and start to kiss passionately.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

The bedroom lies still. Suddenly, the bedroom DOOR BURSTS open, as Samantha and Caleb enter INTO VIEW. They kiss passionately and start to disrobe. The two place themselves on the bed, as they again stare into each other's eyes.

CALEB

I have protection.

Samantha gives a light smile and nods, when she turns to her right.

SAMANTHA

(looks and exclaims)

Oh my goodness.

CALEB

(alarmed)

Oh, I knew this would be weird.

(picks up his clothes and
rises from bed)

I'll be going.

SAMANTHA

(stern)

Don't you fuckin' move!

A startled Caleb heeds Samantha and stays put.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry.

(picks up cannister)

This is the chocolate sauce Joshua gave to me. It goes great with fresh fruit. I forgot to put it in the fridge.

Samantha stares briefly but pensively at the cannister. She then turns to Caleb, as she removes the lid. Samantha then dips her finger in the chocolate sauce. She then slowly points her finger towards Caleb.

CALEB

Looks ardently at Samantha and provocatively licks her finger.

Samantha slowly moves toward Caleb, as they kiss passionately and start to roll around in bed.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XI

FADE IN:

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

Samantha rests peacefully in her bed. She smiles and moves around her arm to the opposite side of the bed to touch Caleb, but feels nothing. Samantha quickly awakens and looks around, when she spots something.

SAMANTHA'S POV

TRAY OF FOOD

Rests idly on the chair near Samantha's bed. It contains a full, healthy breakfast and an envelope marked "SAMANTHA".

BACK TO SCENE

A curious Samantha rises from bed and goes over to the tray of food. She picks up the envelope, opens and removes its contents, and starts to read it.

CALEB (V.O.)

Dear Samantha:

By the time you read this letter, I will be gone. I had to meet a friend for brunch. I've taken the liberty of making you breakfast. We should all start the day off right. Thanks for the great weekend and I'll see you Monday.

Sincerely,
Caleb

Samantha puts down the letter, as she looks pensively around the bedroom.

INT. AVERAGE JOE'S COFFEE SHOP - TABLE NEAR WALL - AFTERNOON

Samantha and Dina sit and enjoy a caffeine fix, as they talk with each other.

DINA
 (in disbelief; sotto voce)
 Are you shitting me?! You slept
 with Caleb?!

SAMANTHA
 (sotto voce)
 Yes. I know it's not my proudest
 moment, but I got to know him
 and...

DINA
 (intervenes; sotto voce)
 And knowing you like I do, it's not
 like you to sleep with your
 secretary.

SAMANTHA
 I know where you're coming from.
 But if you only knew what Caleb is
 like away from the office.
 (pulls out letter and
 shows it to Dina)
 Read this.

Dina curiously takes the letter, and starts to read it. She
 puts down the letter, and looks at Samantha.

DINA
 (astounded)
 Oh my God, Sam. This is beautiful.
 Did he write this?

SAMANTHA
 Every word.

DINA
 (shakes her head in
 disbelief)
 He makes Casanova look like Al
 Bundy.

SAMANTHA
 We've really made progress in our
 relationship. He knows so much
 about me. I wouldn't be surprised
 if he knew my blood type.

DINA
 Seems like you two really hit it
 off.

SAMANTHA

I think he might be the one, D.

DINA

What about Josh?

SAMANTHA

What about him?

DINA

(strong)

Well, in case you forgot, he's been your one steady boyfriend for six years.

SAMANTHA

(strong)

And he also lied and cheated on me behind my back. Relationships are based on trust and honesty. Or at least they should be.

DINA

Have you tried talking to him?

SAMANTHA

My answering machine was on overdrive.

DINA

At least he's trying to reconcile. You really should call him.

SAMANTHA

(loudly and snappishly retorts)

And say what, D? You moved and grooved with a stripper behind my back, but it's okay, let's make love?!

Everyone in the coffee shop stops, as they look at Samantha and Dina. The two ladies compose themselves, as they continue to converse.

SAMANTHA

(sotto voce)

It just wouldn't feel comfortable. Every time I see Josh, I just picture him with that stripper in my mind.

DINA
What about Caleb?

SAMANTHA
Caleb has nothing to do with this.

DINA
No. How are you going to face him on Monday? As your lover or secretary?

SAMANTHA
(confounded)
I'm not sure. Boy, this is more complicated than I thought.

DINA
Love always is.
(beat)
Whatever decision you make, I'm sure you'll make the right one.

SAMANTHA
I feel like a brownie. How about you?

DINA
No, thanks. I'm watching my figure.

Talking ceases, as Samantha motions to the waitress, who enters INTO VIEW.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - CORRIDOR - EARLY EVENING

After spending the day with Dina, Samantha has arrived home. She arrives at her door, when she is met by Joshua, with bags in hand.

SAMANTHA
(coy)
Hi.

JOSHUA
(coy)
Hi. How are you?

SAMANTHA
(coy)
Okay.

JOSHUA

(coy)
I've tried calling you all week.

SAMANTHA

I've been real busy this week.
Dina and I spent the whole day
together.

JOSHUA

That's very nice.
(presents bags)
I bought some Chinese. I was
hoping we could eat in together, if
that's okay with you.

SAMANTHA

I guess it couldn't hurt.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Samantha and Joshua sit at the dining room table. Joshua voraciously eats his food, as a visibly upset Samantha sits across from him, her head down and fiddling with her food.

JOSHUA

(with mouth full)
This is the best chow mein I've
ever had.
(looks up at Samantha)
How's your food?

Samantha sits unresponsive, as she looks down and continues to play with her food.

JOSHUA

(concerned)
You okay, Sam?

SAMANTHA

(softly)
Yeah. I'm just not really hungry
right now.

JOSHUA

Well, that's okay. Just cover your
food with plastic wrap and put it
in the fridge for tomorrow.

SAMANTHA

(sotto voce)
If you only knew how to solve a
troubled relationship.

JOSHUA

(makes motion with his
ear)

What's that, Samantha? Another sharp and witty retort? You know, all I wanted to do was have a nice and quiet meal with...

SAMANTHA

(angrily raises her voice)

That's just it, Josh. You think after a week of not speaking, that you can just come over here and try to solve everything with chow mein and egg rolls.

(beat; strongly)

Well, you can't.

JOSHUA

(strong)

I'm sorry.

SAMANTHA

(confounded)

What?

JOSHUA

(strong)

I'm sorry, Samantha. There, I said it. I lied to you and had an error in judgment. I'm deeply sorry and I hope you can accept my apology.

Joshua composes himself, as he and Samantha look silently at each other.

SAMANTHA

(soft; angry)

That has to be the most typical, paltry horse shit attempt of reconciliation that I've ever heard!

JOSHUA

(strong)

Well, excuse me. I didn't know that I had to kowtow and kiss your fuckin' feet!

SAMANTHA

(exasperated)

That's enough. I want you out now!

JOSHUA

(contrite)

Okay, I know I was a bit harsh just now. But I just want to know what I can do to salvage what's left of our relationship.

SAMANTHA

(pulls out letter and presents it to him)

You can start by reading this.

A curious Joshua takes the letter from Samantha, unravels, and starts to read it.

JOSHUA

(looks incredulously at her)

You mean to tell me your secretary wrote this?

SAMANTHA

Every word. He gave it to me after our dinner date.

JOSHUA

(incredulous)

You had a dinner date with Cal?

SAMANTHA

Yes, I did. You're not the only one that can play double duty.

JOSHUA

And how long has this been going on?

SAMANTHA

Wouldn't you like to know. You should take a page out of Caleb's book on how to be sentimental.

JOSHUA

Oh, is that it? I'm not sentimental. Well, let me show you something...

Joshua delves into his pocket, pulls out his wallet, and rummages through it.

JOSHUA

(presents ticket stub to Samantha)

(MORE)

JOSHUA (cont'd)

This is the ticket stub from the movie we saw on our first date.

(presents small picture to her)

These are the photos we took in that four for a buck booth.

(two full beats)

I keep them with me to remind me of just how luck I am to have you in my life. I may not show my emotions, but that doesn't mean I don't have passion.

An awkward silence ensues, as Samantha and Joshua look at each other. Samantha leans forward and kisses Joshua, as they kiss ardently.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Caleb sits happily at his desk, preparing for another busy week. Samantha arrives, as she passes by Caleb's desk on the way to her office.

SAMANTHA

Good morning, Caleb.

CALEB

Good morning, Miss Gaines.

SAMANTHA

Caleb, may I see you in my office?

CALEB

Of course.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Samantha sits at her desk, sifting through some papers, when there is a KNOCK on her office DOOR.

SAMANTHA

Come in.

The office door gently opens, as Caleb enters, coffee cup and papers in hand.

CALEB

Miss Gaines, you wanted to see me?

SAMANTHA

Yes, Caleb. Please, have a seat.

Caleb sits down, as Samantha commences.

SAMANTHA

Caleb, I wanted to speak to you about last Saturday.

CALEB

Okay. What about it?

SAMANTHA

Well, more about us. Caleb, you are a wonderful employee and even better person. Last Saturday was one of the most fun nights I've had in a long time.

CALEB

Ditto. I think we should do it more often.

SAMANTHA

Well, that's just it.

(beat)

I've been doing a lot of thinking, and I feel what we did at my place was inappropriate, but also a mistake in judgment.

CALEB

(slightly confounded)

A mistake?

SAMANTHA

What I'm trying to say is that we shouldn't see each other any more, Caleb.

CALEB

(soft)

I see.

SAMANTHA

I gave this a lot of thought. I love being around you, but I don't have feelings for you.

(beat)

Which is why I think you should have this back.

Samantha delves into her suit jacket pocket and pulls out Caleb's love letter. She hands it back to him.

SAMANTHA
 You're a lovely human being. But
 I'm not the one for you.

CALEB
 (soft)
 I understand.

SAMANTHA
 Lastly, I want to make sure that
 whatever was between us won't get
 in the way of our professional
 relationship, as well as our
 friendship.

CALEB
 I can assure you it won't.

SAMANTHA
 I'm so glad. Thank you for your
 time, and that is all.

CALEB
 Thank you, Miss Gaines.

Caleb slowly rises from his seat, as he departs from
 Samantha's office. Caleb is at the door, his back to
 Samantha, as he is about to cry, but retains his composure.

INT. LOCAL RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN CHICAGO) - CORNER TABLE - DAY

Samantha and Dina enjoy a light lunch, as they talk with each
 other.

DINA
 (takes a fork full of
 food; with mouth full)
 So, you broke the news to Caleb?

SAMANTHA
 Yup.

DINA
 How'd he take it?

SAMANTHA
 I could see he was hurt. But it
 had to be done.

DINA
 You did the right thing, Sam.

SAMANTHA

On the bright side, Josh and I are back together. Let's just say he'll be on a tighter leash.

DINA

Boy, everything seems to just fall into place for you. In work and in love.

(teasing)

I'm jealous.

SAMANTHA

Relax, D. Your prince will come.

DINA

Not soon enough. Hey, you doing anything this weekend?

SAMANTHA

Sorry, Dina. Josh and I are having dinner at Morton's.

DINA

Looks like you two will be just fine.

SAMANTHA

I just want to thank you for helping me through this. You've been a trooper, and it means a lot to me.

DINA

(touched; witty)

Ah, you're sweet. If you left out the trooper part, you would've sounded like a Hallmark card.

Samantha gives Dina a light smile, as the two hug.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Samantha lies restlessly in her bed, staring pensively up at the ceiling, as the moonlight glistens on her face. She looks to her right.

SAMANTHA'S POV

SMALL PICTURE FRAME

Rests idly on the night table, glowing in the moon light. It contains a picture of the happy couple.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha reaches over and takes the frame off the night table stand. She stares intently at it.

CLOSEUP - SAMANTHA'S FACE

As a small droplet trickles down her cheek. She looks briefly up at the ceiling, as she smiles.

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Caleb lies on his sofa, holding his love letter to Samantha and a bottle of scotch. He stares closely at it, takes a swig of scotch, and starts to sob uncontrollably. Caleb looks tearfully around the room and takes another drink of scotch, then hardly tosses the BOTTLE against the wall, as it SHATTERS. He then turns his attention to something.

LOVE LETTER

Rests idly on the sofa next to Caleb.

Caleb tearfully looks at the letter and starts to render it to pieces. He then buries his head in the remnants, continuing to weep.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Samantha stands unhappily at Caleb's desk. He is nowhere to be seen. The reception area door flies open, as Caleb, looking very unkempt, arrives.

SAMANTHA

(stern)

You're twenty minutes late.

CALEB

(exasperated)

Miss Gaines, my deepest apologies.
I've been a bit under the...

SAMANTHA

(sternly intervenes)

Since you're rarely late, I'll give you a free pass. This is the last time. Am I clear?

CALEB

Miss Gaines, I can assure you it will not happen again. Would you like some coffee?

SAMANTHA

No, thank you. I made myself one.
 (looks disgustedly at him)
 For heaven's sake, look presentable. I expect a complete one-eighty from you tomorrow. I need the statistics from the last two years from Sony and Magnavox, STAT. That is all.

Samantha departs OUT OF VIEW to her office. Caleb stands despondently at his desk, as he hangs his head in exasperation.

SAME - HOURS LATER

Caleb sits at his desk, writing a memo while enjoying his lunch, a tuna fish sandwich from home. The office door opens, as Dina enters, as she has come to take Samantha to lunch.

CALEB

(warm)

Good afternoon. May I help you?

DINA

Yes, I'm here to take Samantha to lunch.

Suddenly, a VOICE emerges.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)

Here I am, D.

Samantha comes INTO VIEW, as she introduces Dina to Caleb.

SAMANTHA

Dina, I'd like for you to meet my secretary and friend, Caleb Norris. Caleb, this is my best friend, Dina. She works in Accounts Payable.

DINA

(extends her hand)

Hello, Caleb. Sam's told me great things about you.

CALEB

(warmly shakes her hand)
It's a pleasure to meet you, Dina.
(turns to Samantha)
Miss Gaines, do you have anything
on your agenda for this afternoon?

SAMANTHA

Very little. I'm probably going to
look over statistics and some light
paper work. If anyone calls, I'm
out to lunch and take a message.
That is all.

Samantha and Dina are about to head out, when Dina hesitates.

DINA

I have to go to the bathroom. Can
I meet you downstairs?

SAMANTHA

Sure. I'll be near the entrance.

Samantha departs OUT OF VIEW from her office, as Dina
remains, when she approaches Caleb at his desk.

DINA

Hey, Caleb.

Caleb, attending to his work, looks up at Dina.

CALEB

Yes?

DINA

You seem like a really swell guy.

CALEB

Thank you very much.

DINA

However, speaking as Sam's friend,
I must tell you that her and Josh
are back together. And this time,
it seems for good.

(beat)

Please don't take this the wrong
way, but keep your distance. You
have a nice day.

Dina slowly turns to the office door and exits. Caleb,
seated at his desk, looks composed but intense.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DEPARTMENT -
DAY

Caleb, on his lunch break, has decided to pay a rare visit to the Accounts Payable Department. He meets with the CLERK.

CLERK

Yes, may I help you?

CALEB

I was hoping you could.

(presents pay stub)

I have here my pay stub from my last pay check. I think they took too much out for my FICA.

CLERK

(takes pay stub and looks at it)

Okay, I can take a look at this for you. The calculator on my computer is on the fritz, so I'm gonna go in back to verify this. I'll be a few minutes.

CALEB

Take all the time you need.

The CLERK departs OUT OF VIEW to the back room, as Caleb is left alone. Caleb looks at the desk, as he soon spots something.

CALEB'S POV

ROLODEX

Sits on the far right side of the counter. It contains the information of everyone in the Accounts Payable Department. Dina's personal information is in full view.

BACK TO SCENE

A curious Caleb closely reads the Rolodex, as he quickly looks up. The Clerk has returned with the results.

CLERK

Okay, I've checked everything. Unfortunately, all of your deductions were correct.

CALEB
 (in mock-frustration)
 Oh, gosh. I thought I was gonna
 get a small kickback.

CLERK
 Sorry. Seems like Uncle Sam wins
 another round.

CALEB
 (affable)
 Well, I appreciate your assistance
 and you have a great day.

CLERK
 Likewise, my friend.

Caleb exits the office, his back turned to the Clerk. He
 gives a sinister smile.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

SCENE XII

FADE IN:

EXT. DINA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Caleb waits furtively and silently behind an alcove of the
 apartment complex, as he watches everything/everyone around
 him. He quickly notices something.

CALEB'S POV

DINA'S CAR

Drives up to the apartment building, as it starts to pull
 into the apartment parking lot.

BACK TO SCENE

Caleb swiftly makes his move, as he follows Dina.

Dina's car pulls into an empty parking space, as the car
 stops and the lights turn off. Dina exits her car, as he
 shuts the door and walks toward the apartment entrance.

CALEB

Leans up against and hides behind a wall, as he takes a peak at Dina. He quickly pulls his head back, as he starts to move OUT OF VIEW. Dina arrives at the entrance door, but stops in her tracks. Intuiting the presence of someone, she looks around the parking lot. Seeing n one, she gives a dismissive shrug and enters OUT OF VIEW into the door.

Meanwhile, Caleb emerges from out behind the wall, as he looks around the parking lot. Seeing no one, he moves forward OUT OF VIEW.

INT. SAMANATHA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua are enjoying some deep dish pizza and beer, as they start to converse.

JOSHUA

(takes a bite of pizza;
with mouth full)

Nothing like deep dish and Old
Style on a cold Chicago night.

SAMANTHA

(takes a sip of beer)

I couldn't agree more. We should
do this more often.

(reconsiders)

On second thought, I don't wanly
get a big ass.

JOSHUA

(raises his bottle)

I propose a toast, to our getting
back together. May we face all of
life's obstacles, and overcome them
with courage, grace, and
everlasting love.

SAMANTHA

(raises her bottle)

I'll drink to that.

Samantha and Joshua CLICK their BOTTLES, as they each take a sip.

JOSHUA

(reflective)

You know something?

SAMANTHA
 (eats some pizza; with
 mouth full)
 What's that?

JOSHUA
 I'm glad I was caught with the
 stripper at Jake's bachelor party.

SAMANTHA
 Why do you say that?

JOSHUA
 Because it helped me re-evaluate
 everything. Not having you in my
 life was the lowest I've ever felt.
 I promise you that I'll do
 everything I can to make sure we
 stay together. Then, now, and
 always.

SAMANTHA
 (lifts her bottle)
 Is it okay if we have another
 toast?

JOSHUA
 (raises his bottle)
 It would be my honor.

Samantha and Joshua again CLICK their BOTTLES, as they lean over and kiss tenderly.

INT. DINA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - MORNING

The elevator door opens, as Dina emerges INTO VIEW. She greets one of her neighbors and departs into the parking lot.

EXT. DINA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - PARKING LOT - MORNING

Dina walks through the parking lot, en route to her car. Dina unlocks and enters her automobile. Dina's car pulls out of the lot, as it enters onto the open road.

INT. DINA'S CAR - FRONT SEAT - MORNING

Dina focuses on the road, as he drives to work. She is approaching a hill, as Dina pushes on the stop brake, as he car goes down the hill. However, the car does not slow down. A slightly alarmed Dina continues to push on the stop brake, but to no avail. She looks at her dashboard.

BRAKE LIGHTS

Flash intermittently

A worried Dina tries to stay calm, as she continues to move downhill

CAR

Passes through a red traffic light and enters an intersection.

INT. DINA'S CAR - MORNING

A blatantly nervous Dina continues to ride along, as she looks to her right.

DINA'S POV

DELIVERY VAN

Motors right toward Dina's car.

BACK TO SCENE

Dina screams and braces herself for the collision.

The VAN CRASHES int the driver's side of Dina's CAR. A CAR emerges INTO VIEW, as it too CRASHES into the backseat door of Dina's car.

INT. DINA'S CAR - FRONT SEAT - MORNING

An unconscious and injured Dina lays behind the wheel, her air bag completely inflated, as onlookers come to her aid.

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL (DOWNTOWN CHICAGO) - WAITING ROOM - EVENING

A worried but composed Samantha sits in a chair, her right leg shaking up and down, as she waits for a word on Dina. Dina's surgeon, DOCTOR MARVIN LAVELLE, comes INTO VIEW, as Samantha leaps up from her seat.

SAMANTHA

Good evening, Doctor. How's Dina?

DOCTOR LAVELLE

She's in serious but stable condition. There were a few minor injuries, but ultimately she suffered a fracture in her left leg. She's very lucky to be alive.

SAMANTHA

Is she going to be okay?

DOCTOR LAVELLE

Well, Dina will certainly need some bed rest, not to mention a month of physical therapy. Other than that, she should recover just fine.

DOCTOR LAVELLE

Of course. She's still in ICU.

SAMANTHA

Thank you, Doctor.

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - EVENING

The ICU is astir, as nurses and medics attend to their respective patients. Samantha, get well gift in hand, slowly ambles through in search of Dina, when she stops.

DINA

Rests idly in her bed, tubed, bandaged, and hooked up to an iv.

DINA

(soft)

Sam, what are you doing here?

SAMANTHA

I came as soon as I heard.

(presents gift)

I brought you a little something.

DINA

(soft; happy)

Orchids, my favorite. And a teddy bear.

Samantha gives a light smile, as she turns serious.

SAMANTHA

(inquisitive)

Do you remember what happened?

DINA

(softly recollects)

I remember getting in my car,
starting it up, and going down
Bradford Hill. That's the route I
always take to work. After that,
things get a big fuzzy.

SAMANTHA

I spoke with your mechanic. They
looked over your car. The cords
for your stop brake were completely
rendered.

(beat)

Do you know anyone who would do
something like that to you?
Someone you might be at odds with?

DINA

(soft)

Not anyone I can think of.

SAMANTHA

Well, what's important is that
you're okay. I spoke with Doctor
LaVelle, and he said you're gonna
be off your feet for while. And
you'll be taking physical therapy.

DINA

(soft; sarcastic)

I can hardly contain myself.

SAMANTHA

Not to worry. I'm gonna come to
visit you every day after work.
Whether you like it or not.

DINA

(soft)

What about Josh?

SAMANTHA

I explained everything, and he's
totally cool wit it. He even wants
to come by and see you.

DINA

(soft)

Hey, Sam?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, D?

DINA

(soft)

Thanks for everything. I wasn't sure who I could turn to, but you answered the bell.

SAMANTHA

That's what friends are for.

DINA

(witty; soft)

I never liked the song, but I agree with you.

(beat)

You're the best.

SAMANTHA

(witty)

Stop it. You're making me blush. Whadya say I pick you up some soup when you can eat again?

DINA

Sounds great. How was your day today?

SAMANTHA

You won't believe me...

Samantha starts to talk to Dina, as a Nurse appears INTO VIEW to give Dina her medicine.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Samantha's office is empty, as it is hours before the work day is to begin.

DOOR KNOB

Slowly begins to turn.

The office door opens, as Samantha and Joshua enter. Samantha closes and locks her office door.

JOSHUA

I can't believe you talked me into this.

SAMANTHA

(sotto voce)

Keep your voice down. Nobody knows we're here.

(beat)

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
 Would you lighten up? It's so rare
 for us to get some time together.
 It's been a hectic week for me.

Samantha gives Joshua a tender kiss on the lips.

JOSHUA
 (concerned; sotto voce)
 What if somebody shows up?

SAMANTHA
 (witty; sotto voce)
 I'll just tell 'em I'm doing paper
 work.
 (beat; feels up Joshua)
 Some very important paper work.

Samantha and Joshua look passionately at each other, as they
 kiss and disrobe one another. The two converge on Samantha's
 desk, as they knock over some item. Joshua stops, as he
 looks straight at Samantha.

JOSHUA
 (slightly out of breath;
 witty)
 You know what? I really like
 paperwork.

They go back to kissing.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - HOURS LATER

Samantha, now preparing for work, sits at her desk, when
 there is a KNOCK at her DOOR.

SAMANTHA
 Come in.

Caleb enters from behind the door, with Samantha's coffee in
 hand.

CALEB
 Good morning, Miss Gaines. I have
 your coffee.

SAMANTHA
 Good morning, Caleb. Just place it
 on my desk, please. Oh, and
 Caleb...

CALEB
 Yes, Miss Gaines?

SAMANTHA

(presents paper to him)

I need for you to go to Microsoft's web site and research the popularity of this laptop.

CALEB

I'll get right on it, Miss Gaines.

SAMANTHA

Thank you. That is all.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

A bored Caleb sits at his desk, as he writes in a small notebook.

NOTEBOOK

Contains the words, "SAMANTHA" and "GAINES" written in different configurations.

Caleb continues, when the OFFICE PHONE RINGS. He picks up.

CALEB

(talks into phone)

Hello. Office of Samantha Gaines.
Caleb speaking, how may I help you?
(beat)
Oh, hello Joshua.

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET CORNER - DAY

Joshua stands on the sidewalk, as he speaks to Caleb on his cell phone.

JOSHUA

Hey, Cal. It's Josh. I was hoping to speak to Samantha.

CALEB

I'm sorry, Joshua. Miss Gaines is out to lunch and then has to visit her friend in the hospital. Can I take a message?

JOSHUA

Yes. Could you please tell her to call me on my cell phone when she gets a chance?

CALEB
I'll tell her as soon as she gets
in.

JOSHUA
And Cal?

CALEB
Yes?

JOSHUA
Could you try and remember this
time?

CALEB
(laughs)
You got it.

JOSHUA
Thanks, Cal.

CALEB
Anytime.

Caleb hangs up, as his mood swiftly alters.

CALEB
(angrily whispers)
Dickwad

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Samantha sits at her desk, as she surfs the web. There is a
KNOCK at her OFFICE DOOR.

SAMANTHA
Come in.

The office door opens, as Caleb appears and enters.

CALEB
Miss Gaines, you wanted to see me?

SAMANTHA
Yes, Caleb. I just received a
phone call in my office from
Joshua.
(beat)
He told me that he called the
office when I was out to lunch.
You told him you would leave a
message.

CALEB

Well...

SAMANTHA

(sternly interjects)

That seems a tad unusual, doesn't it? Joshua also told me that he called the office a few weeks ago, and still, no message. Would you care to explain?

CALEB

Well, to the best of my knowledge, I don't recall him phoning the office.

SAMANTHA

(stern)

I find that very hard to believe, Caleb. I'll let it go this time, but I don't expect to receive news like this again. Am I clear?

CALEB

Crystal.

SAMANTHA

Thank you, Caleb. That is all.

Caleb gets up from his seat and heads out of the office.

CALEB

(mutters under his breath)

It's just a fuckin' phone call.

A furious Samantha, hearing Caleb's comment, halts him.

SAMANTHA

(furious)

Excuse me? As your employer, I will not tolerate any talk or profane language of any kind.

CALEB

(bold)

I'd wish you'd lighten up, Sam.

SAMANTHA

(sternly)

Excuse me, but you are to address me as Miss Gaines when we are in this building. Is that understood?

CALEB

(boldly)

Oh come on, Sam. Cut me some slack. After all, I was able to get you in the sack on our first date.

(beat)

I think we should each be on a first name basis by now.

SAMANTHA

(outraged)

How dare you?

CALEB

(bold)

Oh, I do dare. You may be my boss, but that doesn't give you the right to treat me like a commodity.

(beat)

While we're on the subject, there are going to be a few changes around here. So, if I were you, I'd make it my business to mind my own business. That is all.

Caleb walks OUT OF VIEW from the office, as Samantha remains standing, silent and abashed.

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT - DAY

A much better Dina slowly practices walking, with the help of her Physical Therapist and a walker. Dina takes a breather and sits, when a VOICE emerges.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)

Wow, looks like you'll be up and going in no time.

Dina looks up to see Samantha, who has come to pay her a surprise visit.

DINA

(happy)

Sam, what are you doing here?!

SAMANTHA

I'm on my lunch break, and thought I'd pay you a visit. How are you feeling?

DINA

Much better, thanks. They say I could be walking again in less than a month.

SAMANTHA

I'm so glad.
(presents a bag to her)
I brought you a little something.

Dina takes the paper bag from Samantha, opens it up, and looks inside.

DINA

(softly exclaims)
Oh, boy! A turkey club sandwich from Mario's! You're the best!

SAMANTHA

I figured you were getting tired of hospital food. How you holdin' up?

DINA

All things considered, pretty good. I never thought laying in bed would be so bad. On the bright side, I've really grown on my physical therapist.

Dina and Samantha look at Dina's physical therapist. Michael, filling out some paper work, looks up at Dina and Samantha, smiles and waves.

A beaming Dina grins broadly and waves excitedly at Michael.

DINA

(flirting)
Hi, Michael.

SAMANTHA

So much for medical melancholy.

DINA

So, how are things at work?

SAMANTHA

Wish I could say good.

DINA

Why? It's not Josh again, is it?

SAMANTHA

No, it's Caleb. He came on to me really strong this morning.

DINA

Maybe he's still feeling hurt.

SAMANTHA

I'm not sure. But whatever it is, he better straighten out. I have an important presentation to give on AD-Lib's quarter earnings.

(looks at her watch)

Oh, look at the time. Sorry, D, but I gotta get back to work. See ya tomorrow.

DINA

(warm)

Look forward to it. Thanks for the sandwich.

Samantha and Dina hug, as Samantha departs OUT OF VIEW.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON

The conference room is filled with the head honchos of AD-Lib sitting, organizing, and bantering amongst each other, as they get ready for today's meeting. The conference room door opens, as Samantha and Caleb enter, as they do some last-minute prepping.

SAMANTHA

Do you have the CD?

CALEB

(presents CD)

Right here. Are you ready?

SAMANTHA

Just a sec. I want this presentation to be unforgettable.

(looks at her watch)

It's time. Let's rock and roll.

Samantha goes to the front of the conference room, as she calls everyone to her attention.

SAMANTHA

(aloud)

Okay, may I have everyone's attention, please.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
 We are assembled today to discuss
 AD-Lib's quarterly earnings, and
 how we can work to improve them.
 (beat; moves toward
 projection screen)
 Lights, please.

The lights go out, as Samantha is set to begin.

SAMANTHA
 As the demonstration I am about to
 show you will illustrate, our
 profits have made surprising
 developments.

Samantha looks and motions to Caleb. He flips the switch.

PROJECTION SCREEN

Processes the film, and displays the presentation. Except,
 it is not the statistics, but footage of Samantha and Joshua
 having sex in her office.

An oblivious Samantha continues to address her co-workers,
 her back to the projection screen.

SAMANTHA
 (uses pointer on screen)
 As you can see here, the earnings
 from our fall quarter were quite...

Samantha turns around to face the screen, as she goes cold.
 Gus and the heads of AD-Lib look on in horror. Caleb's eyes
 go wide, as he covers his mouth with his hands in
 embarrassment. A nervous but composed Samantha tries to
 restore order.

SAMANTHA
 This is not what it looks like. If
 I can please have your attention.

Samantha's attempt is futile, as the meeting is complete
 bedlam, as astounded employees banter amongst themselves. A
 distraught Samantha looks on.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XIII

FADE IN:

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

Caleb sits at his desk, working on his computer. The OFFICE DOOR BURSTS open, as a livid Samantha approaches his desk.

SAMANTHA

(lividly throws CD down on desk)

You son of a bitch. Explain to me what just happened back there. I almost lost my fucking job!

CALEB

(stops typing and looks up from computer)

I don't think I should be the one to explain.

SAMANTHA

(stern)

I want to know how you got that footage, and I want to know now.

CALEB

Take it easy, Sam. Too much stress can give you wrinkles.

(reaches over and feels her face)

And you wouldn't want them on such delicate, porcelain skin.

An enraged Samantha swiftly slaps his hand away.

CALEB

My goodness, aren't we aggressive today?

SAMANTHA

(intense)

Tell me now.

CALEB

Well, since you're so curious, I'll tell you. Your ficus plant.

SAMANTHA

(confounded)

My ficus plant?

CALEB

It's where I planted the hidden camera.

SAMANTHA

(astounded)

Hidden camera? You mean to tell me you've been spying on me?

CALEB

Since the second day of work. I'm the first one here in the morning, and last one to leave at night. I change the recordings every day. It's motion sensitive. So, from the minute you arrive to the moment you leave, I'll be watching you.

SAMANTHA

I'm going to have you fired for invasion of privacy.

CALEB

Oh, I beg to differ. No one will believe that your secretary would record you making whoopee in your office.

SAMANTHA

(stern)

I want that camera. Give me the camera now.

CALEB

What camera? It's already gone. You can check everywhere in this building, but you won't find it.

SAMANTHA

What do you want from me?

CALEB

A simple question, yet so many complicated answers. I want a promotion, a raise in salary, and for you to break up with Josh.

SAMANTHA

And what if I don't?

CALEB

Well, we've all seen some interesting video of you. How about we throw in a little audio?

Caleb pulls out a hand-held recording device and pushes a button, as Samantha's voice plays.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

I can't believe Gus and the other
big wigs. They can be such douches
and assholes.

Samantha listens in horror, as she looks astounded at Caleb.

SAMANTHA

You wouldn't.

CALEB

(bold)

Oh yes I would. You should really
watch what you say. It could come
back to haunt you.

SAMANTHA

(strong)

You won't get away with this.

CALEB

Au contraire, mi amore. This is
only the tip of the iceberg. I've
got a whole bunch of tricks up my
sleeve.

(beat)

Just you try and leak this to
anyone, and I'll make you pay more
than you already have. If you'll
excuse me, I have to get back to my
work.

Samantha stands and looks intensely at Caleb, before
departing OUT OF VIEW to her office.

INT. THE ROSEBUD STEAK HOUSE - CORNER TABLE - NIGHT

Joshua and Samantha are having dinner. Joshua hungrily eats
his prime rib, as a visibly distraught Samantha picks at a
salad with her fork. Joshua takes notice.

JOSHUA

(concerned)

You okay, Sam?

SAMANTHA

(looks up at him; soft)

Oh, yeah. Why do you ask?

JOSHUA

Well, for starters, it's not like
you to come to the Rosebud and
order a salad.

SAMANTHA

(soft)

I'm not that hungry tonight.

JOSHUA

Are you sure you're okay? How'd that meeting go today?

SAMANTHA

(averse)

If it's okay with you, I really don't wanly talk about it.

JOSHUA

Very well. If there's anything you wanly talk about, I'm all ears.

SAMANTHA

Thanks.

JOSHUA

Hey, how's Dina-saurus doing?

SAMANTHA

She's doing well. Her doctor said she could be walking in less than a month.

JOSHUA

Not even a car wreck can keep a girl like Dina down. How's Cal?

SAMANTHA

(stern)

Fine.

JOSHUA

How did he take the news?

SAMANTHA

(snappishly retorts)

Listen, I really don't want to talk about him, okay?

JOSHUA

Alright, alright. Don't ask, don't tell.

SAMANTHA

(soft)

Is it okay if you finish your meal and then take me home?

JOSHUA
(takes a fork full of
food; with mouth half
full)
No problem.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Joshua and Samantha have arrived at her front door, as they are about to say good night.

JOSHUA
Here we are.

SAMANTHA
Yup. Thanks for dinner. I wish I
had more of an appetite.

JOSHUA
Something tells me this isn't about
food.

SAMANTHA
Maybe, maybe not. But whatever it
is, I don't expect you to
understand.
(kisses Josh tenderly)
Good night, Josh.

Samantha opens the door, as she enters her apartment. A persistent Joshua follows her inside.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The dark apartment is soon lit, as Samantha enters, followed by Joshua.

SAMANTHA
Of all the nights for you to be
persistent, this is not the one.

JOSHUA
I'm willing to do whatever I can to
be there for you.

SAMANTHA
Well, maybe I want to be alone with
my feelings for once.

JOSHUA

(calm)

Fair enough. I'm going to leave now. But before I go, I just want to say what a hypocrite you are.

SAMANTHA

What makes me a hypocrite?

JOSHUA

(strong)

Because you're being dishonest. I shouldn't be one to talk about honesty, but I think it was you who said we should be honest with each other.

(beat)

Practice what you preach Sam.

Joshua is about to egress, when he is halted by Samantha.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)

(calls out)

Wait.

Joshua stops in his tracks, as he turns around to Samantha.

SAMANTHA

You wanly know what's eating me? Well, I'll tell you. In a nutshell, I hate my job, I hate most of my co-workers, I hate my boss, I hate everybody talking about nothing but the bottom line. Everything!

Samantha starts to sob uncontrollably, as an empathetic Joshua hugs and comforts her.

JOSHUA

(soft)

It's okay, Sam. I'm here, and you can tell me anything.

Joshua continues to hold Samantha in a firm embrace.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Caleb sits at his desk, preparing for another day at the office. Samantha arrives at the entrance door, as she walks briskly past Caleb and into her office.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Samantha sits at her desk, writing a letter, when there is a KNOCK at her DOOR.

SAMANTHA

Come in.

The door opens, as Caleb, with coffee cup in hand, approaches her desk.

CALEB

(presents coffee cup)

I have your coffee, Miss Gaines.

Samantha, still immersed in her writing, gives Caleb a swift but slight glance.

SAMANTHA

Just place it on my desk, please.

Caleb heeds Samantha and gently places the cup on her desk. He stands still, seeing if Samantha needs anything else.

SAMANTHA

(continues to look down
and write)

That will be all.

Caleb slowly exits out of the office.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - EVENING

Caleb sits at his desk, as he is ready to call it a day. Samantha, clad in her coat, is ready to exit for the night, as he she swiftly passes by his desk, without saying a word.

CALEB

Good night, Miss Gaines.

SAMANTHA

(stern)

Good night.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - CORRIDOR - EVENING

An edgy Samantha impatiently waits for the elevator. It arrives, as Samantha and a bunch of her co-workers pile inside.

INT. ELEVATOR - EVENING

Samantha, pressed to the back of the elevator, watches pensively, as everyone boards. Out of nowhere, a VOICE emerges.

CALEB (O.S.)
(calls out)
Hold the elevator!

Caleb appears INTO VIEW, as he tries to board the densely occupied elevator. A PASSENGER breaks the bad news.

ELEVATOR PASSENGER
Sorry pal, it's full. Better wait
for the next one.

Caleb looks firmly at Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Still at the back of the elevator, stares back at him.

CALEB

Continues to stare at Samantha, as the elevator door closes.

EXT. STREET CORNER - EVENING

Caleb walks briskly along the sidewalk to the bus stop, when he encounters Joshua.

CALEB
(slightly surprised)
Joshua, what a pleasant surprise.
Good evening.

JOSHUA
Hey, Cal. I was wondering if I
could have a word with you.

CALEB
Sure, but we'll have to walk. I
have a bus to catch.

Joshua and Caleb amble along the sidewalk, as they start to converse.

CALEB
What can I do for you, Joshua?

JOSHUA

Well, Cal, it's not so much what you can do for me, but what you've been doing to Samantha.

CALEB

I really don't know what you're talking about. Although Samantha's been very asocial of late.

The two come to a crosswalk, as they look both way and cross the street.

JOSHUA

You see, Sam told me everything. And I have to say I'm a bit upset. Actually, I'm pissed.

The two arrive at the bus stop, as they stop walking.

CALEB

I'm sorry to hear of your displeasure. But Samantha brought this upon herself. So, she'll just have to deal with the consequences.

JOSHUA

Regardless, I've come to inform you that Sam has placed a restraining order against you. A thousand feet. Except for work, you won't be able to see her.

CALEB

I'm impressed. It's very decent of you to meet with me about this. I guess I was wrong about you.

JOSHUA

What do you mean?

CALEB

At first I thought you took it up the ass. Yet after seeing you and Sam's office work, you seem like a pretty solid guy.

JOSHUA

(strong)

I'm gonna let that one slide. But I'll leave you with a warning. Stay away from Sam or else.

Joshua walks away OUT OF VIEW, as a stirred but composed Caleb watches him closely

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Caleb is in his living room, as he works on his laptop and whistles.

LAPTOP SCREEN

Displays private information of customers with unpaid cell phone bills.

Caleb quickly types, as another screen emerges.

LAPTOP SCREEN

Displays the billing information for Joshua. The mouse cursor highlights Joshua's balance and deletes it. The screen then turns to the billing information of a deadbeat customer. That information is cut and pasted onto Joshua's billing history.

Caleb continues to whistle, as he puts the finishing touches on his latest scheme.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha relaxes on her living room sofa, Butterscotch in tow, as she talks on the phone with Joshua.

SAMANTHA

(talks over phone)

Yeah, it was pretty good today.
Not to worry. Caleb didn't even
say hi to me.

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

INT. JOSHUA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Joshua sits in a chair at his dining room table, a beer in one hand the receiver in the other.

JOSHUA

(talks into phone)

If I get my way, the only place
he'll be seeing you is in the Sun
Times Business Section.

SAMANTHA

(gently caresses
Butterscotch)
(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
 I appreciate you helping me out
 with this. You didn't have to
 confront him, though.

JOSHUA
 (bold)
 Not to worry. I didn't hit him.
 Yet. I just put a little scare
 into him. What's he gonna do?
 Hello? Samantha?

SAMANTHA
 (talks into receiver)
 Josh? Josh, you there?

Samantha re-dials Joshua's number and is met by the automated
 VOICE of the Operator.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR (V.O.)
 (from over phone)
 I'm sorry, but the number you have
 dialed has been disconnected. I'm
 sorry, but the number you have...

A perplexed Samantha hangs up the phone, as she picks up
 Butterscotch and departs OUT OF VIEW.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Samantha sleeps serenely in her bed, as the moonlight from
 the window luminesces on her.

BEDROOM CHAIR

Sits in a dark corner of the bedroom, unoccupied.

Samantha starts to lightly wriggle around in her bed, gives a
 big exhale, and re-settles herself in bed.

BEDROOM CHAIR

Is now occupied by someone, who sits still and remains
 unrecognizable in the darkness.

The figure quietly rises from the chair in the dark recess of
 the bedroom and moves into the moonlight. It is Caleb, who
 has decided to pay Samantha a late-night, impromptu visit.

CALEB

Closely and quietly watches Samantha sleep. He hovers over
 her.

CLOSEUP - CALEB

Looms over a sleeping Samantha, as he watches and listens to her breathe. He then quietly walks out of the bedroom.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - LATE NIGHT

Caleb is about to depart from the apartment, when he feels something. He looks down.

BUTTERSCOTCH

Growls lightly and tugs angrily on the ankle of Caleb's pants. Butterscotch continues to gnaw, as Caleb watches intently.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - HOURS LATER

Samantha is still asleep, as she starts to toss and turn, lightly blinking her eyes. She awakens, as she tiredly rises from bed.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Samantha, with glass of water in hand, slowly ambles around her apartment, when she stops in her tracks.

BUTTERSCOTCH

Sits stock-still in the living room, eyes wide open

Samantha starts to converse with her pet.

SAMANTHA

There you are, butter girl. I see
you're having trouble sleeping too,
huh?

Butterscotch is unresponsive, as a curious Samantha moves in closer.

SAMANTHA

(nervously confounded)
What's the matter, butter girl?

Samantha gently caresses Butterscotch's coat and pulls her hand back, as she looks at her stained fingers. She heads to the light switch, quickly flicks it on, and discovers a grotesque sight.

SAMANTHA'S POV

BUTTERSCOTCH

Lays on the couch, her insides turned inside out.

BACK TO SCENE

A horrified Samantha screams and covers her mouth, when she soon spots something else.

SAMANTHA'S POV

LIVING ROOM WALL

Stained with Butterscotch's blood. There is a heart-shaped structure. Inside of the heart reads, "CN & SG ALWAYS".

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha looks on in horror, as she falls to the floor and sobs.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XIV

FADE IN:

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Caleb sits at his desk, diligently working on his computer. The entrance door opens, as Samantha enters and heads to her office, but not before stopping in front of Caleb's desk. She glares intensely at him, but Caleb pays her no mind, as he continues to type away. Samantha, slightly choked up, composes herself and heads OUT OF VIEW to her office. Caleb remains focused on his computer screen.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - LOBBY - DAY

Samantha, cell phone to her ear, ambles through the busy lobby, as she speaks to Dina.

SAMANTHA
(slightly distressed)
I can't believe it, D. He killed
Butterscotch.

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT - DAY

Dina, with bandages and cast on leg, sits on a chair, as she speaks over the telephone in physical therapy.

DINA

If I were you, I'd quit ASAP. Hate to say I told you so.

SAMANTHA

But I have a restraining order against him, D.

DINA

Sam, the more you try to keep him away, the stronger he'll come onto you. Have you told Josh?

SAMANTHA

No.

DINA

There's just something I don't get. How was Caleb able to get into your apartment?

SAMANTHA

Your guess is as good as mine, D.

DINA

Have you reported him to Gus.

SAMANTHA

What good would that do? He's a model employee. Plus, I'm still in Gus' doghouse after my office sex-capades with Josh.

(beat)

Enough about me. How are you feeling?

DINA

Much better. I practice walking twenty minutes every day. FYI, Michael and I will be seeing a lot of each other once I'm out of PT.

SAMANTHA

Always the opportunist, D. How about we go to dinner when you're up to it? My treat.

DINA

I'd love to. Hey, Sam.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, Dina?

DINA

I just want to tell you that everything's gonna be alright. Someway, somehow, we're gonna nail this prick.

SAMANTHA

I know we will. Sorry, D, but I gotta go. It was great talking to you.

DINA

Same here. Take care, Sam.

SAMANTHA

Take care, D.

Samantha closes her cell phone and departs from the lobby.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua enjoy some Chinese take-out, as they sit on the living room sofa. They start to chat.

JOSHUA

Thanks for treating for dinner. I just finished covering all of my phone bills. I paid a king's ransom.

(takes a fork full of food; with mouth full)

Where's Butterscotch? I haven't seen her all night.

SAMANTHA

She's dead, Josh.

Joshua, in the middle of chewing his food, quickly hesitates, as he nearly chokes and looks astounded at Samantha.

JOSHUA

(dumbfounded)

Are you shitting me? Who would kill a defenseless animal?

SAMANTHA

The same person who screwed you over on your phone bills.

JOSHUA

Cal?

SAMANTHA

Bingo.

JOSHUA

(indignant)

Man, I'm gonna kill this...

SAMANTHA

(swiftly interjects)

No. That's exactly what he wants us to do. We have to take the high road on this one.

JOSHUA

(intense)

The only road I'm taking is the one that leads to this guy's place, so I can kick his fuckin' ass!

SAMANTHA

(calm)

Take it easy. Resorting to violence will only add fuel to an already blazing bonfire.

JOSHUA

Then how do we go about doing so?

SAMANTHA

We'll just have to play along. Then we'll make him pay.

JOSHUA

Do you know you look sexy when you're strategic?

SAMANTHA

Oh, am I. Then I guess I'd make a helluva female Patton.

JOSHUA

(witty)

Oh, yeah. Only much prettier.

Samantha and Joshua look amorously at each other, then start to kiss.

INT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

Samantha stands in front of her co-workers, as she gives a dissertation on attaining new clients.

SAMANTHA

(speaks aloud to audience)

Now, in order to attract and obtain new clients, we must look at our dedication to them.

(beat)

Now what I mean by this is the range of contracts we sign our clients to. If I may, I have a graph that illustrates this trend.

(turns to Caleb)

Caleb, if you could, please.

Caleb carries over a poster board and places it on a platform. He then departs OUT OF VIEW, as Samantha is about to explain the poster board.

SAMANTHA

Thank you, Caleb. Now, as you can see by the chart, forty percent more of companies have signed with agencies who offered them contracts of three years or more.

(beat)

Thus, I feel it would be in AD-Lib's best interests to extend the contracts which we offer our clients.

Samantha continues with her oration, as everyone listens.

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - EARLY EVENING

Another day of work has ended, as Caleb, seated at his computer, shuts it down and gathers his belongings. Samantha appears out from her office, as she is about to leave, when she stops at Caleb's desk.

SAMANTHA

(stern)

Caleb, I want to thank you for your assistance today. The meeting went extremely well.

CALEB

Your welcome, Miss Gaines.

SAMANTHA

I would also like to tell you that I'm not afraid of you. We weren't, aren't, nor will we ever be together.

(beat)

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

Get that through your sick,
demented, fucking head. Stay the
fuck away from me, Josh, and Dina.
Or I will make you rue the day you
were born.

CALEB

(sarcastic)

Wow, Miss Gaines. Do you wanly
tell me how you really feel?

SAMANTHA

I already did. Back the fuck off
(beat)
And have a nice weekend.

Samantha walks swiftly and sternly OUT OF VIEW from her
office. A stirred but composed Caleb watches her.

EXT. GHETTO STREET CORNER (SOUTHSIDE OF CHICAGO) - NIGHT

Samantha's BMW pulls up to an empty parking space, as her car
stops and the headlights go off. She steps out of her car,
as she starts to walk. However, she turns to her car and
pushes the button for the car alarm, as the ALARM BEEPS.

EXT. ABANDONED ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

A courageous Samantha carefully ambles down a dimly-lit and
damp alleyway. She arrives at a small DOOR and gives a hard
RAP. The door opens slightly, as a man, NAT BILLINGS, pokes
his head out.

NAT

May I help you?

SAMANTHA

I hope so. Are you Nat "The Gat"
Billings?

NAT

(cautious)

Yes, and could you try and keep it
down? Got police around here.

SAMANTHA

(sotto voce)

Sorry. I'm here because I need
some protection. And I heard
you're the guy to see.

NAT

(sotto voce)

Well, you guessed right, lady.
(MORE)

NAT (cont'd)
 Why don't you come inside and take
 a peak at some pieces?

SAMANTHA
 (sotto voce)
 Okay.

Nat opens the door and invites Samantha inside. He quickly looks around for anyone else. Seeing no one, he closes the door.

INT. NAT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Samantha and Nat walk around his apartment, as Samantha takes in the squalid surroundings.

COUPLE

Each take a hit from a lit bong.

CORPULENT MAN

Lays idly on a sofa in the living room, the floor around him strewn with empty beer bottles.

KITCHEN COUNTER AND SINK

Littered with bottles, empty cigarette cartons, and various forms of debris.

BATHROOM TOILET

Sits overflowed, as excess water drips on the bathroom floor.

Samantha and Nat enter his bedroom

INT. NAT'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nat and Samantha walk around his bedroom, as Nat starts to converse.

NAT
 You know, I don't usually see
 people unless they make an
 appointment. But for you, I'll
 make an exception.

SAMANTHA
 Thanks.

NAT
 How'd you find out about me?

SAMANTHA

I asked around town. They said
you'd be here.

NAT

Indeed. Never thought I'd end up
here doing this. But after
dropping out of college and
divorcing my high school
sweetheart, you do what you can to
make ends meet.

SAMANTHA

Please forgive me, but I've got a
Lexus parked outside, and I want it
to be in one piece when I get back.

NAT

Fair enough. Whadya lookin' for?

SAMANTHA

Something small but powerful.

NAT

How much you got on ya?

SAMANTHA

Eighty bucks.

NAT

(mock-complains)

Shit. I've sold super soakers that
cost more.

(heads toward
refrigerator)

Let's see what we got.

Nat opens the refrigerator.

INSIDE OF REFRIGERATOR

Filled with various guns, ammunition, and several forms of
weaponry.

Nat scours the shelves for a piece, when he discovers one.
He takes it from the refrigerator and gives it the once-over.

NAT

(hands gun to Samantha)

A twenty-two magnum. It's pint-
sized, but potent. A good piece
for an amateur. Check it out for
yourself.

Samantha takes the gun from Nat, closely inspects it and shoots ghost shots.

SAMANTHA
 (looks at Nat)
 It'll do. How much?

NAT
 Well, it usually sells for one-ten.
 But give me eighty-five and I'll
 throw in half a round of ammo.

SAMANTHA
 Deal.

Samantha delves into her purse, pulls out the money, and hands it Nat. He quickly counts it.

NAT
 Exact change. I'm impressed.

SAMANTHA
 After all, honesty is a fading
 virtue.

NAT
 Thanks for your business. Hey, and
 be careful with that. You could
 poke somebody's eye out.

SAMANTHA
 Believe me, the last thing I'll be
 aiming for is an eye.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Samantha has arrived home, as she vigilantly paces toward the elevator.

ELEVATOR DOORS

Open, as Samantha exits. She has arrived at her front door, unlocks it, and enters.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Samantha enters her dark apartment, as she turns on a light. She slowly paces around her apartment, when a VOICE emerges.

JOSHUA (O.S.)
 (calls aloud)
 Hey, where were you?

A startled Samantha screams and lightly vaults up, as she turns around.

JOSHUA

Stands, with bag in hand, smiling happily.

SAMANTHA

(slightly upset)

Josh, what in the hell are you doing here?

JOSHUA

(sarcastic)

Well, it's great to see you, too.

(beat)

I ordered some Italian from Luciano's and thought we'd eat in tonight. Can you believe I lost my keys to your apartment? Luckily, I had a spare set on my key chain at home.

SAMANTHA

(strongly)

You just don't invite yourself into my apartment. That is an invasion of privacy. I'm gonna have the locks changed.

JOSHUA

Relax. Do you want me to go?

SAMANTHA

No, stay. I just want to rest and try and enjoy the rest of the night.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua are enjoying their dinner, as they start to chat.

JOSHUA

(with mouth half full)

How's your dinner?

SAMANTHA

(softly)

It's good.

JOSHUA
Linguini with clams. Your
favorite.
(beat)
Hey, how's Dina?

SAMANTHA
(softly)
Fine, I guess. I haven't seen or
spoken to her.

JOSHUA
You sure were out late tonight.
Where'd you go?

SAMANTHA
(soft)
I had to run a few errands.

JOSHUA
(inquisitive)
Where's your stuff?

SAMANTHA
What?

JOSHUA
Your stuff. You know, your bags?

SAMANTHA
I just bought some lip liner and
after that, I got some money from
an ATM.

JOSHUA
That's it? That took all this
time?

SAMANTHA
(snappishly retorts)
I forgot my pin number, okay?

JOSHUA
(taken aback)
Okay, ease up on the anger.

SAMANTHA
(strongly)
Then ease up on the third degree,
detective.

JOSHUA
(gets up from table)
You know, I think this was a bad
idea. I'm gonna leave now.

Joshua heads toward the front door, when Samantha halts him.

SAMANTHA
Wait. Don't go.

Joshua stops in his tracks, as he turns to Samantha.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha and Joshua rest idly on the living room sofa, as they nestle.

SAMANTHA
(contrite)
Sorry if I was crabby. It was a
long day. Thanks for dinner. It
was great.

Samantha kisses Joshua tenderly.

SAMANTHA
(in slight disgust)
Whew! Your breath.

JOSHUA
Sorry. Must've been that garlic
bread I had.

SAMANTHA
I have some Altoids in my purse.

JOSHUA
(rises from couch)
Okay.

Joshua heads over to Samantha's purse, as he rummages through it. Samantha's gun falls out onto the living room floor.

JOSHUA
(looks alarmed at her and
presents gun)
Where'd you get this?

SAMANTHA
Did you get the Altoids.

JOSHUA

Bad breath is the least of my worries. Where'd you get this, Sam?

SAMANTHA

What's the big deal?

JOSHUA

The big deal is you've been acting strange and now you're packing heat. Why Sam?

SAMANTHA

So I wanly protect myself. What's the sin here?

JOSHUA

You don't know how to handle or fire a gun, Sam. These are very dangerous, especially in the hands of the wrong person. I understand where you're...

SAMANTHA

(interjects)

Do you Josh? Cause I don't think you do. My own secretary's stalking me. I wanly protect myself from this psycho, and instead of you backing me, you're treating me like a kid. I'm even having the locks on my door changed.

JOSHUA

I just don't want you or anyone else to get hurt or killed. I'm taking this in to the authorities.

SAMANTHA

(upset)

No you don't.

Samantha grapples with Joshua, and pries the gun away from him.

SAMANTHA

For your information, I don't need you to protect me twenty-four seven. I can stand on my own two feet, thank you.

JOSHUA
Is that the way you want it?

SAMANTHA
Maybe I do.

JOSHUA
(strong)
Very well then. I'll be on my way,
for good this time.

Joshua grabs his coat and storms out of the apartment. A humbled Samantha remains standing, as she looks momentarily at the gun.

SAMANTHA
(yells loudly)
Fuck!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

SCENE XV

FADE IN:

EXT. AD-LIB ADVERTISING AGENCY - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

Employees ascend/descend the front steps of the AD-Lib building.

CUT TO:

INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE - DAY

Samantha sits nervously and pensively at her desk. She pulls open a drawer at her desk.

DESK DRAWER

Contains the gun.

Samantha stares long at the gun, when a VOICE from the office intercom emerges.

CALEB (V.O.)
 (from over intercom)
 Miss Gaines, you have a call from
 Mister Dinning.

Samantha, momentarily startled, composes herself and responds.

SAMANTHA
 (talks into intercom)
 Send it through, please.

Samantha picks up the phone and pushes a button, as she takes the call.

INT. THE ROSEBUD STEAK HOUSE - NIGHT

A despondent Samantha sits alone in a corner table, playfully forking at a salad, when a VOICE emerges.

LOUISE (O.S.)
 (calls out)
 Sam, long time no see.

Samantha quickly looks up from her salad. LOUISE CLEMONS, a waitress at the Rosebud and old friend of Samantha's, stands, tray of plates and glasses in hand.

SAMANTHA
 (slightly cheery)
 Louise, how are you?

Samantha rises from her table, as she gives Louise a hug and re-seats herself.

LOUISE
 (concerned)
 You okay, Sam? You look a little
 down.

SAMANTHA
 I'm fine. Just a rough day at the
 office.

LOUISE
 I hear ya. This week can't end
 soon enough. Hey, where's Joshua?

SAMANTHA
 He's home. How's Brandon?

LOUISE

(mock-complains)

Ah, you know. He's in his terrible teens now. Things have been tough after I split from Harry. But, you gotta do what you gotta do.

(beat)

Hey, did I tell you?

SAMANTHA

What?

LOUISE

The man that lived above me was apprehended by the police. Turns out he was a pedophile.

SAMANTHA

(slightly astounded)

Get out of here.

LOUISE

I know. I said hello to this guy every morning on my way to work. We even spoke to each other when we met in the laundry room.

(beat)

I mean, could you imagine if I introduced him to Brandon? Who can you trust today? Seems like everyone's a suspect. Anyway, I gotta get back to the grind. It was great to see ya.

SAMANTHA

Likewise.

Samantha rises and gives Louise a hug, as she exits OUT OF VIEW. Samantha sits back down, as she starts to eat some of her salad.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Samantha ambles along the sidewalk, as she heads toward her car.

EXT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Samantha's car pulls up in front of the apartment complex, as Samantha gets out and pushes the car alarm button, as the ALARM BEEPS. She walks to the entrance door and is almost there, when a figure emerges from the darkness INTO VIEW.

A startled Samantha pulls out her gun, as a HOMELESS MAN sticks up his arms.

HOMELESS MAN
 (frightened)
 Please, don't shoot me! I'm just
 lookin' for some spare change!

Samantha hesitates, as she delves into her pocket and gives him some change and abashedly walks away.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Samantha lays on her bed, ice cream carton by her side, as she talks on the phone with Dina.

SAMANTHA
 (talks over phone)
 Yeah, I couldn't believe the week.
 Thank goodness it's over. How are
 you feeling?

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - DINA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Dina rests in her hospital room bed, as she talks over the telephone in her hospital room.

DINA
 I'm coming along. My left shoulder
 and knee still bother me. But
 other than that, I can't complain.
 How about you?

SAMANTHA
 Pretty good.

DINA
 How about Caleb? Up to his old
 tricks?

SAMANTHA
 Surprisingly no. He's been on good
 behavior lately.

DINA
 Maybe he's realized that it wasn't
 meant to be. Speaking of that,
 how's Josh?

SAMANTHA
 Wish I could say well.

DINA
What do you mean?

SAMANTHA
We had a fight two nights ago.

DINA
(disappointed)
What was it now Samantha?

SAMANTHA
I really don't feel like talking
about it, D.

DINA
You can't keep doing this, Sam.
Josh is not the prodigal boyfriend
who'll come back every time you
bicker.
(beat)
You're gonna lose him, Sam.

SAMANTHA
(contrite)
You're right. Actually, the reason
we fought was... Hello? Dina?

Samantha presses down on the receiver, hoping to get a reply,
but nothing. She hangs up and re-dials, but is met with the
AUTOMATED VOICE of the OPERATOR.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR (V.O.)
(over telephone)
I'm sorry, but your telephone
service has been temporarily
disconnected.

SAMANTHA
(in disbelief)
Are you fucking kiddin' me?
(leaps up)
My cell phone

Samantha swiftly rises from bed, as she picks up her cell
phone and powers it on.

SAMANTHA
(impatiently looks at cell
phone; sotto voce)
Come on , come on. Why isn't it
working?

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
(incredulous)
Disconnected?! Shit. What next?

Suddenly, the lights in the bedroom start to flicker, then go off, as everything is pitch black.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
(nervous)
What's going on here?!

The sound of a MATCH STRIKING emerges, as a scintilla of fire meets a candle wick. Samantha is faintly visible in the candle light.

She walks carefully and vigilantly around her apartment, candle in one hand, gun in the other. She stops in a doorway, intuiting the presence of someone. Samantha stands stock-still, as a figure emerges INTO VIEW and covers her mouth. Samantha loses her candle, as everything FADES TO BLACK.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XVI

FADE IN:

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

SAMANTHA

Lies unconscious. She starts to come to, and tries to move, but to no avail.

Samantha frantically looks around and finds herself bound to the floor. She looks around Caleb's bedroom.

MONTAGE - AROUND CALEB'S BEDROOM

Past newspaper and magazine articles of Samantha hang on the bedroom walls.

Picture of Samantha from newspapers and magazines hang on the wall, some pasted on the naked bodies of other women.

Notebooks rest on the bedroom tables, each one of them containing the words, "SAMANTHA" and "GAINES", written over and over in different configurations.

Sketches of hearts with, "SG 4 EVER" inscribed on the walls.

The bedroom is illuminated red, with a red light bulb.

END MONTAGE

Samantha looks around the room in pure horror, when a VOICE emerges.

CALEB (O.S.)
I've always wanted you to see it.

Samantha tries to look up, as Caleb emerges INTO VIEW.

CALEB
So, what do you think?

SAMANTHA
Lovely. If you're a demented psychopath.

CALEB
Such sharp and clever wit. One of the many aspects that made me attracted to you.
(beat)
All for you. I've accumulated everything for years, with the hope that one day I would be able to manifest my true feelings for you. You've always been a passion.

SAMANTHA
(strongly)
More like an obsession.

CALEB
If you want to look at it that way. If you only knew the ardor, the waiting, the longing.
(beat)
And now to have you here again with me, the two of us. Indescribable.

INT. JOSHUA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

A rueful Joshua is on the phone, as he tries to call Samantha. He gets the Operator.

JOSHUA
(confounded)
What the hell? Something's not right.

Joshua rises from his couch OUT OF VIEW.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - LATE NIGHT

Joshua has arrived at Samantha's apartment. He goes to unlock the door, when he sees the door is already open. A curious Joshua slowly makes his way inside.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Joshua gently ambles through the pitch black apartment, as he beckons Samantha.

JOSHUA

(calls out)

Sam, it's Joshua. I just came to see if you're okay. Sam?

Joshua tries to turn on a light, but to no avail. Joshua uses the light on his cell phone to navigate through the apartment. He continues to look around, when he discovers something.

JOSHUA'S POV

CALEB'S WALLET

Shines in the light of Joshua's cell phone.

BACK TO SCENE

Joshua picks up the wallet and looks through it.

JOSHUA

(sotto voce; indignant)

That son of bitch.

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Samantha remains bound to the floor, as Caleb slowly ambles around her.

CALEB

You know, you've always had beautiful shoulders. Just thought you should know.

SAMANTHA

(starts to sob)

What do you want from me?!

CALEB

How could I ever want anything from you? You've given me euphoria, pain, imagination, passion.

(MORE)

CALEB (cont'd)

But most importantly, you've given me meaning.

(two full beats)

Without you in my life, I don't want to be alive. I don't deserve to live. Which makes what I'm going to do painful for us both.

SAMANTHA

(worried)

What are you going to do, Caleb?

Caleb takes a cloth, goes over to Samantha and tries to tie her mouth shut. Samantha firmly resists, as Caleb gets an idea. He goes over to his night stand, pulls out a book of matches, and goes over to Samantha. He strikes a match and places it on the bare flesh of her arm.

SAMANTHA

(painfully)

Ah!!

With Samantha's mouth now open, Caleb ties the cloth around her mouth, as Samantha is unable to speak.

CALEB

(looks at Samantha)

Where there's a will, there's a way. Thought you could outsmart me by changing the locks on your door, eh? I went over during my lunch break and studied them. Just a change of about 2 centimeters.

Caleb walks over to his desk, as he pulls out a case.

CALEB

(looks at case)

Have I ever told you about love? I see it, touch it, feel it, but not once have I ever used it. Until now.

Caleb uncovers the case to reveal a large, razor-sharp knife. A terrified Samantha tries to scream, but to no avail, as Caleb slowly approaches her.

CALEB

I've always felt that you should mean what you say.

Caleb takes his knife and slits the palm of his left hand.

CALEB
 I want to sweat, bleed, love, and
 die for you. Then, now, and
 always. Now, will you do the same
 for me?

Caleb slowly places the knife to the skin of Samantha's arm. Samantha winces and closes her eyes. Caleb is about to cut, when there is a POUNDING KNOCK on the DOOR.

CALEB
 (hesitates and turns to
 door)
 Damn it.

JOSHUA (O.S.)
 (yells from behind door)
 Samantha, it's Josh. Are you in
 there?!

Samantha tries to mutter something out, as Joshua tries to KNOCK down the DOOR. Caleb quickly heads out of the bedroom and toward the door, knife in hand.

EXT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Joshua continues to try to POUND down the DOOR.

JOSHUA
 (yells angrily)
 Open up, Cal! Open the fuckin'
 door!

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Caleb slowly and quietly walks toward the front door, slowly unlocks it, and departs OUT OF VIEW The DOOR BURSTS open, as Joshua is now in the apartment and quickly searches for Samantha.

JOSHUA
 (yells out)
 Samantha, are you there?!
 Samantha!

Joshua dashes around the apartment and goes into the bedroom.

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joshua looks around, and makes the astounding discovery of Samantha tied to the floor.

JOSHUA
(exclaims)
Oh my God, Samantha!

Joshua kneels down beside Samantha and starts to untie her.

JOSHUA
Don't you worry. I'm gonna have
you loose in no time.

Samantha still gagged, tries to let out a scream.

JOSHUA
Alright, alright. I'm doing the
best I can. You're tied up really
good.

Samantha continues to try to say something, when Joshua
removes the gag from her mouth.

SAMANTHA
(yells loudly)
Look out!

Joshua is hit hardly from behind, as Caleb emerges INTO VIEW,
as he and Joshua start a melee with each other.

JOSHUA
(yells out)
Get out of here, Sam!

Samantha, now liberated, quickly escapes OUT OF VIEW. Joshua
and Caleb are now fighting, as Joshua throws two hard
punches, knocking Caleb to the ground. Joshua quickly
approaches him, when Caleb trips him, as Joshua falls to the
floor. An enraged Caleb rises, as he starts to hardly kick
Joshua.

CALEB
(lividly)
Don't ever call me Cal!

Caleb then takes out his knife and stabs Joshua in the
shoulder, then in his thigh.

CALEB
(grave; out of breath)
Back the fuck off. She's mine.

Caleb departs from his bedroom, as Joshua remains on the
floor, writhing in pain.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Samantha, slightly out of breath after running, reaches an elevator. She reaches the elevator, as she pushes the up button, and anxiously waits for the elevator to arrive.

Meanwhile, Caleb is quickly racing up the stairs, as he tries to catch up to Samantha.

Samantha continue to wait for the elevator to arrive. Caleb is getting closer and closer up the stairs to Samantha. He makes it up the stairs, as the elevator arrives and Samantha swiftly gets in. She spots Caleb and screams loudly. Caleb makes his way toward her, as the elevator door closes on him.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - ELEVATOR - LATE NIGHT

A nervous Samantha frantically pushes the button to the top flight of the apartment. She vigilantly watches the floor indicators. The elevator stops, and the door opens, as Samantha steps out.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - CORRIDOR - LATE NIGHT

Samantha quickly exits and races down the hallway. Suddenly, Caleb appears INTO VIEW, and grabs her. Samantha screams loudly and kicks him in his privates. Caleb falls to the linoleum, as Samantha races up the stairs that lead to the roof.

Caleb recovers and follows Samantha up the stairs. She continues to dash up the long staircase, with Caleb fast on her heels. Having a few steps on him, Samantha arrives at the door, swiftly opening it and entering. Caleb soon follows.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - ROOFTOP - NIGHT (TORRENTIAL RAIN)

Samantha takes a few steps and turns around, as she is met with Caleb.

SAMANTHA
(slightly out of breath;
yells loudly)
Okay, you win! What is it that you
want?

CALEB
(yells loudly)
I just want to love you, Samantha.
Is it a sin to have passion?

SAMANTHA

(strong)

Not when it becomes an obsession.
I'm sorry, Caleb, but I'm not for
you.

CALEB

(yells angrily)

Yes you are. You haven't come to
the realization that we're destined
for each other.

SAMANTHA

(objective)

No we aren't. I have a boyfriend,
a career, a life. And none of it
involves you.

Caleb wield his knife, as he looks sinisterly at her.
Suddenly, Joshua leaps INTO VIEW and tackles Caleb to the
ground, as they begin to grapple.

Joshua hits Caleb with a few punches, then hardly slams his
head against the pavement. Caleb counters with a kick to the
stomach. Joshua falls but quickly recovers. Caleb again
wields his knife, and attempts to assail him. Joshua catches
Caleb's arm, as he uses his strength to fend off the knife,
as he knocks it out of Caleb's hand and punches him, as the
struggle continues.

Caleb bombards Joshua with a few punches, as he falls to the
ground near a rain-filled puddle. Caleb takes Joshua's head,
and hardly shoves it into the puddle, trying to drown him.
Joshua stays strong, as he hardly elbows him. An elbow
catches Caleb in the face, as he falls back and Joshua
recovers. The melee continues, as the two wrestle on the
ground. They are both near the edge of the rooftop, as Caleb
hardly head butts Joshua, as he takes him and holds him at
the ledge of the rooftop.

CALEB

(intense)

Can't you understand?! The demise
of one man will be the Genesis of
another.

Caleb is about to throw Joshua off the roof, when he winces
in pain. He turns around to see that he has been stabbed in
the shoulder. He then looks up.

SAMANTHA

Boldly stands, bloody knife in hand, as she looks intensely at Caleb.

She takes a huge swing of the knife, as she slices his throat. Caleb falls back and falls onto the ledge of the rooftop. An alarmed, panting Samantha tends to a fallen Joshua. She looks over.

CALEB'S BODY

Lies listlessly on the edge of the rooftop.

Samantha looks at Joshua, as she gently pats him on the shoulder and tentatively approaches the body.

Samantha quietly and closely stares at the body. Caleb lies still, when suddenly he vaults up and hardly grabs onto Samantha. Samantha lets out a scream, and pushes Caleb off the rooftop. She stares off of the rooftop, as Joshua hobbles over to and puts his arm around her. Samantha starts to sob uncontrollably, as she buries her head in his chest.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XVII

FADE IN:

EXT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATE NIGHT

Ambulances are parked outside the hospital, as some with lights flashing, pull into the parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - LATE NIGHT

Medics and nurses amble around the busy room, as they tend to numerous patients. In a corner bed, Joshua lays comfortably and bandaged, recovering from his near fatal night. Samantha accompanies him by his bedside.

SAMANTHA

How are you feeling?

JOSHUA

(witty; sotto voce)

Okay. Now I know how a shish kebob feels like.

Samantha gives a slight grin.

SAMANTHA

The doctor said you lost some blood and fluids. Other than that, you'll be up and at 'em in a few days.

JOSHUA

What about Caleb?

SAMANTHA

The police are doing a full search of his apartment. I gave them the whole story. I'll only have to testify before some local detectives.

JOSHUA

(sotto voce)

Hey, maybe we'll visit Dina-saurus.

SAMANTHA

Too late. She went home yesterday.

JOSHUA

(sotto voce)

Can I ask you something?

SAMANTHA

Sure.

JOSHUA

Were you really in love with Cal?

SAMANTHA

Honestly, yes. He seemed perfect. Which made me do a lot of thinking.

JOSHUA

(confounded)

What do you mean?

SAMANTHA

What I'm trying to say is, things will never be the same.

Samantha slowly and tenderly kisses Joshua on the lips, as she gets up from her seat.

SAMANTHA

I'm going to get some coffee. Be right back.

Samantha slowly makes her way out of the ICU.

EXT. INDIAN ADVERTISING AGENCY (INDIANAPOLIS) - ESTABLISHING
SHOT - THREE MONTHS LATER

Employees enter/exit the busy facility.

CUT TO:

INT. INDIAN ADVERTISING AGENCY - OFFICE - DAY

NAMEPLATE ON DESK

Reads Elizabeth Michaels.

Samantha, now Elizabeth, sits at her desk, as she is interviewing a potential employee for the position of her Personal Assistant. The current candidate, KENNETH GARLAND, sits at the chair across from Samantha's desk. The two converse.

SAMANTHA

(reads resume)

So, Kenneth, I see here that you did temp jobs for Amtrak in West Baden, and for Costco in Bloomington. How did they fare?

KENNETH

Oh, very well. I gained so much experience and understanding of the daily tasks of an assistant from both positions.

(beat)

I'm sorry, but you look like someone I know. Do you know Samantha Gaines?

SAMANTHA

(objective)

I get that a lot. Yet as you can see by my nameplate, I am not.

KENNETH

I have a friend in Arlington Heights that works for AD-Lib. And he says...

SAMANTHA

(softly interjects)

Well, yes, I am quite familiar with Miss Gaines and her many accomplishments.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

But I assure you that like Miss
Gaines, I am trying to make Indian
Ads a prosperous and recognized
name in American advertising.

(beat)

And hopefully you can be a part of
that.

KENNETH

Well, Miss Michaels, I would just
like to say that I'm a quick
learner, hard worker, and motivated
individual.

(beat)

I hope you will strongly consider
me as a potential and future
employee.

(rises from his seat)

Thank you very much for your time
and have a great day.

SAMANTHA

(rises from desk and
shakes his hand)

Thank you, Kenneth.

A smiling Kenneth departs OUT OF VIEW from the office, the
door closing behind him.

Samantha, seated alone at her desk, gives Kenneth's resume a
long glance.

PAPER SHREDDER

Rests underneath Samantha's desk. Samantha's hand appears
INTO VIEW, as it places the resume in the shredder, as it
completely RENDERS it.

FADE OUT.

THE END