

REBEL

Created By
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Inspired by the life of Erin Brockovich

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ACT ONE

1 EXT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY - NIGHT 1

A sexy helicopter shot carries us from the heart of Hollywood, over the hills and to the suburbs of LA.

2 EXT. FANCY HOTEL - NIGHT 2

It's one of those high end hotels just outside LA where various industries gather to pat themselves on the back.

3 INT. FANCY HOTEL BALL ROOM - NIGHT 3

STAYER CORP DINNER. A couple dozen circular tables. Well dressed MEN and WOMEN congratulating themselves. MUSIC PLAYS, the drinks are flowing, laughter abounds. An EMCEE is on a stage, at a podium.

EMCEE

Ladies and Gentleman, thank you for joining us. Here at Stayer Corp, we are a family. A family who pride ourselves on mutual respect, community engagement and medical achievements that are changing lives all over the world.

The crowd applauds.

EMCEE (CONT'D)

And we manage all of that *and* record breaking profits.

The crowd laughs. As the Emcee prattles on, ANNIE FLYNN RAY BELLO (AKA REBEL) watches from the back of the room. Rebel is fearless, relentless, fast talking, whip smart, persuasive, funny, fierce, and has tunnel vision that works both for and against her. Right now, she's sexy as hell in her cocktail dress, excellent cleavage on proud display.

Her eyes are on the CEO, MARK DUNCAN, a silver fox in a nine thousand dollar suit. His much younger wife, LILAH, sits beside him. Rebel approaches and greets them both with a warm smile.

REBEL

Hello there, Mr. Duncan. I like your tie. It's bold, like you.

DUNCAN

Oh. Well, thank you...

He's trying to place her.

REBEL
Annie. And is this your daughter?

Lilah smiles awkwardly.

LILAH
I'm his wife, Lilah Duncan.

REBEL
(awkward)
Oh! Lilah. Well. Hi. I'm Annie.

LILAH
I'm just going to the ladies, you
can take my seat, Annie. Nice to
meet you.

As Lilah walks away...

REBEL
Well that was embarrassing.

DUNCAN
She's used to it.

REBEL
I try hard not to judge but what is
it that men find so challenging about
women their own age? I mean...I get
it, youth is fun. But women my age?
We have some hard earned *skills*.

As Rebel reaches for Duncan's martini...

REBEL (CONT'D)
You mind? I always get nervous at
these things.

DUNCAN
I'm sorry, Annie, but I'm having
trouble placing you.

REBEL
That's fair 'cause we haven't met in
person, but we've been emailing some.
I'm Annie Flynn Ray Bello.

Duncan's face falls.

REBEL (CONT'D)
But I had too many husbands and picked
up too many names so most folks these
days just call me Rebel.

He's instantly furious but stunned silent.

REBEL (CONT'D)

I know, you've seen me on talk shows,
but I look better in person, right?

DUNCAN

How did you get in here?

REBEL

Bought enough stock to land an
invitation. Then I sold it 'cause I
think we both know that when I do
what I do, it'll be next to worthless.

DUNCAN

How dare you? Really, the audacity--

REBEL

Mark, I'm here out of the goodness
of my heart, giving you one last
chance to do the right thing quietly.
Before I get...awfully loud.

Duncan stares at her, genuinely stunned by her audacity.

DUNCAN

Bello, I have nothing to hide. I am
proud of the work I do and of the
company I've built. We save lives--

REBEL

Except when you take them.

DUNCAN

You have no proof of that. If you
did, your lawyers would be approaching
my lawyers.

REBEL

I don't have lawyers. I'm not a
company. I'm an advocate for people
who've been hurt. Real people who--

DUNCAN

NO. This folksy thing you do? It
may fool some people, but I'm not
biting. Get out, Bello.

Rebel takes a breath. Drops the warm, playful, folksy vibe
and looks this man in the eye.

REBEL

Sir, there's a problem with Stayer
Corp's mechanical heart valve. It's
hurting people--

DUNCAN

I have testimonials that say otherwise.

REBEL

Just because it's not hurting all the people who get it doesn't mean it's not broken.

DUNCAN

If you don't get out, I'm calling security.

Rebel studies him a beat.

REBEL

No need to make a scene, Mark. Sorry we couldn't come to terms.

She gets up with a smile, finishes his drink, then walks out of the ball room.

4

INT. HOTEL AREA OUTSIDE BALL ROOM - NIGHT

4

Rebel emerges from the ball room and gives a WHISTLE TO a teenage girl with homemade tats and heavy eye liner. This is ZIGGIE BELLO, 15, Rebel's rebellious, adopted daughter (picture Selena Gomez.) She is standing at the end of the hall, by the doors to the outside. Ziggie nods and opens the outer doors.

In pour about 50 PROTESTERS carrying signs that say things like, "YOUR HEART VALVE MADE ME SICKER." "MY HUSBAND DIED WHEN YOU POISONED HIS HEART." "MY HEART VALVE IS KILLING ME."

REBEL

Welcome to the party, friends.

One of the protesters, HELEN, 50's, stops to talk to her. Helen is thin and fragile, dark circles under eyes and a fire in her belly.

HELEN

Are you sure about this?

REBEL

Helen, everything in history that ever got done got done because someone like you got pissed off. Get in there and make some noise!

Ziggie runs up.

ZIGGIE
Mom, press is here!

REBEL
Perfect timing.

Rebel takes out a compact and checks her lipstick as A REPORTER and CAMERAMAN approach.

MAX
Thanks for the tip, Rebel.

As the reporter and cameraman follow the protesters into the ballroom, Rebel hands Ziggie her phone, her purse, and her jewelry.

REBEL
Okay, Ziggie Stardust, Mama's gotta go get arrested. You know who to call?

Ziggie is all fifteen year old attitude.

ZIGGIE
Of course I know who to call.

REBEL
Call Cruz first--

ZIGGIE
I KNOW WHO TO CALL.

REBEL
You're taking a tone with me but last time you said you knew who to call, you didn't call anyone, and I spent the whole day in jail in Fresno.

ZIGGIE
I'm 72 days clean and sober!

REBEL
TONE, young lady!

ZIGGIE
Mom, just GO!

As Rebel heads for the ballroom, she calls over her shoulder--

REBEL
And don't you dare sell my jewelry again, Ziggie, I swear to God!

She disappears into the ballroom. Ziggy rolls her eyes and, putting on her mom's rings for safety, heads for the exit.

5 INT. FANCY HOTEL BALL ROOM - NIGHT

5

It's mayhem. The Protesters are screaming and making a scene, reporters are filming it, SUITS are shielding their faces from the camera.

PROTESTER ONE

You were supposed to heal me and you made me sicker!

PROTESTER TWO

You ruined my life!

HELEN

You never tested my heart valve on HUMAN BEINGS before you put it in my body!

Mark Duncan is at the microphone on the stage, shouting:

DUNCAN

This is a PRIVATE DINNER. POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED. Everyone please just take your seats. And folks with the signs, you are TRESPASSING!

Rebel walks out on stage.

REBEL

We just can't get enough of each other. Lilah might get jealous.

DUNCAN

I'm putting you in jail, Bello.

REBEL

Looking forward to it, Mark. Meantime, can I borrow that mic?

It wasn't a question. She takes it from him and taps on it, creating loud feedback intentionally. The sound quiets people.

REBEL (CONT'D)

Protestors, get out now before the police show up. Everyone else, listen up. Stayer Corporation's heart valves are leeching poison into human beings--

Mark Duncan grabs the mic from her --

DUNCAN

Tens of thousands of people have a
new lease on life because of that
heart valve!

Rebel grabs the mic back. Duncan doesn't let go. So they tug
of war as--

REBEL

It's causing auto-immune disease,
wreaking havoc on their bodies--

DUNCAN

You will not stand at my party and
tell lies!

REBEL

Knowing you're making people sicker
and doing it anyway, for profit?
That's my definition of evil.

DUNCAN

HOW DARE YOU?

Duncan tugs hard and the tug of war ends in Rebel FALLING
OFF THE STAGE, ONTO A TABLE. It's a HUGE CRASH. Glass breaks.
People scream. Rebel looks shocked, but not injured. She
smiles at the people who were sitting at that table.

REBEL

Not the exit I planned to make.
Apologies.
(then, into the mic)
I'm fine. All good! Send in the
police!

As the reporters snap pics and as the police rush toward
her, Rebel forces a smile for the cameras. As the police
cuff her and the cameras roll...

CUT TO:

6	EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT	6
	A POLICE CAR with SIRENS and LIGHTS winds it way through THE L.A night...	
7	INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT	7
	Rebel rides in the back seat of the car, looking out at night.	
8	INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL CELL - NIGHT	8
	Rebel sits beside NAOMI LEE, 25, whose t-shirt is blood splattered.	

REBEL
 You stabbed him? And he survived?
 What do you, have bad aim?

NAOMI
 I wasn't trying to kill him!

REBEL
 Why the hell not? From the look of
 your neck he was trying to kill you!

NAOMI
 I was just trying to get away!

Rebel studies the bruises on her neck.

REBEL
 Wait til those bruises get a little
 darker, then get pictures from every
 angle and make sure your face is in
 them. Your lawyer will need those.

NAOMI
 Don't have a lawyer. Think I'm kinda
 safer in jail.

Rebel stares at her. Is she serious?

NAOMI (CONT'D)
 I mean, I tried leaving him once. He
 followed me everywhere. Called me
 every five minutes. Scratched at my
 window with a knife in the middle of
 the night.

As Rebel takes that in...

REBEL
 Tell me again why you didn't aim to
 kill?

9 EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

9

Outside the police station, AIDEN BELLO (50's, a James Marsden type) leans against his 1967 FORD MUSTANG. Aiden looks even better than his vintage car and he knows it.

A Prius pulls up and parks a few spots away and LANA RAY (40's, a Regina King type) climbs out. Lana is no nonsense, a woman of faith with a strong moral compass who has survived a lot in this life and doesn't suffer fools.

Out of the passenger side of the car climbs CASSIDY RAY, 28, a Zoe Kravitz type. One part lawyer, one part recovered juvenile delinquent, Cass is not happy to be here.

She's on the phone.

CASSIDY

(into the phone)

No, it's already all over the news. Every station locally and it's the lead story on BuzzFeed. Twitter's exploding, calling her an anarchist like it's a compliment. CNN pundits think she's working for Stayer Corp's competitors. TMZ says she was drunk. ...I know. Cruz, I *know*. Yes, I'll tell her.

As Cass wraps up her phone call, Lana hurriedly approaches Aiden.

LANA

Is she out?

AIDEN

Not yet.

LANA

Then what are you doing out here?

AIDEN

I'm waiting.

LANA

She's your wife.

AIDEN

Flynn is in there. I'm not a fan.

CASSIDY

You're aware your daughter is also in there?

AIDEN

I'M HERE. Ziggy knows I'm here. We have these incredible modern technical devices called text messages.

CASSIDY

A text message is not a device.

AIDEN

Why is everyone all over me? I'm not the one who went and got myself arrested again.

CASSIDY

Okay, Lana, let's go.

Cass turns to discover that Lana is already across the street.

10 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

10

Ziggie sits waiting when Lana approaches.

LANA

Hey baby girl.

ZIGGIE

Hey Lana.

LANA

I prefer Auntie.

ZIGGIE

I prefer to be fifteen and not five.
Did you bring bail?

LANA

I brought bail, and I brought your
sister who is not happy.
(parental, firm)
And we're gonna hit a meeting after
this.

Cassidy storms in.

CASSIDY

You let her do this to you AGAIN?

As Ziggie rolls her eyes, Lana goes to the window to pay bail.

ZIGGIE

She didn't do anything to me. I
volunteered!

CASSIDY

You're fifteen! She shouldn't be
involving you in her criminal
endeavors!

ZIGGIE

Cass, I know you think Mom's a bitch
but I think she's a righteous bitch
and I like to help.

CASSIDY

It's not about what I think or what
you like, it's about keeping you out
of juvie. It sucks in juvie. You
don't want to go there.

ZIGGIE

I didn't break any laws. Mom did.
And anyway, Mom's work is not the
reason you went to juvie.

CASSIDY

Maybe not, but mom's obsession with
her work was part of it, Ziggy. I
was left with *strangers*. On a regular
basis.

ZIGGIE

So you should be happy mom takes me
with her when she works!

As they continue to argue...

11 INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

11

Rebel is pacing in her cell. A cop approaches. This is
WOODROW FLYNN, late 50's, a Woody Harrelson type, warm and
kind, smarter than he looks, better at his job than he seems.
People underestimate him and he uses it to his advantage.

FLYNN

You again?

Rebel smiles.

REBEL

You miss me?

Flynn smiles and unlocks the gate. There's an easy familiarity
and warmth between them. A pockmarked junkie, AMY, pipes up.

AMY

You're just gonna let her out? Why,
cause she's famous?

FLYNN

No, cause she made bail.

REBEL

Also cause he's my ex husband and he
needs me to earn the money to pay
him his palimony.

FLYNN

You don't have to say it like it's a
bad thing.

They exchange a smile. This fight is too old to bother with
anymore. As they walk...

FLYNN (CONT'D)

TMZ got a shot that went right up
your skirt.

REBEL

Those bastards.

12 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

12

Flynn escorts Rebel out.

FLYNN

Hey Fam.

LANA

Don't do that. Don't say "fam."

FLYNN

Why not?

LANA

Just don't.

Rebel hugs Ziggy then Lana.

REBEL

You did good, kiddo.

(then)

Thanks for coming Mama Llama.

LANA

Always.

REBEL

Hey, can you bail out my cellmate
too? Naomi Lee. Stabbed her
boyfriend. I'll explain later.

Lana goes to pay that bail, as Rebel turns to find Cassidy
glaring at her.

REBEL (CONT'D)

You can be mad at me, Cass, but you
should hug me anyway, cause any one
of us could die tomorrow and if it's
me, I don't want you to live with
the guilt of having not hugged your
mother.

CASSIDY

Think I'm gonna roll the dice.

(off Rebel's look)

You got drunk and assaulted a CEO.

REBEL
Assaulted him?! Is that what's being reported?

ZIGGIE
Only by TMZ.

REBEL
Please, I'm the one with the bruises!

CASSIDY
You were drunk, you were trespassing--

REBEL
I had an invitation, and one drink.
(then, to Ziggy)
Where's your dad?

ZIGGIE
Outside.

REBEL
And Cruz?

ZIGGIE
He didn't answer.

CASSIDY
He said he'll talk to you tomorrow.

Rebel takes that in. Looks at Cassidy.

REBEL
He'll *talk to me tomorrow?*

CASSIDY
He doesn't want the case, Mom. And he told you he didn't want it before you went and got yourself arrested.

REBEL
And you're on his side, WHY?

CASSIDY
Because HE'S MY BOSS.

REBEL
I GOT YOU THE JOB!

CASSIDY
And because you're going up against a billion dollar pharmaceutical empire--

REBEL
An EVIL empire!

CASSIDY

Stayer Corp dedicates ten percent of its earnings to philanthropic work and is currently developing a *cure for alzheimers--*

REBEL

What are you, on their payroll?

CASSIDY

It's unwinnable, Mom. And there is exactly zero chance that Cruz, or any attorney, will take this on!

A beat.

REBEL

That sounds like a dare.

And Rebel walks out.

13 EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

13

Rebel emerges from the police station and Aiden whistles like a cat call as she crosses the street.

AIDEN

Lookin' good, jailbird.

REBEL

Thanks for coming, babe.

She walks up to him and greets him with a deep and soulful kiss. But he doesn't kiss her back with much conviction.

REBEL (CONT'D)

What do you smell like?

AIDEN

Stress and sweat. Maybe beer.

Aiden squirms under her gaze.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

You know how I feel about police stations. Can we get out of here?

REBEL

Yeah, no. Can you and Ziggy ride home with Lana? I need to borrow your wheels.

SMASH CUT TO:

14 EXT. BEL AIR NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT 14

Rebel drives Aiden's car through the hills, driving fast, roof down, music blaring.

She finally pulls up at a gated estate. She punches in the gate code she knows by heart.

15 EXT. CRUZ'S HIGH END HOUSE - NIGHT 15

Rebel pounds on the door. CRUZ finally opens it. He's Javier Bardem meets Kevin Costner meets Hugh Grant meets Laurence Fishburn. He's sexy and smart and down to earth and self made and strong in all the best ways and around her age and in his pajamas and irritated at the moment.

CRUZ

It's late, Annie.

REBEL

You're the only person on the planet who calls me that anymore.

A beat.

REBEL (CONT'D)

You're not gonna let me in?

CRUZ

There's a Paul Newman marathon. Cool Hand Luke is eating the eggs. It's my favorite part.

(then)

That fall looked painful. You see a doctor?

REBEL

Three thousand, Cruz.

CRUZ

Annie--

REBEL

Three thousand human beings in one Facebook group all with the same autoimmune disease that didn't exist before they got their heart valves replaced.

CRUZ

I said no. And I meant no. And you went and made a big scene. They got a shot up your skirt. It's embarrassing.

REBEL

It's free publicity! Tomorrow that Facebook group will explode to ten thousand and then to twenty thousand and--

CRUZ

I KNOW HOW IT WORKS, ANNIE!

He yelled so loud it shut her up.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

You work for me. You're on my payroll. It is my job to call you when I need you, NOT the other way around.

REBEL

You have got to be kidding me. Since when do I--

CRUZ

Stop! Stop talking. You're on my porch, you're making me miss my movie, and it's my turn to talk.

A beat. She waits grudgingly.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

My wife was sick for two years. That's two years I spent in and out of hospitals, surrounded by the sick and the dying--

REBEL

Are you seriously using Sharon as an excuse to NOT take this case?? Are you for real right now?!

CRUZ

I'm saying I can't handle this! I need to work on something more cheerful!

REBEL

You're working on a SEX TRAFFICKING CASE, Cruz!

A beat.

CRUZ

I can't afford it, Annie.

REBEL

You're one sad man living in a six
bedroom Bel Air mansion. You can
afford it.

CRUZ

I'm closing the door now.

He starts to close the door, but she blocks it.

REBEL

You cheap, self righteous sonofadick.

CRUZ

What did you just call me?

REBEL

Sharon was my best friend--

CRUZ

Go home, Annie!

REBEL

I sat in that hospital with you and
I hated it too. But innocent people --
good people, like Sharon -- are being
poisoned by their own hearts and the
only way we get that valve off the
market is to fight this case.

CRUZ

Sleep in the yard if you want but
the sprinklers go off at dawn.

And he closes the door in her face.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

16 INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

16

Rebel is dressed up, camera ready, looking fantastic. A news anchor, MARTA DAWSON, sits across from her as cameras roll.

MARTA DAWSON

We're here today with Annie Flynn Ray Bello who made quite a scene at Stayer Corporation's annual shareholder meeting this week. It's good to have you, Rebel.

The TMZ photo up her skirt is captioned on the screen.

REBEL

(laughing)

Marta, please don't ever show that picture again.

Marta laughs with her.

MARTA DAWSON

So Rebel, you're a thorn in the side of a lot of corporations--

REBEL

Corporate *polluters*. I'm not against corporations. I'm a proud American - let everyone make their livings. Just, y'know, don't poison people while you do it. Seems pretty simple, doesn't it? I mean, poison in the water, cancer clusters, two headed frogs? Can't we all just agree that's wrong?

MARTA DAWSON

So is Stayer Corporation polluting our water supply?

REBEL

I mean, probably? Most pharmaceutical companies are, but I went to the party to talk to them about their mechanical heart valves--

FADE TO:

17 INT. REBEL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

17

Rebel's interview on the TV screen in her own bedroom.

REBEL ON THE TV
 --which I have reason to believe are
 polluting people's actual
 bloodstreams. And this one really
 struck a personal cord for me because--

Rebel, naked between the sheets beside a naked Aiden, flips
 the TV screen off.

AIDEN
 Hey, I was watching that!

Rebel rolls over to kiss him.

REBEL
 Happy almost Anniversary, babe.

AIDEN
 Right back at you.

They make out a little more. Her face is not yet made up,
 her breasts are not yet pushed up. Beside him, she looks
 earthy and raw, her softer side.

REBEL
 Damn, I've missed you.

AIDEN
 (defensive)
 I've been right here. You're the one
 who works all the time.

REBEL
 I won't go to work today. I'll stay
 in bed with you.

AIDEN
 If you don't get up, who'll save the
 world?

She smiles. And then her eyes brim with tears. She's tired
 and vulnerable.

REBEL
 I keep hoping that one day I'll wake
 up, and the world will have decided
 to save itself.

AIDEN
 Please. You'd be bored to tears.

A beat.

REBEL
Cruz hasn't answered my calls for
three days.

AIDEN
When did that ever stop you? Get up,
firecracker.

He smacks her ass and she laughs. Then he heads for the bathroom and she watches after him a beat. Her smile fades because she's got a bad feeling.

She reaches for his pants which are on the floor from where he dropped them last night and she digs through the pockets. Gum wrappers. A receipt. And a BUSINESS CARD.

It's thick paper, high end. It has a woman's name on it and a phone number. She grabs her phone, snaps a picture of the card, then puts it all back and drops the pants.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. REBEL'S HOUSE - DAY

18

Lana is waiting behind the wheel of Rebel's car which is basically their rolling office. Rebel gets in the car as Lana sips her coffee. They are closer than sisters because they tell each other the truth.

REBEL
I think Aiden's having an affair.

Lana chokes on her coffee. She looks at Rebel and she can see she means it.

LANA
Why do you think that?

REBEL
Cause I've been here before and I
know the signs.

LANA
You sure you're not leaping?
Sometimes you leap.

Rebel pulls up the photo of the woman's business card.

REBEL
Look at this. Found it in his pocket.

LANA
It's just a name and a number. It
could be a high end jeweler and he's
buying you something nice.

REBEL

Could be a high end hooker and he's buying himself something nice. Look into it, will you?

Lana starts the car and as they drive...

19 INT. LANA'S CAR - DRIVING - CONTINUOUS

19

LANA

Stalking your husband is not in my job description.

REBEL

You don't have a job description! I made up your whole damn job! Because you were unemployable to anyone else y'damn junkie!

That makes Lana laugh. This is just how they talk to each other.

LANA

I'm a clean and sober junkie, you mean wench. And you couldn't do half of what you do without me and I think we're both clear on that.

REBEL

Lana, I'm not ordering you to do it I'm asking you to call that number so I don't have to. I can't go through it again. Can't be blindsided *again*. I love that man but if he's cheating, I need to know so I can kill him.

LANA

If he's cheating you can't kill him cause I'll do it first.

As Rebel texts Lana the picture...

20 INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

20

It's a high end, glass walled law firm, modern and sleek. The camera follows the sound of a ringing phone, winding its way through the offices until we find...

21 INT. CASSIDY'S OFFICE - DAY

21

Cassidy's sitting at her desk. She answers the ringing phone.

CASSIDY

This is Cassidy Ray... I'm sorry who is this? Naomi Lee. ... Uh huh. You met her in jail? No. Of course my mother gave you my number.

Off Cassidy, listening, irritated...

22 INT. NATE'S MEDICAL PRACTICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

22

In the waiting room, Rebel sits beside an injured army vet, JUDD, 30s, and listens to his tale of woe.

JUDD

I've seen three specialists. No diagnosis. And the VA is saying they won't pay for any more. Doesn't seem right, does it?

She grabs a pen, rips a flier out of a magazine and writes down a phone number.

REBEL

This is my daughter Cassidy's number. She's a lawyer and if you tell her I sent you, you won't pay a dime.

The receptionist, MARIA, 50's, maternal, calls for Judd.

MARIA

Judd Lawson, the doctor will see you now.

REBEL

Judd, honey, you mind if I sneak in before you?

JUDD

I mean, I'm kinda in pain so--

REBEL

Just need a quick convo with my son. Won't be ten minutes.

She doesn't wait for an answer. Off Judd, not quite sure how to feel...

23 INT. LAW FIRM - CASSIDY'S OFFICE - DAY

23

Cassidy and her colleague AMIR, 35, smart, sexy, and arrogant, sit listening to Naomi.

NAOMI

We met when I was fourteen and he was twenty. When my parents found out, I ran away cause I loved him. So stupid.

Naomi fights back tears. Cassidy pushes the box of tissues toward her.

AMIR

Naomi, are you ready to leave him? Because we can go to court and claim self defense but if you aren't ready to leave--

NAOMI

I had promise. That's what my teachers used to write on my report cards. That I had promise. ...Y'know, until I met your mom, I kinda thought this was like, my fault? But now? I want my life back. I want my promise back. I want my family back. And I kinda wish I'd stabbed him in his heart.

CASSIDY

My Mom does have a way of inspiring people to want to commit murder.

NAOMI

Totally.

Off Cassidy, jaded...

24 INT. NATE'S MEDICAL PRACTICE - EXAM ROOM - DAY

24

Rebel waits in the exam room. NATHANIEL "Nate" FLYNN (picture Ryan Gosling at 30) enters.

NATE

Something wrong with your prostate, mom?

REBEL

Are you offering to put a finger up my butt, son?

NATE

Ew!

REBEL

Don't dish it out if you can't take it, Nate.

Rebel smiles.

NATE
What are you doing here?

REBEL
I'm offering you an opportunity.

NATE
No.

REBEL
Stayer Corp--

NATE
Mom, no. I'm not getting involved in
your vigilante--

REBEL
Stayer Corp is poisoning people--

NATE
Yeah, I saw you on the news and I
did a little research and turns out
YOU HAVE NO PROOF.

Rebel reaches into her bag and pulls out a picture of
protester Helen.

REBEL
This is Helen. She's had four heart
valve replacements, first one when
she was nine years old. Never had a
problem before but since she got the
Stayer Corp valve--

NATE
This is not proof, Mom! This is an
online group of angry women and their
anecdotal evidence!

REBEL
*"Angry women and their anecdotal
evidence??"* Nate, I swear, that
could be the name of my next memoir.

NATE
Stayer Corp's heart valves were
approved by the FDA.

REBEL
There's a loophole in the FDA and
you know it, you little jackhole.
Those valves were grandfathered in.
They were never tested on humans.

NATE
They last decades longer than the
next best option.

REBEL
That's what the doctors told Helen!
And her daughter Maddie who has the
same heart disease! And now--

NATE
Mom, there's no science to support
anything you're saying!

REBEL
I KNOW! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, NATE!

As they yell at each other we...

CUT TO:

25 INT. NATE'S MEDICAL PRACTICE - WAITING ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS 25
Judd and Maria listen to Nate and Rebel fighting.

REBEL (O.S.)
IT'S TIME FOR A FORMAL STUDY. I'M
ASKING YOU TO OVERSEE THAT STUDY.

NATE (O.S.)
YOUR EVIDENCE IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL.
IT'S OBSERVATIONAL.

JUDD
(to Maria)
She's that famous lawyer, right?

MARIA
She's not a lawyer. She's just a
loudmouth.

CUT TO

26 INT. NATE'S MEDICAL PRACTICE - EXAM ROOM - DAY 26
Rebel stares at him.

REBEL
Your father thought your desire for
a medical degree was "hoity toity."
That's the word he used. He wanted
you to be a beat cop, like him.

NATE

Yes mom, you paid for my education
like parents do. Am I supposed to
feel guilty for that just because
you didn't do any of the other normal
things parents do?

REBEL

Ouch.

That hurt. Nate looks a little sorry but he doesn't say the
words. Rebel pulls out a file folder and hands it to him.

REBEL (CONT'D)

Please just talk to these people.
Write down their shared symptoms.
Begin a study.

NATE

WHY?

REBEL

So that I can tell Cruz there's a
study underway and not be lying!
And because it's the right thing to
do even though it was your mother's
idea!

NATE

You don't even know these people,
Mom! Let it go!

REBEL

Damn, Nate. Who raised you?

NATE

Nannies and mannies on motorcycles.
Cause you were always busy saving
strangers.

A beat.

REBEL

I'm sorry. I'm sorry your childhood
was compromised. I'm sorry my
compassion for my fellow human beings
caused you suffering.

NATE

What started out sounding like an
apology now sounds suspiciously like
a guilt--

REBEL

You're a *doctor*! Your patients are strangers when they walk through your door but when they're sick, when they're hurting and you can fix it, don't you want to do everything you can?

Nate takes that in. Cause he does.

REBEL (CONT'D)

Do a study and make it my anniversary present. I know you don't like Aiden, but I stayed married ten years, that's gotta be worth something.

NATE

I have patients waiting. See you at the party.

REBEL

Think about it. A present. It costs you nothing but time.

NATE

Goodbye, mother!

And she's out the door, not happy.

27 INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

27

Cassidy and Amir see Naomi out.

CASSIDY

Keep your phone on. Answer when I call.

NAOMI

Okay. Thank you both, so much.

AMIR

Good to meet you, Naomi.

Amir smiles, but once Naomi is gone, his smile drops. As he and Cass walk through the office...

AMIR (CONT'D)

How much of your time does your mother expect you to spend on pro bono work?

CASSIDY

I didn't ask you to help.

AMIR

How much of your time?

CASSIDY

My mom pushed me to take my GED after I spent most of high school in juvie.

AMIR

You spent most of high school in juvie because you had a neglectful mother and a father who couldn't stand to be around her.

CASSIDY

Her name helped me get into college and then law school and I did not graduate at the top of my class, I graduated closer to the bottom because I spent all of my time in clinics helping real people, and almost none of it in the library learning arbitrary trivia that I will never use in practice. And my mom got Cruz to hire me anyway.

AMIR

And that means she can pass out your phone number like it's a tic tac?

CASSIDY

It gives me practice, Amir. It buys me time in a courtroom. And when I'm ready to be done with her, trust me, I'll be done with her.

Cassidy walks into a supply closet, the only room with walls of not-glass. The only room that allows for privacy. The door closes on Amir. He hangs outside, waiting as a cluster of colleagues pass by. Then he ducks inside too.

28 INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY

28

Amir locks the door behind him and he and Cassidy are instantly all over each other, hot and heavy, lips together, hands wandering.

AMIR

When are you gonna tell her about me?

CASSIDY

It's a bad idea.

AMIR

Why?

CASSIDY

As a rule, my mother dislikes lawyers.

As clothes start coming off...

29 EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - DAY

29

Rebel knocks on the door of a modest, single-family home.

REBEL

Helen? It's Rebel! Need to pick your brain!

MADDIE, 25 and eight months pregnant, opens the door.

REBEL (CONT'D)

Oh hey -- hi. Are you Maddie?

MADDIE

I am.

REBEL

I'm a friend of your mom's. She's told me so much about you. Is she around?

Maddie bursts into tears.

REBEL (CONT'D)

Honey, what is it?

30 INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - DAY

30

Maddie shows Rebel in to Helen's room. Helen is lying in bed, immobile with pain, the room is dark.

REBEL

Helen?

MADDIE

She won't let me call an ambulance.

REBEL

She doesn't get to be the boss of that.

HELEN

Rebel. I'm sorry. I need to die now. The pain's too much. I need to go. Please help me go.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

31 INT. HOSPITAL - ER - DAY

31

Rebel is sitting by Helen's bed, Maddie across from her holding Helen's hand. Helen is unconscious.

MADDIE

What are we...what are we gonna do?
They can't just keep her drugged up
forever.

REBEL

I'm gonna help her. I promise you,
Maddie, I'm gonna find a way to help.

Maddie wipes away tears, grateful.

REBEL (CONT'D)

Maddie... your mom told me about
your situation. And she told me you're
not wanting to fight. But I'm trying
to persuade a lawyer to take this
case, and I am in need of sympathetic
witnesses. With your mom laid up
like this--

MADDIE

No. Please don't ask me that. I'm so
grateful you want to help my mom.
But...I can't. I'm not strong like
her.

A beat.

REBEL

My youngest daughter is 15 years
old. Ziggy Stardust. She's my heart.
I made a lot of mistakes with my
older kids but with Ziggy, I got it
pretty right. And she always says
that same thing. That she's not strong
like me. Not a fighter. She got strung
out on painkillers after she snapped
her achilles playing volleyball. It
happened so fast. Happy kid one day.
Shattered life the next. And now?
She's 73 days clean and sober. You
know how hard that is? You know how
much fight that takes? She said she
wasn't a fighter but she's fighting,
and she's winning. You're stronger
than you realize, Maddie. And right
now your mom needs you to fight.

As Maddie takes that in, tortured, Lana approaches Rebel.

LANA

Spoke to a nurse. Naomi's boyfriend had surgery but it was minor. They're discharging him tonight so we have to work fast.

32 EXT. ZIGGIE'S HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

32

Ziggie waits outside the school. And waits. And waits. In a time lapse sequence...All the buses are gone now. Ziggie looks dark and broody. She picks up her phone and texts her mom. "I thought you were picking me up!" She waits. Nothing.

33 INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

33

Cassidy faces the JUDGE, with Amir and Naomi at the table beside her. PROSECUTOR DAVIS sits at the opposing table. Cassidy's father, BENJI (picture Blair Underwood, 50's, handsome in an expensive suit) is watching from the gallery.

JUDGE

And how does the defendant plead?

CASSIDY

Not Guilty, Your Honor. She stabbed him in self defense.

JUDGE

And the state says?

DAVIS

She *stabbed* him, Your Honor. There are less violent ways to defend yourself.

CASSIDY

He's a foot taller and fifty pounds heavier and he was choking her, Your Honor. If the state believes there was a less violent route, perhaps he should wrap his hands around my throat--

DAVIS

Objection!

CASSIDY

And squeeze til I can't breathe--

DAVIS

Objection!

CASSIDY

And then we can see how non-violent
I am in my attempts to remove him.

DAVIS

Objection, Your Honor!

CASSIDY

I bet you object! She objected too!
She was fighting for her life and
the only means she had to do it was
a kitchen knife that happened to be
within reach. I would do the same
thing. And so would any of you.

Off Cassidy, crushing it...

34 EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

34

Rebel and Lana sit with coffees and muffins, waiting outside
the courthouse.

REBEL

They hit her with some painkillers
and hydrated her and said that's all
they can do.

A look crosses Rebel's face. Lana reacts.

REBEL (CONT'D)

I'm gonna pay to have Helen's heart
valve replaced.

LANA

No! You cannot single handedly save
every human being on the planet!

REBEL

I'm not. I'm saving Helen.

LANA

No! It's a hundred thousand dollars
that you don't have!

REBEL

It's the fastest way to prove I'm
right! If they change that valve out
and she gets better, Cruz will get
on board.

LANA

You already took a second mortgage
on your house. You're gonna go broke!

REBEL

Once upon a time I was a single mother with two babies, a broken down car, and no way to pay the rent. A second mortgage is not my idea of "going broke." A second mortgage just means I actually own something I can mortgage!

LANA

Not for long.

REBEL

Helen organized the whole damn group! Without her, I've got nothing. I made a scene for nothing! I let TMZ get a shot of my g string for nothing!

LANA

So you're doing this to protect your brand?

Rebel stares at her, pissed.

LANA (CONT'D)

I'm telling you the truth. It's half my damn job to tell you the truth. Fight this thing the right way. But don't bankrupt your family doing it. Get Cruz on board.

Rebel takes that in, knows she's right.

REBEL

What if Helen dies before I can?

LANA

Work fast.

A beat as Rebel silently concedes, then glances at her phone.

REBEL

Crap. CRAP! Damn it.

LANA

What?

REBEL

I told Ziggy we would pick her up and help set up the party. Damn it.

As Rebel dials Ziggy, Cassidy emerges from the courthouse, Naomi in tow.

REBEL (CONT'D)

You did it! Good girl, Cassidy!

CASSIDY

I'm not a dog.

LANA

She means good job.

CASSIDY

You're welcome.

Cassidy walks away, back toward the courthouse. Naomi smiles at Rebel, grateful.

NAOMI

Your daughter is a serious bad ass.

REBEL

Thank you, I agree.

(into the phone)

Zig! I'm so sorry! I blew it. My client had a breakdown and I had to take her to the hospital and now I'm at the courthouse.

Rebel listens as Ziggy yells. She holds the phone away from her ear.

NAOMI

So what now? Do I like...skip town? Go into hiding?

LANA

No rush. If we do our jobs right, he won't be free for at least a few years.

NAOMI

What do you mean "do our jobs?" What is your job?

LANA

I work with Rebel.

REBEL

(into the phone)

I'm sorry, Zig. I know! God, I know what I said! I--

LANA

(to Rebel)

Tell her I said to go to a meeting.

NAOMI

And Rebel's like, a lawyer?

REBEL

God no, ick. Do I look like a lawyer to you?

(into the phone)

Yes, Ziggie, Lana says go to a meeting. GOD, STOP YELLING AT ME, I SAID I'M SORRY! Take a Lyft or call your dad!

Rebel hangs up.

REBEL (CONT'D)

When have you ever seen a *lawyer* in a suede mini skirt?

LANA

Can we focus please?

REBEL

She called me a LAWYER. I need to go SHOPPING.

LANA

She's an advocate. She doesn't have to follow the same rules that lawyers follow.

REBEL

That man choked you and you were about to go to prison for it. That sound right to you?

NAOMI

No. That sounds--

REBEL

Exactly. The legal system is rigged against you. So we do what we can to tip the scales toward justice.

LANA

We don't break any laws. We just...help you shore up your case.

NAOMI

And like, how much do you charge?

REBEL

Some cases we do for money, some for love, some for fun. Yours is fun.

(to Lana)

I gotta go ambush Cruz. You got this?

LANA
I'm all over it.

As Rebel walks away...

REBEL
And call Aiden's hooker, Lana!

A beat.

NAOMI
What do we do?

LANA
Your boo keep any drugs in the house?

NAOMI
He's my ex-boo. And yeah, he does.

Off Naomi, inspired to fight...

35 INT. COURTHOUSE - CORRIDOR - DAY

35

As Cass walks back into the courthouse to meet Amir, her father, Benji, approaches.

BENJI
That was pretty incredible, kid.

CASSIDY
Dad! What are you doing here?

She greets him with a hug.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
This is my colleague, Amir. This is my father, Benji Ray.

Benji looks from Cass to Amir then back to Cass.

BENJI
Your "colleague" huh?

AMIR
Nice to meet you, Sir. I'm a big admirer of your work.

CASSIDY
I know it sounds like he's kissing your ass, but he actually is.

Benji smiles.

BENJI

You got time for lunch, Cass? Just the two of us?

CUT TO:

36 INT. LUNCH CAFE - DAY

36

Cass sits across from Benji who has just dropped a bomb.

CASSIDY

You want me to come work for you?

BENJI

Not for me With me. You'd be a junior associate. With a salary a lot higher than what Cruz pays you.

CASSIDY

Well yeah, because you work for the dark side.

BENJI

I work for the side that pays.

CASSIDY

You work for the corporations--

BENJI

How much money you think Cruz gave to the ACLU last year? Because I'm willing to bet it's less than I gave.

CASSIDY

Dad--

BENJI

You want to be on the side of the good guys, Cass, and I AM a good guy. Your mother and I support all the same charities, all the same causes. Only difference is, I can write them a bigger check, have a bigger impact.

CASSIDY

You fight on the side of corporate polluters.

BENJI

It's not my job to judge my clients. It's my job to help a judge or jury interpret the law. That's what I do. Doesn't make me evil.

CASSIDY
Are you sure about that?

BENJI
(laughing)
You really are your mother's daughter.

CASSIDY
Am not.

BENJI
Your mother thinks in black and white.
But you, my girl, are both black and
white. So maybe you should learn to
think in shades of grey. Or you
know...mocha. I mean. Unless you
like doing your mother's pro bono
bidding full time.

Off Cass, taking that in...

37 EXT. LOS ANGELES - VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS - DAY

37

IN A SERIES OF CUTS

Rebel knocks on a door and smiles sweetly...

REBEL
Hi there. Willa?

CUT TO:

Rebel adjusts her mini skirt and pulls her shirt down a
little, using all she's got as she knocks on another door...

REBEL (CONT'D)
Hey there, are you Daniel?

CUT TO:

Rebel pulls off her heels and massages her feet for a quick
sec before she puts them on and knocks on another.

REBEL (CONT'D)
Hey, there, I'm Annie. Got your
name from Helen?

Traffic and clouds move across freeways and skies to establish
the passage of time as we...

CUT TO:

38 INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

38

Rebel enters, followed by Maddie and a dozen others we may recognize from the protest. Among them are DANIEL (70), and WILLA (55). In the bright lights, they all look quite sick.

REBEL
(bellowing)
CRUZ, WHERE ARE YOU?

Several ASSOCIATES emerge from their offices.

ASSOCIATE
Oh hell yeah, Rebel's on a tear.

AMIR
Always fun to watch.

REBEL
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME YOUR WHOLE
LIFE, CRUZ!

Finally Cruz emerges from a conference room.

REBEL (CONT'D)
Hey Handsome. Brought some folks who
want a word with you. Now a good
time?

CRUZ
It's really not.

REBEL
Cool. We'll just camp out in the
halls 'til you're ready.

She slides down the wall and sits on the floor.

CRUZ
I think I honestly hate you.

REBEL
You're not the first man to say those
words to me.

He heaves a sigh. Here we go.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

39 INT. LAW FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

39

IN A SERIES OF CUTS, Cruz listens to Rebel's sympathetic witnesses. Rebel sits nearby, encouraging them to talk, empathy in her eyes.

MADDIE

I got pregnant unexpectedly. I have a congenital heart condition but my doctors thought I could manage the pregnancy.

CUT TO:

DANIEL

I was a marathoner well into my 60's. I had my heart valve replaced - they said it would improve my energy. But now, I have trouble staying awake for more than a few minutes at a time.

CUT TO:

WILLA

I was a preschool teacher for thirty years before the surgery.

CUT TO:

MADDIE

I was fine for the first trimester. But the pregnancy was hard on my heart and...I needed a new valve. So I got the one the doctors said would last the longest. My mom and I went in for our surgeries together.

CUT TO:

DANIEL

My wife used to run with me. We would run together. We were happily married for thirty five years.

CUT TO:

WILLA

But after the surgery, I lost forty pounds so quickly that it frightened the children. And my mood. My temper.

(MORE)

WILLA (CONT'D)

I have been diagnosed with depression and anxiety disorders which I never had before.

CUT TO:

DANIEL

My wife left me for a younger man because I just...I couldn't keep up. I miss her. But I can't say I blame her.

CUT TO:

WILLA

I was a happy person if you can believe it. I was the kids' favorite. I have the art to prove it.

She holds up some kid's artwork that reads, "I love you, Miss Willa."

CUT TO:

MADDIE

After the surgery, I started to get headaches, and lose weight and I was diagnosed with an auto-immune disorder. And then... last month my baby was diagnosed with something called hydrops fetalis? It's a build up of fluid around her heart?

CUT TO:

WILLA

I had to retire. I know I look 70 but I'm only 55. I don't expect to live long so I won't have to worry much about how I'll pay my bills.

CUT TO:

MADDIE

They say they don't really know what caused it. They only know there's nothing to be done. So...My baby is...she's due soon. But she is not expected to survive more than a week.

As tears stream down Maddie's face, Rebel has to reach for a tissue herself. Off an almost defeated looking Cruz...

40 INT. LAW FIRM - CORRIDOR - SIMULTANEOUS

40

Cass watches through the walls of glass. Amir approaches.

AMIR

What's happening in there?

CASSIDY

She never learned to play the violin
so she plays human beings instead.

(a beat)

She spends her entire day listening
to the sob stories of strangers and
somehow it doesn't exhaust her. It
energizes her. She studies *cancer
clusters* and she moderates *domestic
violence support groups* and she
travels around the world *testing
water* and fighting for communities
full of *poisoned, dying people*.

Cassidy sounds angry, like she's describing a child molester,
which makes Amir laugh.

AMIR

What a monster.

CASSIDY

I'm saying. My Mom is energized by
the injustice so it doesn't occur to
her that normal human beings have a
breaking point, y'know, a *saturation
level*. Sometimes? When you're turning
thirteen and everyone sings happy
birthday? You want to just eat the
freakin' cake and NOT listen to your
mother, who showed up three hours
late, lecture your friends about the
neurotoxins in the dye that the
grocery store uses in the frosting!

A beat.

AMIR

Did she really do that?

Cassidy just looks at him, cause yes, she did.

CASSIDY

I'm gonna take a job with my dad.

AMIR

Seriously? Will you get me one too?

CASSIDY
So my mom can disown both of us?

As Cassidy walks away...

AMIR
Your mom doesn't even know me.

CASSIDY
It was a joke, Amir, try to keep up.

41 INT. REX AND NAOMI'S RUN DOWN HOUSE - DAY

41

As Naomi finds a suitcase and begins to pack it--

LANA
Mind if I look around?

It's a rhetorical question. Lana looks around. And without too much searching, she spots what she's looking for: a stash of drugs, a gun, ammo.

NAOMI
So I'm just...packing a bag?

LANA
Screw that. Pack everything you want or need cause you're never coming back here.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

FLYNN (O.S.)
Police, open up!

NAOMI
(panicked)
The police? Why are they--?

LANA
Domestic violence only carries a mandatory 14 day sentence in California. But add drugs and an unlicensed gun and the sentence goes to two years minimum.

Lana opens the door.

FLYNN
Whatcha got for me?

LANA
I was just here visiting my friend, Naomi, and I noticed her boyfriend
(MORE)

LANA (CONT'D)
Rex Tyler's drugs and unlicensed
gun.

As he follows her through the apartment...

LANA (CONT'D)
I felt it my duty as a citizen to
report what I saw. And I'd be happy
to testify in a court of law.

FLYNN
You made a rhyme! Was that on purpose?

LANA
Just do your job, Flynn.

As his eyes land on the drugs and gun.

FLYNN
You're a good citizen indeed.

As Flynn photographs the evidence...

42 INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - NA MEETING - DAY

42

A table with a coffee pot and plate of cookies is surrounded
by about a dozen recovering addicts. They include Ziggy,
and a sexy bad boy, SEAN, 17.

SEAN
Hey. Liked your share. I kinda hate
my dad too.

ZIGGIE
Thanks.

SEAN
...Why do your folks call you Ziggy?

ZIGGIE
They had a thing for David Bowie.

SEAN
Not sure who that is.

ZIGGIE
Not sure I can talk to you.

They share a smile.

ZIGGIE (CONT'D)
He's a musician. Had like, an alter
ego? Ziggy Stardust?

Sean laughs.

SEAN
I'll look him up.

ZIGGIE
How long have you been clean?

SEAN
26 days.

ZIGGIE
Ouch. It gets better. I mean...I
have a whole like, 73 days? But...it's
better now than it was for sure.

SEAN
Good to know. ...You want to like,
chill with me sometime?

Ziggie smiles. She very much wants to. But...

ZIGGIE
My sponsor -- who is also kind of
like my Aunt? Would say that's a
bad idea. She would say we need to
keep our focus on recovery if we
want to recover.

A beat. Sean smiles. He likes a chase.

SEAN
Alright then. I'll just...admire you
from afar.

He smiles and walks away. Ziggie watches him walk away.

43 EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

43

Rex emerges from the hospital. He is greeted by Flynn who
approaches him on foot.

FLYNN
Hey there, Rex. How ya' feelin'?

Rex freezes. His eyes dart as he looks for a path through
the crowd.

FLYNN (CONT'D)
I mean. You just had surgery for a
stab wound, so if you run I'll catch
you and it'll hurt, but do what you
need to do. ...Go ahead man, run.
I'd love to add resisting arrest.

A beat. And then the idiot tries to run. But Flynn brought back up. As Rex is tackled by another cop, Flynn just smiles.

44 INT. LAW FIRM - DAY 44

Cruz gets in the elevator. Rebel gets on with him.

45 INT. LAW FIRM - ELEVATOR - DAY 45

Rebel waits. It's a long moment of silence. Finally:

CRUZ

I can't believe you're not talking.

REBEL

If the pregnant 25 year old whose baby's heart was poisoned by its mother's heart valve didn't persuade you...what else can I say?

The elevator doors open.

46 EXT. LAW FIRM - DAY 46

Cruz walks outside, Rebel on his heels.

CRUZ

Annie, you genuinely care about right and wrong and I find that fascinating. Much in the way I find the Cebu Flowerpecker fascinating.

REBEL

The what?

CRUZ

Or the Spix's Macaw. You're a rare bird. People who care like you care -- you're an endangered species and I admire you. But I need to admire you from afar. Preferably through binoculars on an expedition once a year.

A beat.

REBEL

You lost your wife. I lost my best friend. They took her from us.

CRUZ

Stop it.

REBEL

Sharon was healthy and happy until she had a heart valve replaced.

A beat as that lands on him and on us.

REBEL (CONT'D)

And then depression. Anxiety. Panic attacks. Weight loss. Pain. Misery. Headaches so bad she thought about--

CRUZ

STOP IT.

Cruz is furious and emotional in a way we haven't seen him.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

You lost your best friend, but I lost the love of my life! She left me alone, Annie! After twenty years of marriage. You don't know that pain. You watched her fall into depression, you watched her lose weight and suffer headaches, but I *lived it. Every day.* When you were with your family or fighting for some sad, lost cause, I was with Sharon living out her worst nightmare with her. I can't relive it. I can't.

She takes in his pain. But it doesn't break her or stop her.

REBEL

And I can't just drop it. I can't know a thing and unknow it. Stayer Corp knows that valve is bad and they aren't pulling it. And we have the power to stop them. Please, Cruz. Do this with me. Do it for Sharon. She would want you to fight.

Cruz stares at her a long, hard beat.

CRUZ

Annie, I respect you, and I admire you. And I'll always consider you a friend. But you are fired.

REBEL

Cruz--

CRUZ

You are *very deeply fired.*

He means it. She looks stunned. He walks away.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

47 INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

47

Rex waits in a police interrogation room. Flynn unlocks the door and lets Rebel in and then leaves and closes the door, giving her privacy.

REX

You my lawyer?

REBEL

No, I hate lawyers. I'm a friend of Naomi's. And I'm the reason you're gonna leave her alone from now on. You're never gonna call her again. And I swear if you ever hit her or threaten her or stalk her again, you're gonna answer to me and that's gonna be ugly for you. I bring the CEO's of multi-national corporations to their knees and not in a sexy good time way. I pull down billion dollar settlements and you're just some sad little man who likes to hit women. I will eat you for lunch. I will take every penny you've ever earned or stolen. If that doesn't work, I'll get your parents involved. Arthur and Sally who live in Pacoima in that sweet little house they just paid off? I'll take their house and I won't even feel bad about it cause they should have raised their son to know better than to choke a lady. I will devastate you and everyone around you and what's more is, I'll enjoy doing it. And you will rot in jail and in bankruptcy and in misery for the rest of your life if you ever go near her again. Are we clear, Rex?

Rex, stunned and scared, nods. Rebel knocks on the door, and Flynn lets her out.

REBEL (CONT'D)

Thanks. See you at the party?

FLYNN

Wouldn't miss it.

As she walks out...

48 EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY INTO NIGHT 48
The sun sets over the City of Dreams.

49 INT. REBEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 49
Rebel sparkles in her cocktail dress beside Lana.
Flynn is there chatting with his son, Nate.
Cassidy is chatting with her Dad, Benji.
All the non sober people have had a few drinks. The vibe is warm fun, people are quick to laugh at themselves and each other.
Ziggie enters, grudgingly dressed up and irritated.

ZIGGIE
I still can't reach dad.

FLYNN
It's a surprise party. At least we know he'll really be surprised!

REBEL
I barely made it myself, Zig. I'm sure he'll be here soon.

LANA
How about we have some toasts while we wait?

REBEL
Without Aiden?

BENJI
Here here!

Benji raises his glass.

CASSIDY
Not you, Dad!

BENJI
Come on, I have something nice to say!

Lana rolls her eyes.

BENJI (CONT'D)
Rebel, you're not an easy woman.

LANA
Okay yay! Thank you, Benji!

BENJI

I'm getting somewhere! You're not an easy woman but you are...an extraordinary woman. I'm grateful our daughter has your genes. I'm grateful my sister is in your employ. And I'm impressed you found a man who could stay with you for a full ten years.

Rebel laughs and so do her friends.

REBEL

Benji, you corporate sack of crap, I'm glad our daughter has your genes too. Cause you're good looking which is really all I could see when I married you. I mean really, I could not *hear* past the handsome!

Everyone is laughing, having fun. Flynn raises his glass.

Lana's phone rings and she moves off to the side to answer it.

FLYNN

Rebel, I'm proud to call you my Ex.

Everyone laughs.

FLYNN (CONT'D)

I didn't mean it how it came out. I meant...I'm proud to call you my friend. Because of you, our son is a doctor and when my prostate starts to ache, I have somewhere to go.

Everyone laughs. Cassidy checks her texts.

FLYNN (CONT'D)

That didn't sound right either.

NATE

It really didn't, Dad.

And now everyone is really laughing. The doorbell rings.

REBEL

Here he is! Making an entrance. He must know you're here but yell surprise anyway.

ZIGGIE

Mom.

REBEL
 Don't make him feel bad for being
 late, Zig. Come on.

As Ziggy heads for the door, Lana holds Rebel back.

LANA
 It's a divorce attorney.

REBEL
 What?

LANA
 The woman on the card. She just
 called me back. She's not a hooker.
 She's a high end divorce attorney.

As Rebel processes that...Ziggy leads Aiden in.

PARTYGOERS
 SURPRISE!

Aiden smiles.

AIDEN
 Well how 'bout this. Happy
 Anniversary, sweet cheeks.

REBEL
 (cold and quiet)
 It's not our anniversary. Our
 anniversary is in three days. So you
 didn't make it you treacherous prick.

The crowd reacts. Some laughter, some concern.

	ZIGGIE	AIDEN
Mom?		Babe?

REBEL
 In the state of California, if you
 make it to ten years, you're entitled
 to palimony for the rest of your
 life. But you didn't make it. You're
 72 hours shy of your goal
 yousonofalyingdouchebagsackofcrap.

A beat.

ZIGGIE
 Mom, what's going on?

REBEL
 Look at our daughter.
 (MORE)

REBEL (CONT'D)

She's JUST out of rehab. The number one thing they said she needed from us was a *stable environment*.

A beat. Flynn steps forward.

FLYNN

Rebel let's take a walk.

REBEL

(to Aiden)

Did you consult with Benji? Or with Flynn? Did they give you advice on just how to do it? How to pretend you love me and then take me for every penny you can?

BENJI/FLYNN

Ok, that's not--/There's no reason to--

AIDEN

Babe, I swear to God, I don't know what the hell you're talking about!

REBEL

You're consulting a divorce attorney!

AIDEN

No. NO. I'm *building custom cabinets* for a divorce attorney!

A beat. They all stand there, stunned. Rebel is mortified. A long pregnant moment, then:

ZIGGIE

That's a lie.

REBEL

You sure? Cause I'll feel pretty foolish if--

ZIGGIE

He's been sleeping with some blonde. I saw her sneaking out the other day when I skipped school.

LANA

Why are you skipping school?

ZIGGIE

Uh, super not the point.

Rebel is staring at Aiden, devastated.

AIDEN

Okay fine. Fine. I'll admit it. I'm not happy. Y'know. You're in Florida. You're in Hawaii. You're in Japan. You're testing the water and you're screaming about pollution and you get yourself arrested and you care more about getting on the news than about getting home to cook me dinner.

REBEL

TO COOK YOU DINNER?

AIDEN

I'm saying it's not easy to be married to you! Ask anyone in this room!

Nate hauls off and punches Aiden HARD. Aiden goes down to the ground. As Nate shakes his hand...

NATE

Thanks, man. Been waiting ten years to do that.

LANA

Ten years minus three days. We're all witnesses to that.

Off Rebel, in hell...

50 EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT 50

Time and traffic pass.

51 EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT 51

Cruz visits Sharon's grave, bringing fresh flowers.

CRUZ

Hey love.

He sits there in the silence, missing her terribly.

52 INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT 52

Helen has been admitted. She's still unconscious. Maddie sits beside her, sad and scared. Nate walks in.

NATE

Hi. I'm Dr. Nathaniel Flynn. My mom asked me to come and ask you and your mom some questions.

MADDIE

You're starting a study?

A beat.

NATE

My mom kinda needs a win, so...yeah.
Looks like I'm starting a study.

Off Nate, wanting to help his mom, and resenting every minute of it.

53 INT. REBEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 53

Lana comes in with a plate of food. But Ziggie isn't there.

LANA

Ziggie? ...Zig?

54 INT. REBEL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 54

Cassidy is in the dining room, nursing her wine.

LANA

Seen your sister?

CASSIDY

She said she was going for a walk.

Off Lana, worried...

55 EXT. HILLS - NIGHT 55

Ziggie walks along the side of the road. A car pulls up. And Sean smiles at her from the driver's seat.

ZIGGIE

Thanks for coming.

SEAN

Glad you hit me up.

She climbs into his car.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Where you wanna go?

ZIGGIE

Anywhere but here.

As they drive off into the night....

56 EXT. REBEL'S HOUSE IN THE HILLS - YARD - NIGHT 56

Rebel burns Aiden's clothes in a front yard fire pit, her devastated face glowing in the firelight. Cruz approaches and sits beside her.

CRUZ

You're burning his clothes? Dramatic.

REBEL

You think this is dramatic? He's lucky *he's* not in the fire.

CRUZ

Cassidy told me what happened. You okay?

REBEL

I'm broken, Cruz. I see the truth everywhere I look...except in the men I love. I loved him. I love him. And he played me.

A beat.

CRUZ

You walk through the world naive, Annie. It's your super power. No matter what you see, no matter what you survive, you expect people to be better than they are.

Cruz sits down beside her, and hands her a large envelope.

REBEL

What's this? Are you divorcing me too? Firing me wasn't enough?

CRUZ

It's Sharon's autopsy. I never looked at it.

A beat.

REBEL

You said she had a heart attack in her sleep.

CRUZ

Yes, I said that.

(a beat)

But all I really know is that one morning she didn't wake up.

A beat.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

I asked for the autopsy but I didn't look because I was afraid she had killed herself. And if she did, I didn't want to know. I still don't.

A beat as Rebel takes that in, staring at the sealed envelope in her hand.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

I can't bring Sharon back. But if other people are going through what she went through, what I went through?

REBEL

What we went through.

Cruz nods.

CRUZ

I'm in.

A beat. She smiles. And leans into him. So grateful.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

And Annie. Just for the record...that man was *never* good enough for you.

He puts his arm around her, comforts her. And as she leans into him, we see the whispers of the relationship Rebel deserves, and can't yet imagine. And then...

REBEL

I need to look.

He nods. And Rebel tears the envelope open. Reads the results. He watches her face.

CRUZ

I don't want to know. Not tonight.

REBEL

Okay.

A long beat, then:

REBEL (CONT'D)

Let's go crush those bastards.

FADE TO:

END OF SHOW