

BO **BL** GAL

''Too Much Information''

(Season Two/Production #2F10)

Story # 7031

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BOSTON LEGAL

"Too Much Information"

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

1 INT. FAST-STOP MARKET - NIGHT

1

TWO THUGGISH GUYS in their twenties enter. A Clerk, GEORGE KEENE, stands behind the counter, looking at them suspiciously. One of the guys grabs some chips off the shelf and they both walk up to the counter. Keene quietly moves his hand near the under-counter alarm button.

The first Thug puts the bag of chips on the counter. Keene nervously rings it up, takes his money, and the two guys leave. Keene breathes a sigh of relief. As the thugs exit they REVEAL standing behind them is CATHERINE PIPER. As Keene smiles--

KEENE

May I help you, ma'am?

CATHERINE

Yes you may, dear.

Catherine reaches into her purse, pulls out a gun. She points it at the startled Keene, who backs away from the counter.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Take all the money from the drawer and put it in a bag, please. Oh, and put some of that delicious beef jerky in there too.

The frightened Keene opens the drawer, starts putting the money in a plastic bag. As he does so, Catherine notices the security camera. She smiles nervously at the camera.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. FAST-STOP MARKET - LATER SAME NIGHT

2

A patrol car in the parking lot -- LIGHTS FLASHING. A taxi pulls up and SHORE gets out. One of the cops, OFFICER LAWRENCE MICHAELS, approaches him.

OFFICER MICHAELS

Mr. Shore. She said to call you.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

SHORE  
Thank you, Lawrence.

CUT TO:

3 INT. PATROL CAR - CONTINUOUS

3

Catherine sits in the back of the squad car. Shore slides in next to her and sighs.

CATHERINE  
In a way, I suppose this is all your fault.

SHORE  
(losing patience)  
Oh, dear God, how?! Catherine, how did you holding up a convenience store suddenly become my fault?

CATHERINE  
You're right. I'm to blame. You said you'd hire me as your personal assistant after the firm fired me. And I took you at your lying word. Bad, Catherine, bad.

This hits Shore. He feels like an ass.

SHORE  
Upon reflection, I felt you'd think it insulting to run my personal errands. Then you didn't call me, and I didn't call you. It was a terrible thing to forget, and I'm sorry. But, you are in a lot of trouble here.

CATHERINE  
What else could I do? A girl's gotta eat.  
(then)  
If it helps, it was a rubber gun. And robbery isn't as bad as killing a man, you got me off on that.

SHORE  
And you've done wonders with your second chance.  
(then)  
Stay here.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

He gets out of the patrol car--

4 EXT. FAST-STOP MARKET - CONTINUOUS

4

Shore walks toward the convenience store, passing the cop.

SHORE

I'll be just a minute.

CUT TO:

5 INT. FAST-STOP MARKET - CONTINUOUS

5

Shore steps up to the counter and addresses Keene.

SHORE

I understand you recently suffered  
a robbery.

KEENE

You a lawyer?

SHORE

Actually, I'm here more as a friend  
of the... befuddled old woman who--

KEENE

Robbed me? Do you know how many  
times I've been held up this year?

SHORE

Far too many for you to appreciate  
her little prank, I'm sure.

(another tack)

May I ask if that's your car out  
front? The four-door sedan with  
the dents in the side?

KEENE

(suspicious)

Yeah.

SHORE

I have a friend, who... has a friend.  
He's a magician with body-work.  
He'll make those dents disappear.  
Change the color, make that sedan  
look exactly like... a late model  
BMW.

Keene takes this in.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

KEENE

Could he make the seats look like leather?

SHORE

(nods)

The man's a miracle worker.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. FAST-STOP MARKET - MOMENTS LATER

6

Shore steps out and Officer Michaels approaches.

OFFICER MICHAELS

We got a problem. Another sector car called it in. I don't have any choice, I gotta book her.

Shore sighs.

SHORE

It's late. She's elderly. Couldn't we at least defer the arrest?

OFFICER MICHAELS

...sure.

SHORE

Thank you. You won't regret this.

Catherine pokes her head out of the car window behind Shore.

CATHERINE

Excuse me, Officer, can I get my gun back, please?

OFF Shore's pained expression, we:

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

7 INT. SHORE'S OFFICE - DAY

7

Shore's on the phone.

SHORE

(into phone)

When A.D.A. Raines gets back, have her call me immediately.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

DENISE pokes her head in--

DENISE

Could I borrow you for a minute?

CUT TO:

8 INT. LAW OFFICES - DAY

8

Denise and Shore walk down the corridor.

DENISE

Opposing counsel has made an offer.  
And I'm trying to get these people  
to accept it. I'm hoping you can  
explain to them this is as good as  
it gets.

SHORE

Do I get a hint?

DENISE

It involves invasion of privacy. A  
woman -- Jackie Hayden. Access was  
gained to her personal medical  
records.

SHORE

Invasion of privacy. There's an  
increasingly familiar tune these days.

DENISE

This is a little worse than the  
typical case of a person being denied  
a job because of a pre-existing  
condition.

SHORE

How much worse?

OFF this, we:

SMASH CUT TO:

9 INT. DENISE'S OFFICE - DAY

9

Shore and Denise are with EMILY HAYDEN, nineteen, has seen  
too much. Emily is accompanied by a worker from the women's  
shelter, IRMA LEVINE, an attractive woman, mid-thirties,  
down to earth, no nonsense.

EMILY

He never beat me, just my mother.  
I finally got out when I was sixteen.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED:

9

IRMA

A few years later, Jackie, Emily's mom, came to us at the women's shelter. She was a mess. We took her in. Got her some help.

EMILY

They promised my Dad would never find her there.

DENISE

For obvious reasons, the name, phone number and location of the shelter are kept confidential.

IRMA

We put Emily's mom in touch with a psychiatrist for post-traumatic stress disorder.

DENISE

(re: file)  
The cost of which was covered...

IRMA

...under her HMO.

DENISE

Unfortunately the HMO, Well Benefits, posted all of Jackie's information, including the name and address of her psychiatrist on their web site.

IRMA

A less than secure web site.

DENISE

Emily's father found Jackie's psychiatrist via Well Benefits' web site and tracked her down at the psychiatrist's office.

EMILY

And that's where he killed her.

DENISE

Ned Hayden is currently serving a life sentence for first degree murder.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED: (2)

9

SHORE

(to Emily and Irma)  
So this is a wrongful death action,  
and Well Benefits offered you a  
settlement?

DENISE

Twenty thousand. No admission of  
liability.

SHORE

Regarding the settlement, I have to  
agree.

DENISE

Thank you, Alan.

SHORE

(to Denise)  
Not with you.  
(to Emily)  
With you. The offer is insulting.  
These people need to be taught a  
lesson.

DENISE

(to Emily and Irma)  
Would you excuse us for a moment?

Denise escorts Shore out of her office to--

10 INT. LAW OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

10

Denise and Shore in the corridor--

DENISE

Twenty thousand. That's a lot of  
money for a nineteen year old girl.  
And I brought you in to make this  
go away.

SHORE

I won't do that.

DENISE

What happened to Jackie Hayden was  
a nightmare. But to blame the  
HMO.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



10 CONTINUED:

10

DENISE (CONT'D)

There was a supervening act.  
Technically Well Benefits didn't  
break the law.

SHORE

But there was a foreseeable danger.  
There are consequences, in this  
case dire consequences, to putting  
one's most personal information on  
the internet. Well Benefits should  
have known that. And I say we  
clobber them over the head with it.

DENISE

This is why people don't ask your  
opinion a lot.

SHORE

Most likely.

OFF this, we:

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT I

FADE IN:

11 INT. LAW OFFICES - DAY

11

STAN, the sandwich guy, is in the corridor with his cart, selling someone a sandwich.

STAN  
(hands sandwich to an  
employee)  
Lorraine, ham and provolone on a  
baguette.

BEVERLY BRIDGE approaches, looks at the array on the cart.

BEV  
Do you have anything without bread?

STAN  
These are sandwiches. They have  
bread.

BRAD approaches.

BEV  
There's a thing called "protein  
style."

STAN  
If there's no bread, it ain't a  
sandwich, and I just do sandwiches.

BEV  
But I don't eat bread.

STAN  
(irritated)  
How about I sell you a sandwich,  
you take the bread and do whatever  
you want with it?

BEV  
I'm sorry, but do you know who I  
am? I'm Denny Crane's fiancée.

STAN  
Yeah, so?

Bev leaves in a huff.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

STAN (CONT'D)

Hey, Mr. Chase. Roast beef and  
havarti!

Stan throws Brad a sandwich. Brad catches it, but his eyes  
are firmly fixed on the angry Bev. OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

12 INT. LAW OFFICES, LOBBY - DAY

12

The elevator doors open and Catherine enters to the tune of  
Elton John's "The Bitch Is Back." She passes by LEWISTON  
who stops, surprised to see her.

LEWISTON

Catherine.

CATHERINE

Paul.

LEWISTON

I'm very sorry, but it's  
inappropriate for you--

CATHERINE

Don't worry, dear. I'm not here to  
kill any more clients. I am a  
client.

She continues on. SCHMIDT approaches.

SCHMIDT

Catherine. You look well.

CATHERINE

And you've looked better.

SCHMIDT

I'll bet the Devil can't wait to  
get his hands on you.

(then)

Anytime now, huh?

Schmidt walks on. Catherine continues into--

13 INT. SHORE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

13

Catherine enters. A beat. Coughs. Shore looks up.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

SHORE

Catherine. What can I do for you?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

CATHERINE

I was in the neighborhood and wanted to see if there was any news on my case.

SHORE

There isn't. I put a call into the D.A.'s office. I have yet to hear back. Now, about your finances.

CATHERINE

Oh, we can talk finances and trial strategy. Can we use osteoporosis as a defense?

SHORE

Do you have it?

CATHERINE

No.  
(indicates humpback)  
But I have a little pillow I can put under my shirt.

SHORE

We'll keep that in our arsenal.

CATHERINE

Do you want to talk more now? I was going to catch up with the girls in word processing.

SHORE

Why don't you do that?

CATHERINE

But don't worry, I'll be here. Every day. I've cleared my schedule. This gets top priority.

SHORE

As it should, given you're facing twenty-five to life.

And Catherine exits. OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

14 INT. CRANE'S OFFICE - DAY

14

CRANE is getting a manicure from MING, the manicurist. Schmidt walks in with a head of steam.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

SCHMIDT

What happened to the sandwich guy?

CRANE

Bev fired him.

SCHMIDT

Bev doesn't work here!

CRANE

Well then I fired him.

SCHMIDT

Denny, I thought we agreed you wouldn't fire anyone, after you let Vicky Donchey go.

CRANE

She wasn't pulling her weight.

SCHMIDT

She was a client.

CRANE

Let me tell you something, Shirley. Do you know why this firm is going down the dumper?

SCHMIDT

Our profits were up five percent last quarter.

CRANE

(not even hearing)

It's because people are coddled. Bunch of layabouts.

(to a manicurist)

Watch the cuticles, Ming.

(to Schmidt)

People too lazy to run down to the sandwich store, or wherever it is that sandwiches come from.

Schmidt moves closer to Crane, serious.

SCHMIDT

Denny. It's starting.

CRANE

Don't know what you're talking about.

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED: (2)

14

SCHMIDT

Bev. She's following a similar  
pattern to your five previous wives.  
It starts with her firing the  
sandwich guy. And it ends with her  
influencing policy at this firm.  
And it will not be tolerated.

Crane looks devilishly at Schmidt.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (3)

14

CRANE

Shirley. We both know what--

SCHMIDT

No, we do not both know what this is about. It's not about me being jealous of Bev. It's about getting the sandwich guy back!

CRANE

Okay, okay, jeez. If it's such a big deal, I'll talk to Bev about it.

Schmidt leaves.

MING

Happy ending, Mr. Crane?

CRANE

Not today, Ming. I'm engaged now.

CUT TO:

15 INT. DENISE'S OFFICE - DAY

15

Denise is on the phone, pacing.

OPERATOR (V.O.)

(through phone)

Wellesley Memorial. Oncology.

DENISE

(into phone)

Room four-one-seven-five.

OPERATOR (V.O.)

There is a phone block on that room.

DENISE

(into phone)

Can I get a message to Mr. Post?

OPERATOR (V.O.)

I'm sorry. I'm not allowed to do that.

DENISE

(into phone)

Look, can you help me out here. I'm his, um... girlfriend.

(CONTINUED)



15 CONTINUED:

15

OPERATOR (V.O.)

Hold one second, please.

The line is forwarded. A British woman answers.

LAURA BUCKINGHAM (V.O.)

(through phone)

Hello, Ms. Bauer? This is Laura Buckingham, Mr. Post's personal assistant.

DENISE

(into phone)

Thank God, a voice. How is his chemo going?

LAURA BUCKINGHAM (V.O.)

He's indisposed at the moment. But he wanted me to personally assure you he is well and will phone you in a few days following his treatment.

DENISE

(into phone)

But... will you... can you just tell Mr. Post, that I'm... tell him I'm thinking of him.

LAURA BUCKINGHAM (V.O.)

I will.

Denise hangs up, worried and a little pissed. Shore enters.

SHORE

They're here.

DENISE

(all business)

Let's go.

16 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

16

Meeting in progress. Shore, Denise, Emily Hayden, and Irma Levine, on one side of the table. Opposite them are ADAM JOVANKA, opposing counsel, and TOM ORCHARD, forties, Executive V.P. of Well Benefits HMO, and a jerk.

ORCHARD

Rejected? You've got to be kidding.

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED:

16

SHORE

No, I'm much funnier when I'm kidding.

ORCHARD

(to Jovanka)

I thought this was worked out.

JOVANKA

(looking at Denise)

I thought so, too.

DENISE

After further consideration, we've decided the offer is inadequate.

ORCHARD

Oh, what a bunch of crap.

(to Emily)

Young lady, I don't know what nonsense these lawyers told you about HMOs and their deep pockets--

SHORE

Please direct your unfounded arrogance at me.

ORCHARD

Okay, fine. You two are just lawyers being lawyers, trying to make an issue where there is no issue.

SHORE

No issue? I'm sorry, did this woman's mother suddenly spring back to life?

ORCHARD

Her father killed her mother, and we're all upset about that, but it was not our fault. However, to make this go away, we were willing to give her a gift of twenty thousand dollars.

SHORE

Well, as a gift that's very sweet of you, we'll put it in the den next to the armoire.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

SHORE (CONT'D)

(deadly serious)

However, as compensation that you owe Emily Hayden because of your negligence that led to her mother being brutally murdered... the offer you made is offensive. Even more offensive than your tone.

ORCHARD

We're done.

Orchard rises.

JOVANKA

The law's on our side, Mr. Shore. Tragedies happen every day.

SHORE

And you're about to experience one first-hand. See you in court.

Orchard glares at Shore, then stalks out, followed by Jovanka. Shore smiles pleasantly at Denise.

SHORE (CONT'D)

Aren't you glad you brought me on board?

OFF this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

17 INT. JUDGE LANG'S COURTROOM - DAY

17

JUDGE NORA LANG presides. Emily and Shore sit at the plaintiff's table. Irma Levine, the worker from the women's shelter, is in the front row of the gallery. Jovanka sits at the defense table with Orchard. NED HAYDEN, forty-six, a proud man wearing an orange jump suit (prison garb) is on the witness stand. Denise is on direct.

DENISE

(matter of fact)

Mr. Hayden, is it true you stabbed your wife to death with a kitchen knife?

HAYDEN

Yes.

DENISE

You hunted her down?

HAYDEN

Yes.

DENISE

You lay in wait?

HAYDEN

Yes.

DENISE

And finally, after you both exchanged words, you pulled out your knife and stabbed her seven times in the chest.

HAYDEN

Yes.

DENISE

Just before you killed Emily's mother, she was living at Renew, a battered women's shelter?

HAYDEN

That was my understanding.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

DENISE

A shelter, the location of which was kept confidential.

HAYDEN

As far as I knew.

DENISE

Can you tell us how you learned of Jackie's whereabouts?

HAYDEN

My computer.

DENISE

Specifically?

HAYDEN

I logged on to Well Benefits' web site.

DENISE

Jackie's HMO.

HAYDEN

I had her social security number and her date of birth. That's all you need to access the records.

DENISE

And what did you find?

HAYDEN

Her explanation of benefits. It had on it what she was being treated for, the location of the doctor and how much the co-pay was. I noticed she was seeing the same shrink every Monday, so I went and waited for her outside his office.

CUT TO:

17A INT. WITNESS ROOM - DAY

17A

Emily is nearly hyperventilating. Irma kneels before her; Denise and Shore stand behind.

IRMA

Just try to slow down, honey. Deep breaths, but see if you can slow it down.

It's as if Emily doesn't even hear or see her.

(CONTINUED)

17A CONTINUED:

17A

IRMA (CONT'D)

Em? I'm right here. Emily?

The girl is non-responsive, she's almost gulping air. Shore intercedes.

SHORE

May I?

Irma defers as Shore kneels, takes Emily's hand.

SHORE (CONT'D)

(gently)

Emily. Emily?

\*

She does.

SHORE (CONT'D)

The 'good' was we just made a strong opening impression with the jury. The 'bad' was you just had to listen to testimony of how your father killed your mother. That's something nobody should have to experience.

\*

\*

\*

ANGLE IRMA

watching Shore.

SHORE (CONT'D)

Here's what you should know about lawyers. I could have sat you down and prepared you for this testimony so as to emotionally brace you. I chose not to. No tears for the plaintiff, no tears for the jury. Less money. But, Emily... we don't have to keep going here. If you feel this--

\*

\*

\*

EMILY

(icy)

I want to keep going.

SHORE

Are you sure?

\*

\*

EMILY

Yes.

\*

\*

A beat.

SHORE

Okay. But, if you don't care to be in the courtroom--

\*

(CONTINUED)

17A CONTINUED: (2)

17A

EMILY

I want to be there.

SHORE

From this point on, it's not entirely  
necessary since--

\*

EMILY

(flaring)

I want to be there, I want you to  
get him and I want to see you get  
him.

A beat.

SHORE

Get who, Emily?

(then)

We're suing a company.

A beat. OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

18 INT. LAW OFFICES, LOBBY - DAY

18

Catherine is schmoozing in the lobby with the receptionist.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

CATHERINE

So I heard Lynette's cyst didn't go away, and they're going to have to lance it. All that and her son coming out to her. What a week.

Shore comes out of the elevator, back from court. Crane walks by Catherine--

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Hello, Denny. Do you still remember who I am? Or did I leak out of your whiffle ball brain?

Catherine moves off. Crane stops Shore.

CRANE

Now I know we fired her.

Shore goes up to Catherine.

CATHERINE

Alan. Any news of the case?

SHORE

Yes.

CATHERINE

Well, make it quick. I'm having lunch with Judy. Her husband's...  
(indicated drinking)  
...again.

SHORE

Well, I have good news. The grocery clerk was too busy driving around in his plush new ride to press charges, and the D.A. won't prosecute without a complaining witness.

CATHERINE

What does that mean?

SHORE

Case dismissed. You're free and clear.

A beat.

CATHERINE

Really?

(CONTINUED)



18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

Catherine doesn't react.

SHORE

Catherine, this is good news. There are only two "get out of jail free" cards in the game. And you've used them both up.

CATHERINE

I did, didn't I?

SHORE

Yes, you did.

(hands her a check)

Catherine, I want you to have this.

CATHERINE

Three thousand dollars. I hope you're not expecting sex for this.

SHORE

I am not. Consider it back pay.

CATHERINE

Thank you, Alan.

SHORE

We'll have dinner soon to celebrate.

Shore walks away. OFF Catherine's disappointment, we:

CUT TO:

19 INT. CRANE'S OFFICE - DAY

19

Crane and Bev are in mid-conversation.

BEV

You want to rehire the sandwich guy?

CRANE

Well, it wasn't that big a deal--

BEV

Not a big deal? How would you feel if he raped me? Would you just sweep that under the rug?

(CONTINUED)

19

CONTINUED:

19

CRANE

Bev, come on. I know the guy upset  
you, but--

BEV

Damn right, he upset me! He was  
completely rude. But Denny, my  
feelings aren't important here.  
That sandwich guy didn't disrespect  
Beverly Bridge. He disrespected  
the fiancée of Denny Crane. He  
disrespected you.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

CRANE  
That sonofabitch!

CUT TO:

19A INT. LAW OFFICES - MOMENTS LATER

19A

Crane makes his way to the conference room.

CUT TO:

20 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

20

Schmidt, Brad and Lewiston are at the table, a lot of open files in front of them.

BRAD  
So, if everybody turns to page twelve, appendix "B"--

Crane sticks his head in.

CRANE  
Sorry people. Talked it over with Bev. The sandwich guy is still out.

And Crane leaves. Schmidt shoves her files out of the way.

SCHMIDT  
Okay. We need to deal with this now.

LEWISTON  
We need to deal with the sandwich guy? Instead of the multi-million dollar Blake merger?

SCHMIDT  
No. Bev. And her influence on Denny.

LEWISTON  
Believe me, it's next on my agenda.

SCHMIDT  
She fired the sandwich guy.

Lewiston shuts the file in front of him and pushes it aside.

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

I went to Denny, he said he'd talk to her, and the sandwich guy is still fired.

LEWISTON

It's Angie all over again.

SCHMIDT

Or Marcia.

LEWISTON

Or Clovis. She tried to get Denny to pull his equity out of the firm. Half the clients threatened to leave.

SCHMIDT

From what I've seen Bev is more formidable than any of the previous Mrs. Cranes.

LEWISTON

If she gets Denny to take his name off the door. People will think the firm's in trouble.

SCHMIDT

Clients will stampede out of here.

BRAD

I have an idea.

Schmidt and Lewiston look at him.

BRAD (CONT'D)

I realize I haven't been a partner for very long, so let me ask you both -- how much discretion would I have to make the Bev problem go away?

Schmidt and Lewiston exchange looks.

SCHMIDT

(warning)

No chopping off fingers.

LEWISTON

No violence of any kind.

BRAD

None. I promise.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

A beat.

SCHMIDT

Then you can have as much discretion  
as you need.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3)

20

OFF Brad's confident look, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

21 INT. JUDGE LANG'S COURTROOM - DAY

21

Orchard, the executive at Well Benefits, is on the stand. Jovanka is questioning him on direct. Shore, Denise, Emily and Irma are present.

JOVANKA

...so in comparison to other HMOs, Well Benefits would rank where?

ORCHARD

Several prominent publications have listed us at the top of our field in terms of customer satisfaction.

JOVANKA

And in terms of your web site? Specifically security?

ORCHARD

It is considered user friendly, but sound. We meet the accepted business standard for internet security.

JOVANKA

And yet, Mr. Hayden was able to get the information he needed.

ORCHARD

As I said, we meet the accepted business standard for security. If someone like Mr. Hayden uses his criminal ingenuity to illegally obtain information, it's horrible. But it's what he chose to do.

Jovanka sits. Shore rises.

SHORE

Mr. Orchard, could you tell us what your position is with Well Benefits?

ORCHARD

Executive Vice President, East Coast division.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

SHORE

According to my records, your company generates approximately one point five billion dollars in revenues each year, correct?

ORCHARD

Approximately.

SHORE

(remembers something)

Oh, forgive me, Your Honor. Before I began my cross examination, I meant to congratulate Mr. Orchard. His wife recently gave birth to a beautiful baby daughter.

ORCHARD

Thank you.

SHORE

Eight pounds fifteen ounces. Healthy? Happy?

ORCHARD

Thank goodness, yes.

SHORE

She was a bit jaundiced when she came out, though. And had a little fluid in her lungs which needed to be aspirated.

ORCHARD

I'm sorry?

SHORE

So am I, actually. I didn't mean to disregard your other children, which so often happens with the arrival of the new one. You have a four year-old and a ten year-old.

JOVANKA

Your Honor...

JUDGE LANG

Mr. Shore...

(CONTINUED)



21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

SHORE

Your Honor, I just thought Mr. Orchard would like to know that his ten year-old, Carly, likes Max Babcock, though Max doesn't know if he likes her back. At least that's what I ascertained from the chat room.

JOVANKA

Objection!

SHORE

All this objecting. Mr. Jovanka, you seem in such a nasty mood. Could it be the new Lexus you ordered on line from a broker has been delayed and you're forced to continue driving that Taurus with the dent in it from your fender bender?

JUDGE LANG

Mr. Shore.

SHORE

Yes, Your Honor. By the way, you need to renew your car registration. And congratulations on your colonoscopy.

JUDGE LANG

Mr. Shore!

SHORE

Too personal? It was just information I was able to obtain from web sites which employ the "Accepted business standard for internet security." That is what you called it, Mr. Orchard, correct?

ORCHARD

(frosty)

Correct.

SHORE

Here's what I don't understand. You're a billion dollar company. You're in the business of ensuring the health and well being of your clientele.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

SHORE (CONT'D)

And yet, you weren't able to ensure the safety of their records. Which you could have done, had you spent just a fraction of those billions on internet security.

ORCHARD

Mr. Shore. As we all know health care costs have spun out of control. In order to provide the most service to the most subscribers we must manage those costs judiciously.

(then)

Information Technology is the single largest cost for us and for all other Fortune one thousand companies. If we had upgraded to a more secure system, more people would have had to make do without health care.

SHORE

And yet fewer would have been murdered.

Shore sits. OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

22 INT. JADE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

22

Brad and Bev are seated at a small candle-lit table. A waiter takes their order.

BRAD

Chardonnay, please.

BEV

Grain and lemonade.

The waiter moves off. Bev smiles at Brad.

BEV (CONT'D)

Hard to tell the boys from the girls at this table.

BRAD

I don't think so.

BEV

Neither do I.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED:

22

BEV (CONT'D)

(then)

So, Brad, did you really ask me here on business? Or are you trying to move in on Denny Crane's girl?

BRAD

Just business. I'd like to talk about you and Denny.

BEV

We're very much in love.

(flirty)

But if there's any change I'll let you know.

BRAD

Thank you.

(then)

You know Denny has been married several times--

BEV

As have I. You?

BRAD

No.

The waiter arrives with the drinks. Bev raises her Red Bull.

BEV

To Denny Crane.

Brad raises his glass of wine. They toast and drink.

BRAD

As I was saying. Denny has been married several times. Each time the marriage has ended in divorce. The divorces were very traumatic and ultimately very costly, both to Denny and to Crane Poole and Schmidt.

BEV

Don't worry, Brad. I'm sure I'll sign whatever pre-nup Denny wants me to sign.

BRAD

This isn't about a pre-nup. This is about avoiding the turmoil of marriage and divorce altogether.

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED: (2)

22

A beat.

BEV

You lost me.

BRAD

I'll make it simple. I'm prepared to give you five hundred thousand dollars right now to walk away and never have any contact with Denny Crane ever again.

Bev is stunned.

BRAD (CONT'D)

It will save us all time, money and a lot of grief.

She looks away for a long beat, then looks back--

BEV

You sonofabitch.

BRAD

The offer expires when I get up from the table. I assure you that we will fight aggressively to keep you from exercising any control over Denny or the firm.

Bev smiles at Brad. She reaches across the table and grabs his tie. She pulls him to her.

BEV

I'm going to tell you two things. First. I love Denny Crane, and I will never leave him, not for all the money in the world. And second. In just a moment, you're going to pour your glass of wine all over yourself.

Bev takes Brad's tie and quickly dunks it in the shot of alcohol, then sticks the tie in the candle on the table. Yikes! Brad's tie catches fire. Bev quickly gets up and walks away.

BRAD

Oh, crap!

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

As predicted Brad grabs his wine glass and douses his flaming tie. OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

23 INT. DENISE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

23

Denise is at her desk. Shore enters.

SHORE

Hello.

DENISE

Hi.

SHORE

I always feel slightly sick to my stomach when I work alone in the office late at night.

DENISE

I thought you liked being alone.

SHORE

Oh, I love being alone. I just prefer to be alone while there's other people around. Or maybe it's the fluorescents.

A beat.

SHORE (CONT'D)

So how are you doing?

DENISE

Fine.

SHORE

I have a rabbi friend with a slight gambling problem who, when he hears someone say they're fine, will always ask again until they say something other than "fine." So. How are you doing?

Denise looks at him a beat. Then--

DENISE

(launches in)

I'm seeing someone who's dying of lung cancer. Stage four.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23

CONTINUED:

23

DENISE (CONT'D)

The chemo has caused him to develop neutropenia, which means he's got a very low neutrophil count, so he's taking something weird called pegfilgrastim for that. And while he's a very wealthy man, he can't buy his way out of the secondary cancers that the treatment from the first cancers are causing, and... here's the kicker. He, Daniel, has completely shut me out of his life.

SHORE

That's the thing about the very rich. When they want to cut themselves off from the world they can.

DENISE

Yes, they can. So now I just... wait.

SHORE

Denise. I don't know you very well. However. You don't seem to be the type of woman who just waits for anything.

A short beat, then--

DENISE

I'll see you tomorrow.

Shore nods and exits. OFF Denise, we:

CUT TO:

24 INT. FAST-STOP MARKET - NIGHT

24

A new clerk, CLERK #2, is behind the counter. Catherine steps up, pleasant as always.

CLERK #2

May I help you?

CATHERINE

I'd like to buy some ear plugs, please.

Clerk #2 pulls some earplugs from the shelf behind him.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

He rings her up, as she opens the package and pops the ear plugs in. Catherine pulls a REAL GUN out of her purse and BLASTS a hole in the Slushee machine.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

Blue sludge splatters the place like gore. Clerk #2 is stunned. Catherine then looks up to the security camera, waves and smiles. Clerk #2 empties the register as, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III



ACT IV

FADE IN:

25 OMITTED  
AND  
26

25  
AND  
26

27 INT. JAIL CELL - LATER SAME NIGHT

27

Catherine is in her street clothes. The cell door slides open and Shore enters. Catherine waits for Shore to say something but he simply stands there, quietly observing his friend. Ready to burst, Catherine begins pacing.

CATHERINE

Oh, I'm in trouble now.

SHORE

Yes.

CATHERINE

What's with me?

SHORE

Indeed.

CATHERINE

I certainly have a lack of impulse control. I must have ADD or OCD or one of those other letter things--

No reply from Shore.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

--But I don't want you to think I'm not aware of the hole we're in. I get it. That's why I want you to know I'm willing to roll up my sleeves and work with you on this. Whatever it takes. Twenty-four seven if need be. Maybe we can set up a little office for me at the firm?

Shore puts it all together.

SHORE

I'll be back.  
(to guard)  
Sir.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

The cell opens and Shore exits. OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

28 INT. SCHMIDT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

28

Schmidt and Lewiston are staring open-mouthed at Brad.

LEWISTON

What in the hell were you thinking?

BRAD

You both told me I had discretion  
to make her go away.

SCHMIDT

But she didn't go away.

LEWISTON

So you made this insane offer and  
put the firm at risk for nothing.

SCHMIDT

When this gets back to Denny, and  
it will, he is going to blow sky  
high.

LEWISTON

Now Bev has a chip to play. Against  
us!

A beat.

BRAD

(calmly)

Bev turned down the offer I made  
her. She was very offended. She,  
uh, set my tie on fire.

SCHMIDT

Oh, God.

BRAD

But before she turned me down...  
she hesitated. Just a little. But  
she hesitated.

This hangs in the air.

LEWISTON

This is going to get ugly.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

OFF this we:

CUT TO:

29 OMITTED  
AND  
30

29  
AND  
30

30A INT. WITNESS ROOM - DAY

30A

Emily, Irma, and Shore.

EMILY

How can I not testify? You said yourself I'm the emotion in the case.

SHORE

I'm thinking too much emotion.

EMILY

You said no tears for the plaintiff, no tears for the jury. You said that.

SHORE

Actually, Robert Frost said something like it about writing, I stole it. I misquote poets in a pinch.

\*  
\*  
\*

EMILY

I don't understand. What's going on?

SHORE

(gently)

Emily, I could put you on the stand. Exhibit your anger and sadness for the jury, and they will be moved. But then the defense has their turn. And they will exploit those very same emotions, taking advantage of your... pain. They'll argue that your vengeance is truly meant for your father, and that you've refocused it toward Well Benefits, the deepest pockets you could find. They'll have the jury convinced it's a misdirected, and therefore misguided lawsuit. And that's how we lose.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

30A CONTINUED:

30A

A beat.

SHORE (CONT'D)

I suspect the most difficult thing  
one could ask of you is trust. But  
that's exactly what I'm asking for  
now, Emily.

\*

And she does trust him. Which Irma sees. A beat.

SHORE (CONT'D)

Let's get in there.

As they start to go.

IRMA

Mr. Shore. I wish I could get you  
to come to the shelter. So many of  
these women desperately need legal  
advice... someone who'll speak to  
them... openly and honestly.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

SHORE

Are they cute?

IRMA

You don't fool me. You're a  
compassionate man.

They hold a look.

SHORE

We need to get back.

Another beat. And off he goes. OFF Irma, we:

CUT TO:

31 INT. JUDGE LANG'S COURTROOM - DAY

31

Jovanka is giving his closing. Shore, Denise, Irma and Emily are present.

JOVANKA

Ned Hayden killed his wife. He is serving a life sentence without possibility of parole. Justice has been served. Emily Hayden's loss is immeasurable. But whatever closure she is seeking, she must find it in her soul or through her God. Not through suing Well Benefits.

(a beat)

Well Benefits could not reasonably foresee this killing, and did nothing to encourage it. They were in compliance with all state and federal guidelines regarding Internet security. They can no more be held accountable for Ned Hayden's actions than could the manufacturer of the car in which he drove to the murder scene. If you find for the plaintiff, you're punishing my client for playing by the rules. And you're opening a Pandora's Box of lawsuits, not just against HMO's, but against all internet businesses.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31

CONTINUED:

31

JOVANKA (CONT'D)

And who's ultimately going to pay  
for all that? You know. It's you.  
A tragedy occurred. But, to say  
that Well Benefits caused Jackie  
Hayden's murder is just beyond  
reason.

Jovanka sits. Shore rises.

(CONTINUED)

## SHORE

When I was eleven years old, there came a time when the temptation to explore the more secretive recesses of my older sister's life became more than I could resist. I started by poking around her room. I ended by reading her diary. In my defense, she kept it right out in the open... under her mattress. And the little metal clasp on it was simply no match for the paper clip and the screwdriver. I was eventually caught, prompting my sister to have a lock installed on her door. The only consequence of the invasion of my sister's privacy was the temporary loss of her confidence and trust. The invasion of Jackie Hayden's privacy led to her being stabbed and left to bleed to death in the street. Privacy and the safety and security that that word has always implied has, with time and progress, become an illusion. The National Security Agency has access to all our e-mail the world over with their 'Echelon' system. Virtually every web site you visit installs a delicious "cookie" onto your computer, which is in fact a spy, to track your every move. There are predators out in cyberspace collecting data on your children as they innocently type away in chat rooms. And that little waiver you've signed at the doctor's office most likely allows physicians to share your information on the internet with insurance companies, the government, your employer and the courts. And make no mistake, access to your information is easy. Dr. Latanya Sweeney, an authority on computer science and public policy at Carnegie Mellon University, testified before the Pennsylvania House Select Committee that all you need is a person's five digit zip code, gender and date of birth to uniquely identify eighty-seven percent of the U.S. population. That is how vulnerable we are.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

SHORE (CONT'D)

How vulnerable you are. That's how  
vulnerable Jackie Hayden was.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



SHORE (CONT'D)

Well Benefits says they could not have possibly foreseen the actions of an abusive spouse intent on causing his wife harm. Let me tell you what Jackie Hayden could not foresee. That after years of cruel and violent debasement at the hands of her husband, after she finally found her way out of the shadows, she didn't foresee that the people she trusted with her health and well-being would lead the darkness right back to her door. And now she's dead. Well Benefits made it easy for Ned Hayden to find his wife. As easy as looking under a mattress.

Shore sits. Emily and Irma are impressed. OFF this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

FADE IN:

32 INT. JUDGE LANG'S COURTROOM - DAY

32

All present as the Bailiff brings the verdict to Judge Lang. She reads it and sends it back.

JUDGE LANG

The defendant will please rise.

They do.

JUDGE LANG (CONT'D)

Madame Foreperson. You have reached a verdict?

FOREPERSON

We have, Your Honor.

JUDGE LANG

What say you?

FOREPERSON

We the jury find in favor of the plaintiff and award compensatory damages in the amount of nine-hundred and fifty thousand dollars. And punitive damages in the amount of two million dollars.

Emily shuts her eyes in relief.

JOVANKA

(jumps up; outraged)

Your Honor, we move for a judgment notwithstanding the verdict or in the alternative a new trial.

JUDGE LANG

Denied.

JOVANKA

Your Honor--

JUDGE LANG

Counsel, take it up on appeal. Motion denied.

Emily hugs Denise.

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

EMILY

Thank you!  
(to Shore)  
Thank you, Mr. Shore.

Denise and Emily move off as Irma approaches Shore.

IRMA

I apologize for doubting you.

SHORE

Well, it's usually the safe bet.  
Tell me, how does a striking Latina  
woman come by the name Irma Levine?

IRMA

(smiles)  
Congratulations on winning your  
case.

And Irma moves off.

DENISE

Great work.

SHORE

Thank you. I have to go see the  
D.A. about Catherine. Are you  
heading somewhere, or just...  
waiting?

DENISE

No, I'm definitely not waiting.

OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

33

INT. A.D.A. RAINES' OFFICE - LATER SAME DAY

33

Shore is there with A.D.A. HOLLY RAINES, early thirties, who  
looks at Shore like he is insane.

A.D.A. RAINES

Let her go? What are you, high?

SHORE

Not yet.

A.D.A. RAINES

She already murdered a man!

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED:

33

SHORE

Which a jury found her innocent of.

A.D.A. RAINES

And now she's on a crime spree!

SHORE

Two convenience stores hardly make a spree.

A.D.A. RAINES

Then what would you call her, an active senior?

SHORE

No.

(getting serious)

I'd call her a sad, lonely old woman. A woman who spent many years living in solitude, with nothing to occupy her wit or intellect. Then one day, she became my assistant, and suddenly she was in an environment equal to the task of entertaining and stimulating her magnificent mind. Then, just as suddenly, that world was taken away from her. And she just couldn't go back to being alone. To spending her days without meaning.

A.D.A. RAINES

She should've taken up crocheting, not felony robbery.

SHORE

Granted. But for Catherine, this was not about malice, nor financial gain, nor thrill seeking. It was about getting my attention. And she got it. Her reign of terror is over. I promise. But, please. Let this fish get away.

A.D.A. Raines considers.

A.D.A. RAINES

She pleads guilty to misdemeanor possession of a firearm and I'll recommend probation. No jail time.

SHORE

Thank you, Ms. Raines.

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED: (2)

A.D.A. RAINES

One thing?

SHORE

Yes.

A.D.A. RAINES

I do this for you, you do something for me.

SHORE

I'm listening.

A.D.A. RAINES

Get me an interview at Crane Poole and Schmidt.

Shore isn't sure what to say.

A.D.A. RAINES (CONT'D)

Let's just say being a district attorney isn't entertaining and stimulating my magnificent mind. I'm sick of the skels and the junkies and the low pay and the thankless job of cleaning up society's messes. Now, I want to make money. I want to be able to buy a house. And I want to work in a clean office. With windows. And bottled water. Do they have bottled water there?

SHORE

They do.

A.D.A. RAINES

Just get me in the door. I'll get the job myself. And you'll get Catherine Piper back.

Shore considers. Then--

SHORE

I'll see what I can do.

OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

33A INT. POST'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

33A

The private wing of the cancer unit.

(CONTINUED)

33A CONTINUED:

33A

This does not look like an ordinary hospital room, but more like a hotel room with a hospital bed and an IV hookup. Post is in bed. Denise comes in, carrying a jar of dill pickles with a ribbon around it.

DENISE

(re: jar of pickles)

These are for you. Dill pickles. They're supposed to alter the metallic taste sensation from your chemotherapy, so that other foods taste better.

POST

That's the nicest chemo gift I've ever gotten. Unless I'm already in heaven, then it's kind of crappy.

DENISE

This might not be the right time to bring this up, but, you're weak and I'm strong.

(then)

You don't get to set all the rules in this relationship. You've used money your whole life to set the rules and now you're using your illness to set the rules.

POST

I think I should be able to. I'm the one with the bum lung.

DENISE

I know that. But I should be able to decide some things, too. And damnit, it was not right that you shut me out of this.

POST

I know, and I'm sorry about that. But if you hit me or anything, I might literally die.

DENISE

(moving him)

Scot.

She gets into bed with him. OFF Denise and Post, we:

CUT TO:

34

INT. JADE RESTAURANT - DAY

34

Catherine and Shore, having lunch.

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED:

34

SHORE

...I've been thinking a good deal about my original offer to make you my personal assistant and I've come to the conclusion that I... am a terrible boss.

CATHERINE

Oh, no dear. I don't think so. Sure, you don't have any scruples to speak of, and I can trust you as far as I can throw you, but other than that...

SHORE

My point is, I've found you a job. A better job.

CATHERINE

I don't know...

SHORE

The pay is comparable. It's a start-up company. They need someone with imagination and experience, a real people person. I immediately thought of you.

CATHERINE

Dental?

SHORE

I'm sure something can be worked out.

CATHERINE

(onboard)

So, what would I be doing?

SMASH CUT TO:

35

INT. LAW OFFICES, LOBBY - DAY

35

The elevator doors open and Catherine, pushing a sandwich cart, enters, once again, to Elton John's "The Bitch Is Back."

CATHERINE

Pesto Chicken! Veggie Wrap! Roast Beef on Ciabatta!

As office workers approach her, Catherine beams handing out sandwiches, taking in money.

(CONTINUED)



35

CONTINUED:

35

ANGLE ON SHORE

Watching from a distance. Schmidt approaches.

LEWISTON

So you're in the sandwich business  
now?

SHORE

A silent investor.

OFF Shore, happy, we:

CUT TO:

36

INT. LAW OFFICES - NIGHT

36

Schmidt and Brad put on their coats as they walk down the  
corridor. They stop outside Crane's window.

THEIR POV

We see Crane and Bev kissing goodnight.

RESUME

SCHMIDT

We're screwed.

Crane and Bev break, Crane smiles and waves at Schmidt and  
Brad.

BRAD

Maybe not.

Bev exits Crane's office, catches up with Schmidt and Brad.

BEV

Let's walk.

Bev escorts them down the corridor.

BEV (CONT'D)

(veiled threat)

I'm not the person you think I am.  
So if you're smart, and I know you  
are, you'll start acting like the  
friends Denny thinks you are.

(then)

Good night, all.

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

36

Bev exits into the elevator. Schmidt and Brad watch after her--

SCHMIDT

Are you sure she hesitated?

BRAD

She hesitated.

CUT TO:

37

EXT. CRANE'S BALCONY - NIGHT

37

Crane is on the balcony -- Shore enters with his cigar and scotch.

SHORE

There you are. I've hardly seen you this episode.

CRANE

Tough case?

SHORE

Yes. Lack of privacy on the internet is complicated, and overwhelming.

CRANE

Doesn't scare me. My life's an open book.

SHORE

So you wouldn't mind if someone tapped a few keys and discovered you have... Mad Cow?

CRANE

I don't care who knows. I tell everyone I meet anyway.

A beat. Then--

SHORE

Have you ever looked yourself up on the internet?

CRANE

Yes. Denny Crane -- legal genius. Have you?

SHORE

No. I don't want to know me.

CRANE

I know you. You're not so bad.

A beat.

SHORE

Somebody called me compassionate today.

\*

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

37

CRANE

You say it like it's a criticism.

SHORE

It made me... recoil inside. Why would I do that?

CRANE

Because you self-loathe.

(off Shore's look)

To be perceived as good, it makes you feel dishonest. And your honesty is the one quality about yourself that you actually like. So a person calls you compassionate, she utterly strips you of your self-esteem.

Somewhere in that twisted logic is the truth. And Shore is startled by Crane's profundity.

SHORE

Listen to the Mad Cow.

CRANE

It's Bev. She's injected blood flow all the way to my brain.

(then)

Everybody hates her.

SHORE

Who cares.

CRANE

Damn right.

A beat. Another beat.

SHORE

I miss Tara.

OFF this, we:

FADE OUT.

The End