

THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE

EPISODE 2  
A "Friend"

Written by

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INT. OPAL (UPSCALE RESTAURANT) - DAY

CHRISTINE weaves through a sea of business execs as she heads towards the exit. Suddenly she notices JACQUELIN, 45, well-dressed, having lunch with a YOUNG WOMAN, 20s, on the terrace.

A wave of anger overcomes Christine.

EXT. OPAL / TERRACE - DAY

Enraged, Christine heads directly towards Jacquelin's table. Jacquelin, mid-conversation, sees Christine. Their eyes lock.

JACQUELIN

Oh god...

Jacquelin deliberately turns and whispers in the young woman's ear. The young woman looks up at Christine, whispering back:

YOUNG WOMAN

She's coming over here.

Jacquelin turns around and smiles at Christine:

JACQUELIN

Hi! What a surprise?!

CHRISTINE

We need to talk.

JACQUELIN

No, we really don't.

CHRISTINE

You fucking used Avery.

JACQUELIN

I have no idea what...

Christine grabs a half-eaten plate of food and dumps it in Jacquelin's lap.

CHRISTINE

You're a fucking leech.

Jacquelin is stunned. She jumps up to wipe the food from her lap, as Christine abruptly leaves.

**CUT TO 3 MONTHS EARLIER:**

INT. OPAL - DAY

Christine and Avery walk approach Jacquelin, seated at a back table, talking on her cell phone through her headphones. Jacquelin sees Avery and Christine and stands and waves.

JACQUELIN (INTO HER CELL:)  
My 12 o'clock is here so I've gotta  
run, but let's talk about this  
later okay?

Jacquelin, still on her call, hugs Avery, kissing her on both cheeks. Jacquelin points at her cell and mouths "Sorry".

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)  
(overly positive)  
Yeah! We'll sort it out, I'm not  
worried. K. Bye!

Jacquelin takes out her headphones, making an exasperated face. She turns to Christine.

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)  
Jacquelin and you are Christine.

Christine shakes Jacquelin's hand.

CHRISTINE  
I am.

JACQUELIN  
So sorry about that. I'm usually  
not so rude!

Jacquelin gives Christine an up and down -- she is not being discreet -- she is making a show of this.

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)  
Wow. So Avery tells me you're a  
lawyer?

CHRISTINE  
Not yet. Just an intern.

JACQUELIN (TO AVERY:)  
What? She's humble too? It's just  
not fair.

Avery smiles and shrugs at Jacquelin's overt enthusiasm. She's seen it all before.

AVERY

She's great.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER:

JACQUELIN

You make your own schedule, you only do what you feel comfortable with... What are you comfortable with? (To Avery:) Did you guys talk about this?

AVERY

A little. Bareback blow jobs, overnights...

Christine nods.

JACQUELIN

You don't have to be comfortable with BBBJs... It's whatever you are okay with and how much you want to get paid...

Jacquelin pauses. She is waiting for Christine to tell her what she is comfortable with...

CHRISTINE

Oh. I am okay with all that.

Jacquelin questions Christine's response.

JACQUELIN

All of it? You don't have to tell me this very second, just think about it and let me know, because it should be enjoyable for you too. The more you enjoy the more he will enjoy. Think of it as the best first date every time.

CHRISTINE

Right. I am not into the pain thing.

JACQUELIN

Got it. Do you have photos?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Dressed in a business suit - sex on the desk vibe - Christine retouches her mascara as the PHOTOGRAPHER, female 30s, checks the settings on her camera.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Don't worry. No one will see your eyes. You ready?

CHRISTINE

Where do you want me?

The photographer positions her against the curtains.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Turn and face me... Great.

The photographer starts shooting. Christine just starts undressing -- not relishing in it or trying to make it look sexier than it is. Just matter of fact...

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

That's great... Good... That's it...

INT. STUDENT CENTER - DAY

Christine sits at a table in the crowded student center, open text books and a coffee in front of her. But she is not studying... She is on her iPad looking at photos from her shoot. A rush of excitement washes over her.

The photos show her in various stages of undress - all the way to her underwear. Her face is cropped just below the eyes. She looks beautiful - sexy, but in a natural, understated way.

Her phone buzzes - a text from Jacquelin: *These photos are incredible!* Christine beams.

INT. LAW FIRM / DAVID'S OFFICE - EVENING

Christine approaches David's office cautiously with files in hand as David, obviously upset, yells in the phone:

DAVID (ON PHONE)

What do you mean they didn't serve it? We never filed it? Are you fucking kidding me? (Pause.) I'll take care of it.

Christine places the files on a table and starts to walk out quietly as David slams the phone down, but...

DAVID (CONT'D)

I need you to start pulling the Trestler files. We're going to have re-file the complaint first thing in the morning.

Christine turns back to David...

CHRISTINE  
(with slight hesitation)  
You got it.

DAVID  
I'm aware it's late. Sorry in  
advance if this ruins your evening.

CHRISTINE  
No, you're not sorry. Yes, this  
effects my evening, but I am going  
to do what you say because I don't  
want to get yelled at.

David slightly laughs.

DAVID  
What did you have planned?

Christine is taken aback.

CHRISTINE  
It's not a big deal. Just meeting a  
friend.

David nods. Even he is taken aback that he's breached the  
professional realm with her...

Christine breaks the awkward moment.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
I'll start pulling the files.

INT. JACQUELIN'S LARGE MODERN PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Jacquelin shows Christine around her house. They both have  
glasses of wine. One room is decorated like a teenage boy's.

JACQUELIN  
That's Zack's room.

CHRISTINE  
Oh... Does he live with you?

JACQUELIN  
No, he's in college. I am just a  
creepy sentimental mom and won't  
take down his teenage shrine.

EXT. BALCONY / JACQUELIN'S PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Christine and Jacquelin sit on the balcony, smoking.

CHRISTINE

The Federal Courts have a virtual monopoly on all patent appeals. If a Federal court makes an error interpreting a patent code, every later panel is obliged to follow their ruling. Fucked up, but true.

JACQUELIN

It's so great you know this stuff.

CHRISTINE

Stuff like Law?

JACQUELIN

Yes. Sorry. I realize it's a result of years of school and your hard work and that's your passion...

Christine sighs.

CHRISTINE

I hope so. It's costing me enough.

JACQUELIN

It will pay off. At least from this end.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM / JACQUELIN'S PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

A few hours later. Christine and Jacquelin are now very drunk.

Jacquelin finishes making Christine a bed in a spare room. It's strangely sweet and maternal of Jacquelin.

CHRISTINE

Honestly, I can take a cab home and get my car in the morning.

Jacquelin sits down on the bed.

JACQUELIN

That's too many car trips. Plus, I get to keep talking until one of us passes out.

Jacquelin raises her wine glass to Christine and takes a sip.

Christine sits down on the bed next to Jacquelin.

CHRISTINE

You just want an enabler.

JACQUELIN

Of course I do.

They laugh slightly, for a moment, but it trails off into silence. The silence is weighted. Someone needs to make a move, either to end the night or keep it going... We linger long enough to make it tense but awkward.

EXT. HIGH RISE ROOFTOP PARTY - NIGHT

Jacquelin and Christine are linked arm in arm as they walk through a party, thrown by a venture capital firm celebrating a merger. A younger BUSINESS CROWD, mostly 20s, max late 40s.

Jacquelin talks into Christine's ear about RYAN, 40s handsome, a potential client, as they eye him from across the floor, heading towards him.

JACQUELIN

We go way back. I've known him since my PR days... He now heads the third largest hedge fund in California.

A WOMAN walks by-- very beautiful, exotic -- touching Jacquelin on the shoulder, to say hello. Jacquelin smiles.

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)

She's is, but clients complain that she's not easy to talk to.

CHRISTINE

She's pretty...

JACQUELIN

Sure, but you're beautiful and you look attainable. You're in a different league. Something about you puts people at ease.

Jacquelin sees someone from across the room. She quickly buries her face into Christine's shoulder.

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)

Oh my god, hide me.

Christine locks eyes with a woman -- KELLY, early 30s -- pretty, confident, not showy.

Kelly sees Jacquelin whispering to Christine.

CHRISTINE  
She's coming over here.

JACQUELIN  
Ugh. She's crazy.

Kelly approaches, clearly upset.

KELLY  
Hi Jacquelin.

Jacquelin quickly changes demeanor, acting happy to see her.

JACQUELIN  
Oh hi!

KELLY  
I'm Kelly.

CHRISTINE  
Chelsea. Nice to meet you.

Kelly refocuses on Jacquelin, thinly disguising her anger.

KELLY  
When you're done, I would really  
like to catch up.

JACQUELIN  
Sure! And if not tonight, just text  
me and we can meet up later this  
week.

Kelly realizes she is getting blown off.

KELLY  
Right... Nice meeting you.

Kelly walks away. Jacquelin turns to Christine and makes an  
"that was awkward" face. They continue across the room, as  
Jacquelin zeros in on Ryan.

JACQUELIN  
There he is. If I am right, which I  
always am, he is going to book the  
minute the meets you.

Jacquelin taps Ryan on the shoulder. He turns around. He is  
eating an hors d'oeuvres.

RYAN  
You've caught in the most  
unflattering moment.

JACQUELIN  
I'm the queen of timing.

Ryan finishes eating and wipes his hands.

RYAN  
I always like to make a strong  
first impression.

Ryan smiles as he extends his hand to Christine.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
Ryan...

Christine returns his smile as she shakes his hand. Both  
attracted.

CHRISTINE  
Chelsea...

INT. CHRISTINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Christine puts on lipstick, in her room.

CUT TO:

All dressed up, Christine notices Stacy all bundled up with  
Jake watching a movie, as she heads out. Christine and Stacy  
lock eyes. There is tension between them.

INT. HOTEL - EVENING.

The front desk attendant hands Christine an envelope with the  
name "CHELSEA FRAIN" written on it. Christine opens the  
envelope. There is a key and a note with the room number 506.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Christine enters the hotel room to find a gift box on the bed  
with a small card with the name "Chelsea" written on it.  
Christine opens the box and pulls out an elegant evening  
dress.

INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

Christine walks into the hotel bar wearing the dress she was  
just given. We get the feeling of someone watching her.

Ryan comes up from behind her and places his hand on the small  
of her back. She is slightly surprised but goes with it.

CHRISTINE  
You're late.

He laughs.

RYAN  
Yes. I am always late.

Their demeanor suggests to the rest of the world that they are just on a date. Both seem at ease.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
I haven't eaten. You mind if we skip pre-drinks and have dinner?

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Christine and Ryan are mid-conversation.

CHRISTINE  
She's older.

RYAN  
Of course she is.

The WAITER brings over another bottle of wine interrupting their conversation.

RYAN (TO THE WAITER:) (CONT'D)  
I am sure that one is fine, just pour it.

The waiter pours both Christine and Ryan a glass of wine.

Ryan refocuses his attention back on Christine. They both lock eyes.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
So you have one sister... What does she do?

CHRISTINE  
She's a math teacher.

RYAN  
What grade?

CHRISTINE  
Middle school.

RYAN  
She have any kids?

CHRISTINE

One.

RYAN

Boy? Girl? This is like pulling teeth.

He laughs, but does not break eye contact with Christine--

CHRISTINE

A boy. He's 4. He has a lisp.

RYAN

Cute. What's his name?

Christine blinks...

CHRISTINE

Sean...

Ryan bursts out laughing as Christine reaches for her glass of wine to cover her hesitation.

RYAN

Bullshit!

She smiles, blushes a little. She knows she's been found out.

RYAN (CONT'D)

You need to rehearse. I know you're new to this, but Jacquelin should be running bio drills with you or something.

CHRISTINE

Okay... She doesn't have a kid.

RYAN

She could have 10 kids. She could be a he. I don't care.

Their laughter dies down.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I think you should move your chair over here, "Chelsea".

CHRISTINE

Okay, "Ryan".

Christine moves her chair over to Ryan's side of the table. He places his arm around her. Christine puts her hand on his leg. There is something sexy about their anonymity.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
How was your day?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Christine places her purse down on a chair in the entryway.

Ryan puts a bottle of wine down on the dresser and then moves in close from behind Christine. He doesn't make any aggressive moves. He places his hands on her hips and gently presses her into him.

Christine let's out a small gasp -- she can't help but like this. She leans back into him.

He whispers.

RYAN  
Will you feel me?

Christine reaches back and feels him.

He reaches around and touches between her legs, above her dress. Christine is completely swept up into this.

Ryan pulls away from her. He starts undressing -- almost routine like -- down to his boxers.

Christine starts to take off her dress...

RYAN (CONT'D)  
No. Leave it on. Let's go into the bathroom.

Christine follows Ryan into the bathroom.

Ryan turns her around, to face the mirror. He pulls up her dress and pulls down her panties.

Christine and Ryan stare at each other through the mirror as he enters her.

She closes her eyes and lifts her head back -- either feigning or actually feeling enjoyment. We can't tell.

Then Ryan stops.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
Face me.

Christine turns around and he hoists her up.

Christine's arms are wrapped around Ryan's shoulders, her head in the nape of his neck -- we focus on how close and intimate this is.

INT. EMPTY APARTMENT - DAY

Modern, generic, two-bedroom. Christine checks the kitchen as a BROKER, male 40's, details the white-wall apartment.

BROKER

Water is included. Electric would be separate. Take your time...

Christine grimaces a bit as she re-enters the living room.

JACQUELIN

This living room is great for you.

Christine nods, looking around. Uncertain.

CHRISTINE

It's great. Just way too expensive.

JACQUELIN

Spend money on the things that make you feel good.

CHRISTINE

I can't afford this. I don't know what I'm doing.

Jacquelin calms her down.

JACQUELIN

Yes, you can. What you're making now is nothing compared to how much it will be in a few months.

CHRISTINE

I have loans and...

JACQUELIN

I'll cover the deposit. You just promise to keep working and it will figure itself out.

CHRISTINE

Okay.

INT. LAW FIRM / BOARD ROOM - DAY

Christine passes Avery's boss, NEIL, 50's stern, as numerous lawyers and assistants file into a board room, for a meeting. He is on edge.

NEIL

Have you seen Avery?

CHRISTINE

No. Do you need something?

NEIL

She's bringing the Accel depositions.

CHRISTINE

Do you want me to see if I can track them down?

David calls out from just inside the room...

DAVID

Shut the door. Let's get started...

TIME CUT TO:

Christine and numerous assistants take notes on iPads as senior partners debate legal strategy for a client.

NEIL

Royalty payments are not interest...

DAVID (INTERRUPTING)

Yeah, but they're making advances based on future royalties and charging excessive interest rates...

Avery enters. She looks exhausted. Neil glares at her as she hands him a set of files and hurries to take a seat.

Christine watches Avery for a moment, concerned, before refocusing on the meeting.

DAVID (CONT'D)

...and they're continually pushing the ceiling on their commissions.

David turns to Christine:

DAVID (CONT'D)  
What's the average interest on  
credit cards? Christine?

Christine pulls up the figure on her laptop immediately.

CHRISTINE  
Yesterday, the national average for  
variable rates was 15.36 per cent.

DAVID  
They're charging 20 per cent over  
the national average for credit  
cards. These V.C. fuckers think  
they can get away with anything.  
Anyone not in favor of filing suit?

No one responds.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Let's do it. What's next?

NEIL  
Accel Capital...

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Christine knocks on the glass of Avery's office. Avery looks  
up from work. She looks exhausted, stressed.

Christine motions like she is eating.

CHRISTINE (MOUTHING THE WORD)  
Lunch?

INT. LAW FIRM / CAFETERIA - DAY

Avery is visibly upset, as she eats lunch with Christine.

AVERY  
He didn't say why. I don't know.  
Maybe his wife is coming to town or  
maybe he's just not that into me  
anymore. Either way I had to pack  
my shit up and leave this morning.

CHRISTINE  
No more jacuzzi?

Christine is trying to keep it light, but Avery is stressed.

AVERY  
No more jacuzzi.

Avery starts to tear up.

CHRISTINE  
Hey... It's really not a big deal.  
Just crash with me until you figure  
it out. Maybe Jacquelin can loan  
you some money...

Avery rolls her eyes. Christine sees this and finds an in...

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
I mean, she charges enough. What  
are you paying her?

Avery is caught off guard by the question. She hesitates.

AVERY  
The same as you. 30%.

CHRISTINE  
That's kind of steep, no?

AVERY  
Yeah, but it's pretty standard.

Avery senses Christine is unhappy with Jacquelin.

AVERY (CONT'D)  
You don't like her?

CHRISTINE  
No, she's been great. It just seems  
30% is a lot, that's all.

AVERY  
You can tell me if you don't like  
her.

Christine can see that Avery wants to open this can of worms,  
but Christine doesn't know if she should...

CHRISTINE  
Don't tell her I said anything.

Christine shuts the door on this discussion.

AVERY  
Of course not.

INT. CHRISTINE'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Avery takes in Christine's new place. Her suitcase is in the background.

CHRISTINE  
You can sleep here... I haven't  
used the futon yet but...

Christine plops down then lays down on the futon --  
demonstrating how to sleep on it.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
Seems functional.

She's trying to be funny but Avery is distant and distracted.  
Christine gets up. She continues showing Avery the place.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
But if you need to do laundry, it's  
in the closet near the kitchen...

Avery follows Christine into the living room -- still taking  
in all of the apartment's amenities.

Christine goes to her bedroom, leaving Avery in the living  
room. Christine opens her sock drawer and pulls out a cookie  
tin. Inside is a wad of cash -- a few thousand in hundred  
dollar bills. She takes out a few hundred.

Avery talks from the living room.

AVERY  
This place is really nice.

CHRISTINE  
Yeah. I am still getting used to  
it. But I like it.

Christine puts the rest of the cash back in the tin and  
rejoins Avery in the living room.

AVERY  
How much are you paying for it?

CHRISTINE  
Probably too much.

AVERY  
Don't you have loans to pay off?

CHRISTINE

Yeah... Jacquelin put the deposit down so that helped.

AVERY

So you can take "in calls"?

CHRISTINE

No... I am paying her back... She was just helping.

Avery raises her eyebrows -- jaded, skeptical.

AVERY

Huh.

Christine offers Avery a handful of cash.

CHRISTINE

Here. Just pay me back when you have it.

Avery looks at it. Does not take it.

AVERY

I have credit cards. I'm fine.  
Speaking of... let's go to lunch.  
It's on me. It's the least I can do

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Christine follows Avery to her brand new car -- a convertible with leather interior, as Avery makes a reservation:

AVERY (ON PHONE)

For two. (Pause.) Good. Avery Shur.

Avery hangs up.

CHRISTINE

This is your car?

AVERY

Yeah, I got it last month.

CHRISTINE

It's beautiful.

Avery smiles to divert the conversation.

AVERY

Zero down...

They get in and pull out.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

Christine and Avery sit at a table overlooking the treetops of a courtyard garden. Avery orders for both of them:

AVERY

We'll have the forest mushrooms,  
the kale salad, diver scallops, the  
seared Ahi and two Mimosas.

Avery smiles at Christine as the waiter leaves.

AVERY (CONT'D)

You deserve it. We deserve it.

Christine returns her smile, concerned.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

Christine listens intently to a new client, PHIL, 50s, talk about his life.

PHIL

It's like we're adding on another  
house. I don't even know why we  
need it. My son moved out last year  
and daughter's in college.

CHRISTINE

Where is she in school?

PHIL

USC.

His phone rings. He looks at it.

CHRISTINE

You can take that if you want I am  
going to go to the rest room.

Christine gently touches his shoulder as she walks away. He answers his phone -- it's his wife.

PHIL

Hi honey...

INT. RESTAURANT / BATHROOM STALL - DAY

Christine makes notes on her cell phone: *PHIL -- married -- fiscally conservative -- on diet, no carbs -- 2 kids -- USC...*

INT. CHRISTINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Christine enters with takeout and wine.

She steps into the kitchen and begins opening the bottle when she hears faint moans coming from Avery's "room".

Christine freezes, listening closely -- faint but distinct moans coming from Avery's room. Avery is definitely fucking in her house.

Christine looks pissed. She uncorks the bottle. Pop.

TIME CUT TO:

In the living room, Christine eats takeout and drinks wine while trying to study -- her laptop and books strewn on the coffee table. She hears Avery's door open.

Avery walks out of the bedroom holding hands with a MAN, 40's dressed casually, post-sex disheveled.

Christine continues to look at her laptop. She is blatantly trying to ignore their presence.

AVERY

Hey! I didn't hear you come home...  
(To the man:) This is my roommate  
Chelsea.

It is clear Christine is not happy. The man can see this.

CHRISTINE

Hi.

MAN

Hi. I think I left my wallet in...

He points to the back bedroom.

AVERY

Oh... I'll grab it.

Avery runs to the back room.

Christine and the man stare at each other for a moment, before Christine looks back at her computer.

MAN

I like your apar...

CHRISTINE

You don't have to say anything.

Avery returns with the wallet. She is perky.

AVERY  
Here you go!

MAN  
Thanks... Have a good night.

He shuts the door. He can't get out of there fast enough.

AVERY  
I am starving. Did you eat?

Christine does not answer. She looks at her computer.

AVERY (CONT'D)  
Hey... I will give you half for  
letting me...

CHRISTINE  
I didn't "let" you... You didn't  
even ask me.

AVERY  
I can give you 300 or...

CHRISTINE  
I don't want your money.

Christine gets up and goes to her room.

INT. COURTYARD / OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

Glass-enclosed courtyard -- lined with store and restaurants.  
Jacquelin hurries towards Christine, seated with coffee in  
hand. Christine gets up as Jacquelin approaches.

CHRISTINE  
Hi. Can I get you something?

JACQUELIN  
No, thanks. I don't have much time.  
I got back to back meetings all  
day.

They both sit.

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)  
So...

Jacquelin takes a moment to compose herself and smile at  
Christine -- a warm, but manufactured smile.

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)

I hear it went very well with Phil.  
He can be a handful.

CHRISTINE

He's fine. I know what the deal is.  
I know what I'm doing. I'm worried  
about Avery. She...

Christine hesitates, searching for the right words.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

She needs some help. She says she  
has to move out of where she's  
staying...

Jacqueline interrupts her.

JACQUELIN

Please. Spare me the details.

CHRISTINE

She's broke...

JACQUELIN

How is that my problem?

CHRISTINE

She says you're taking clients away  
from her.

JACQUELIN

She's erratic and unreliable and I  
have a business to run.

Jacquelin's phone rings.

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)

Speaking of which...

Jacquelin checks the number, but doesn't pick up.

CHRISTINE

Maybe you can help her out?

JACQUELIN

Look at you. All concerned. Do you  
want me to count the number of  
times I've lent her money? Given  
her a place to stay? Fed her? Do  
you? How much money do you think  
she would have made without me?

(MORE)

JACQUELIN (CONT'D)  
Do they pay assistants well at  
Kirkland and Allen? You're smart.  
Keep your distance. I have to go.

Christine is rattled, as Jacquelin abruptly leaves.

INT. CHRISTINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Christine wakes up, in the dark, to see Avery standing in her doorway.

CHRISTINE  
What is it?

AVERY  
I'm having problems sleeping. Can I  
lie down beside you?

CHRISTINE  
Okay.

Christine moves over as Avery climbs in beside her.

AVERY  
I'm sorry. I know I haven't been  
very easy.

CHRISTINE  
Yeah, you could say that.

AVERY  
I know. I keep thinking things will  
get easier...

Christine touches Avery's shoulder -- both to comfort her and tell her to shut up.

CHRISTINE  
Go to sleep. I have to be up at  
six.

AVERY  
Really? Fuck. Okay.

Avery moves up against Christine.

AVERY (CONT'D)  
You're really warm.

Avery presses closer.

AVERY (CONT'D)  
Thanks for being there for me.

Avery reaches over and kisses Christine softly.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Kiss me...

Christine gives in to the moment. She kisses Avery deeply and they start to make love.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

A doorman opens the door for Christine, as she enters a luxury hotel and takes the elevator.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - DAY

Christine straddles ROBERT, late 50's, looks very good for his age. She studies his face as she modulates her body and slowly brings him to orgasm.

TIME CUT TO:

Post-sex. Christine finishes getting dressed and sits down on the couch beside Robert, who is checking his phone.

CHRISTINE

I have something I'd like to talk to you about.

ROBERT

What is it?

CHRISTINE

I'm thinking of breaking out on my own, leaving Jacquelin...

ROBERT

Yeah, she called me. I was wondering about that.

Christine is momentarily thrown:

CHRISTINE

I don't want to put you in the middle of this. You know I love spending time together. I would hate to do anything to jeopardize that... I just hope you still consider seeing me. If you're not comfortable with it, I can wait.

ROBERT

Hey, hey... Come here...

He pulls her close and caresses her face.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

How long have we been seeing each other?

CHRISTINE

Two months.

ROBERT

That's right. I'm here with you. Do you hear me? Do you? You're the one I want to be with. Not Jacquelin. Just let me know how you want to handle it. It's all good. Come here...

He kisses her, deeply, intimately.

INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

While delivering briefs, Christine sees Avery, meeting privately with members of the firm's human resource department, in a glass-walled conference room.

Avery is visibly upset.

INT. LAW FIRM / ELEVATOR BANK - DAY

Christine turns the corner and catches Avery, coat, bag and banker's box in hand, as she waits for an elevator.

CHRISTINE

Hey.

AVERY

They're getting rid of me.

Concerned about her own position in the firm, Christine presses.

CHRISTINE

What did they say?

The elevator opens. Several employees get out.

AVERY

I'll talk to you later.

Christine leaves as Avery enters the elevator.

INT. CHRISTINE'S APARTMENT / BALCONY - EVENING

Christine enters her apartment, to find Avery sitting on the balcony, drinking.

CHRISTINE

Hey...

Avery looks up and raises her glass.

AVERY

Want to join me?

CHRISTINE

What happened?

AVERY

They fired me. "Using company property to conduct personal business." I was seeing someone at work. I guess he blabbed.

Christine's paranoia and survival instincts kick in.

CHRISTINE

Who?

Avery calls out Christine as she reaches for her glass.

AVERY

It's not your fucking boss, if that's what you're asking. You don't have to worry. Nobody mentioned you.

CHRISTINE

Did Jacquelin set it up?

Avery sneers.

AVERY

Ha... no. I reeled him in, all on my own. How about that?

CHRISTINE

What are you going to do?

Avery weighs the options.

AVERY

Blackmail him. Tell his wife. Fuck up his life. Nothing. Drink? Go on vacation? I'll get you rent. Don't worry.

CHRISTINE

I'm not worried. Let me know if I  
can do anything.

Avery starts laughing - cynical, angry.

AVERY

I will. I let you know. I love  
vacations. I live, eat and breathe  
vacations...

She slams back the rest of her glass.

INT. LAW FIRM / DAVID'S OFFICE - DAY

Christine quietly enters and places files in front of David.

CHRISTINE (MOUTHING THE WORDS)

Scherzer deposition.

David looks over and signs the cover letter, while speaking  
on the phone with the head of human resources:

DAVID (ON PHONE)

A month is more than generous.  
She's lucky to get that...

He hands the file back to Christine, silently thanking her as  
she leaves.

DAVID (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

Publicity? I don't give a shit. We  
let her go. Big deal.... All  
right...

INT. LAW FIRM - EVENING

Working at her desk, Christine calls Avery, as employees  
start to leave for the day. David's office is empty.

EMPLOYEE (O.S.)

See you tomorrow.

Avery's voicemail answers.

AVERY (VOICEMAIL)

Hi it's Avery. Leave me a message.

CHRISTINE

Hi, it's me. I'm heading out soon  
I'm going get some take out. Do you  
want anything? Call me.

INT. LAW FIRM / ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Christine enters a crowded elevator -- several other employees leaving for the day. Susan enters just as the doors are closing.

SUSAN  
Just in time.

She checks that the parking level button is lit.

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
You're working late these days.  
How's school?

It takes Christine a moment to shift gears.

CHRISTINE  
Good... Good.

SUSAN  
It must be a lot to juggle.

Christine becomes suspicious. What is Susan really asking? What does she know about her?

CHRISTINE  
It is. Especially the final year.  
But it's going well. Thanks for  
asking.

SUSAN  
You have exams coming up?

Christine hesitates momentarily, unsure of the exact dates.

CHRISTINE  
Next month.

SUSAN  
Good luck.

CHRISTINE  
Thanks.

The elevator door opens. Susan and Christine exit with other employees into the parking garage.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
Have a good night. See you  
tomorrow.

SUSAN  
You, too.

Christine realizes it was a benign conversation. She's safe.

INT. CHRISTINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Christine enters her apartment. All the lights are off.

CHRISTINE  
Avery? Hello?

No response. Christine checks the guest room. It's empty. Avery's belongings are gone. Christine calls Avery. No answer.

AVERY (VOICEMAIL)  
Hi it's Avery. Leave me a...

Christine hangs up. A wave of suspicion overcomes her. She goes into her bedroom. Her jewelry boxes are open -- a couple of items strewn on top of the dresser. She searches her sock drawer and opens the tin. Empty. Thousands of dollars gone.

INT. OPAL (UPSCALE RESTAURANT) - DAY

Christine weaves through a sea of business execs. She suddenly notices Jacquelin having lunch with a young woman, on the terrace.

EXT. OPAL / TERRACE - DAY

Enraged, Christine heads directly towards Jacquelin's table. Jacquelin, mid-conversation, sees Christine. Their eyes lock.

JACQUELIN  
Oh god...

Jacquelin deliberately turns away and whispers in the young woman's ear. The young woman looks up at Christine, whispering back:

YOUNG WOMAN  
She's coming over here.

Jacquelin turns around and smiles at Christine:

JACQUELIN  
Hi! What a surprise?!

**CUT TO MOMENTS LATER:**

Christine storms off the terrace, towards the valet parking -- just seconds after she dumped Jacquelin's lunch in her lap.

EXT. OPAL / VALET PARKING - DAY

Christine tips the VALET ATTENDANT as he holds her car door open for her. Christine barks at him:

CHRISTINE  
It's okay! I got it!

The attendant backs off as Christine gets in, slamming the door shut.

INT. CHRISTINE'S CAR + EXT UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

Christine sits in her car, enraged, as the attendant walks off.

CHRISTINE  
Fuck!

INT. LAW FIRM / COPY ROOM - DAY

Christine prints a number of briefs, in her own world, as the firm bustles around her.

INT. LAW FIRM / CORRIDOR + DAVID'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Christine walks through the empty corridors. Most of the employees have left for the night. She approaches David's office. The door is ajar -- David is working at his desk. Christine knocks before entering.

DAVID  
Come in.

She approaches his desk.

CHRISTINE  
Here are the Charles briefs you wanted. I mean the Childress briefs.

Christine is distracted, but composes herself.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
The statute of limitations expires this week. So...

DAVID  
Of course it does.

David sighs - one more thing to deal with. Christine is not sure if his frustration is aimed towards her. He shifts gears.

DAVID(CONT'D)  
I'm going to have a drink. Want to  
join me?

Christine is momentarily thrown.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Scotch?

CHRISTINE  
Sure. Yeah.

David pours two glasses.

DAVID  
I know it's not your fault. Sorry,  
if I seemed frustrated with you.

Christine, still paranoid about Avery, freezes...

CHRISTINE  
I'm not sure what you mean...

DAVID  
The statute of limitations... I  
should thank you for noticing.

David hands her a glass. Christine is relieved. They clink.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I mean that. Thank you. How are  
things going? You seem a little  
distracted. I know working here can  
be overwhelming at times...

CHRISTINE  
No, not all. I like it here. I  
really enjoy it. It's... something  
personal...

DAVID  
Okay. I don't want to intrude, if  
you'd rather not talk about it.

Christine looks down -- not sure if she should say anything.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
(jokingly)  
Okay, now I want to intrude. Your  
silence makes me curious.

Christine laughs.

CHRISTINE

It's complicated. I shouldn't talk about it.

DAVID

You can tell me... I won't judge.

Christine, skeptical about David prying, keeps it vague.

CHRISTINE

I had a falling out with a friend.

DAVID

Oh. A "FRIEND". What happened?

CHRISTINE

We had a fight. They took some money...

DAVID

She... or he stole it?

Christine doesn't respond.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Was it a lot?

CHRISTINE

Yeah, but it wasn't the money. I mean it was, but...

DAVID

Is this person a close friend?

David's question is loaded, prying. He suspects her friend is a lover, but Christine thinks David is prying about Avery.

CHRISTINE

Not really. I guess I shouldn't have let my guard down.

David makes light of it.

DAVID

You should never trust friends.

He becomes serious again.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Do you need some money? I'm happy to lend you some...

CHRISTINE (Interrupting)

No.

DAVID

Are you sure? We can call it an advance.

CHRISTINE

No. I'm sure. Thank you, though.

DAVID

I know it's got to hurt now but it will pass.

David smiles. He is warm. Christine feels drawn towards him. There is still a strong sexual tension between them.

INT. HOTEL / BAR - EVENING

Christine meets MARK, 50's, nervous, neurotic, at the crowded hotel bar. He is on edge and has already had a few drinks.

CHRISTINE

Mark?

MARK

Chelsea? Hi. Wow. You look beautiful.

CHRISTINE

Thanks.

MARK

What would you like?

CHRISTINE

What are you having?

MARK

Tequila. On the rocks.

CHRISTINE

Sounds good.

He finishes his drink and signals two more to the bartender.

MARK

So... Did you get the transfer?

CHRISTINE

I did. Thanks.

MARK

Ryan wasn't kidding. You're stunning.

Christine smiles, seductively.

CHRISTINE  
So tell me a little about yourself.

MARK  
Like what? What would you like to know?

Sensing his nervousness, Christine starts to take control -- reassuring him.

CHRISTINE  
You're here til Friday?

MARK  
Yeah.

The bartender serves their drinks.

CHRISTINE  
Thanks. Do you come to town often?

MARK  
Not that often. Every other month or so. Although that could change.

CHRISTINE  
Why's that?

MARK  
Because of you.

CHRISTINE  
Slow down. Aren't you getting ahead of yourself?

MARK  
I can tell already. Fuck. Sorry. I guess I'm just a little nervous. It's been awhile... Married life.

CHRISTINE  
That's okay.

She looks into his eyes, reassuring him, seducing him, as she touches a thin gold chain draped against her breast.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
We have time. There's no rush.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Christine and Mark have sex in hotel room. Christine is in control. She guides him.

CHRISTINE  
Slower. Touch me...

Mark slows down and touches her breast. They start to move together.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)  
That's it... Yes...

She kisses him, deeply, as they connect.

INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

Christine walks through the office, passing Avery's office. Avery's replacement, a YOUNG ATTRACTIVE WOMAN in her mid-twenties, looks up and smiles briefly. Avery returns her smile, but it is cursory. They are strangers.

INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

Christine returns and notices a MANILLA ENVELOPE on top of her desk. Her name, the name of her law firm and address are printed on the label. There is no return address, no postage. Christine opens the envelope.

INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

Envelope in hand, Christine walks over to Susan's desk.

CHRISTINE  
You didn't notice who put this on my desk, by any chance?

SUSAN  
No. What is it?

CHRISTINE  
A copy of the Oreck deposition.  
I'll take care of it.

SUSAN  
Okay. Thanks.

INT. LAW FIRM / CORRIDOR + RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Panicked, Christine walks up to the reception area, with the envelope in hand. TWO RECEPTIONISTS are in the midst of constantly answering the telephones...

Christine shows Receptionist #1 the envelope, as Receptionist #2 continues answering the phones.

CHRISTINE

Did you see who dropped this off  
for me?

RECEPTIONIST #1

No.

CHRISTINE

Was it a messenger?

Receptionist #1 points to the messenger delivery log.

RECEPTIONIST #1

Check the log.

Receptionist #1 goes back to answering the phones as Christine checks the log.

CHRISTINE

It's not on here.

Receptionist #1 shrugs, as Christine walks away, disturbed.

INT. LAW FIRM / CORRIDOR + COPY ROOM - DAY

Christine enters the copy room, alone. She looks at the content of the envelope again -- several of the same PHOTOGRAPHS of her posing as a GFE escort, taken by the photographer Jacquelin recommended. However, now her entire face can be seen clearly. Jacquelin's threat is clear.

END OF EPISODE