

A Legal Mind

Written by
Aaron Korsh

Sixth Revised Network Draft
December 3rd, 2009

ACT ONE

INT. LSAT TESTING FACILITY - AFTERNOON

We open on a sign in large letters, "30 MINUTES LEFT." As a hand replaces "30" with "15;" REVEAL a large room filled with college students furiously racing to finish the LSAT test.

We pan across to the one figure who seems unfazed. MIKE ROSS (Mets hat, short-hair, glasses, goatee) has already finished and is doodling on the back of the test.

Mike notices a PROCTOR walk by, looking at him curiously. He quickly turns the test over and pretends to nervously work on it. We speed up time as the "MINUTES LEFT" sign goes from "10" to "5" to 4,3,2,1. Finally the proctor yells:

PROCTOR

Time's up. Pencils down.

Mike blends in with the students and tosses his test on the pile. As he leaves, the proctor moves the pile to the side, leaving Mike's test on top, then he taps Mike from behind.

PROCTOR

Excuse me. Do I know you from somewhere?

We see anxiety momentarily cross Mike's face. He swallows, then turns around to see the Proctor looking at him intently.

MIKE

I don't think so. I have a very good memory for faces.

The Proctor shrugs, he must be wrong. Mike walks away. The Proctor hesitates, thinks to himself, then turns to pick up Mike's test; the pile's knocked over, no way to tell which is the one he wants. He turns back; no Mike. He yells...

PROCTOR

Hey!

He fights through a group of students to get out the door...

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LSAT TEST - CONTINUOUS

Mike's just outside the door. He breaks into a run around the corner to a door at the end of the hall. No good, jammed with students, he won't have time to get through. As he runs to his right, he trips over a GUY WEARING A METS SHIRT.

INT. LSAT TEST FACILITY/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The proctor bursts through the throng of students and runs to the door where Mike just was. He sees Mike from behind. He grabs him, turns him around... it's not Mike. The guy with the Mets shirt is now wearing Mike's Met's cap. The proctor looks down the hall, sees a men's room and runs toward it.

INT. MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike is in a stall. Without his Mets cap, his hair comes down to his shoulders. He quickly removes his glasses and the fake goatee he had on and flushes them. He exits the stall, looking 100% different than he did seconds ago...

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A transformed Mike walks back down the hall with confidence. He doesn't break stride as the proctor runs by without even noticing his existence. A small smile crosses his face...

INT. A SMALL APARTMENT - LATER

Mike knocks on the door of an apartment. It opens. The YOUNG MAN looks exactly like Mike did at the LSAT's. Short hair, glasses, goatee. Mike returns his driver's license.

MIKE

Here.

YOUNG MAN

What did you get me?

MIKE

What I said I was going to... a 158.

YOUNG MAN

I told you I wanted a 175.

MIKE

And I told you only one out of hundred people can score that. You're a B-minus student who got a thousand on the SAT's. I get you a 175 they'll know you cheated.

YOUNG MAN

So only a genius loser can get a 175?

MIKE

Actually, I'd get a 180. Now, can I have my money please?

The Young Man hands Mike a wad of cash. Mike counts it.

MIKE

This is only half.

YOUNG MAN

Then why don't you go call the police?

The Young Man slams the door in Mike's face.

EXT. MANHATTAN SKYLINE - 9:00 PM

We pan across the water to the facade of a gorgeous office complex at the southern tip of the city. The offices in the building are all dark. Except one. We ZOOM IN:

INT. STATE OF THE ART CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Two highly paid teams of LAWYERS SCREAM across the sleekest conference table ever made. A young lawyer, LOUIS LITT, (33, slick, arrogant) quietly exits.

INT. HALLWAY/KATHERINE PEARSON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Louis is in the doorway of, "Katherine Pearson, Managing Partner." Louis knocks. Katherine (50's, distinguished) doesn't look up.

LOUIS

We have a problem. The deal's falling apart.

KATHERINE

Go get Harvey.

INT. PARK AVENUE CONDOMINIUM - SAME

Five well-heeled men play poker in the most expensive condo in Manhattan. CLOSE ON HARVEY SPECTER, 42, with Clooney looks. He's fit, confident, takes pride in being well-dressed. He watches as the river card is turned... A GREY HAIRE D MAN smiles at Harvey as he pushes in his chips.

GREY HAIR

Raise fifty thousand.

HARVEY

I'm all in.

Harvey smiles back as he pushes a stack of chips three times the size of Grey Hair's bet into the pot.

INT. KATHERINE PEARSON'S OFFICE - SAME

Katherine is still at her desk. Louis knocks again.

LOUIS

Gerald Tate is here. He wants to know what's happening to his deal.

KATHERINE

Louis, didn't I tell you to get Harvey?

LOUIS

Trust me, I can handle Gerald Tate.

Katherine looks up as if noticing Louis for the first time.

KATHERINE

No. You can't.

INT. PARK AVENUE CONDOMINIUM - SAME

Harvey and Grey Hair are where we left them.

HARVEY

The problem is, if you call, I'm going to turn over two aces, and you'll lose.

GREY HAIR

Yeah, yeah. And if I fold, you'll show me the bluff and it'll kill me.

HARVEY

If you fold, I'm not showing you anything.

A beat. Grey Hair pushes his chips in. Harvey throws his cards down, revealing two aces...

HARVEY

That's two hundred thousand.
(reads a text message, then)
You can pay me later... I've got to go.

INT. KATHERINE PEARSON'S OFFICE - 10:00 PM

GERALD TATE (55, street smart, ex-prize fighter) yells at Katherine. Harvey saunters in unnoticed in his \$4,000 suit.

GERALD

I don't care who's on his way. I'm paying you millions, and you're telling me I'm going to get screwed?!

HARVEY

Katherine, have I come at a bad time?

She cracks a smile. The cavalry is here. She hands Harvey a stack of deal memos. Harvey proceeds to examine them.

KATHERINE

Gerald, I'd like you to meet Harvey Specter. He's our best attorney.

GERALD

If you're their best attorney, where the hell have you been the last three hours?

A moment. Harvey speaks calmly while scanning the memos.

HARVEY

Well, Gerald, I specialize in troubled situations. And when I left here at 7:00 PM this deal wasn't in jeopardy. So, what I'm trying to do now is understand what happened in the interim.

GERALD

We keep raising the price and they keep rejecting it. It's last minute bad faith bullshit.

Harvey ignores Gerald and continues scanning.

HARVEY

It says here Cooper's no longer staying on as honorary Vice President.

GERALD

That's right. I don't want him around.

HARVEY

He... wouldn't be around. It's an honorary position.

GERALD

I don't give a crap.

Harvey puts the memo down and looks Gerald in the eye.

HARVEY

I think you do. Because that's what changed since I left. Which means it's you who's been dealing in bad faith.

GERALD

Well, now that you've gotten a handle on what's happened in the God damn interim, what are you going to do about it? Because he's not getting that title.

Harvey casually pours a glass of water.

HARVEY

Let me just make sure I understand. We negotiated a deal that got you everything you wanted. Mr. Cooper signed it. And now you won't close until we take away the last shred of his dignity?

GERALD

Bingo.

HARVEY

Well, that's not going to happen.

He offers the water. Gerald looks at it with contempt, then:

GERALD

Why the hell not?

HARVEY

Because I like Mr. Cooper. And my firm doesn't operate in bad faith.

Harvey drinks the water himself.

GERALD

How I see it is, instead of working Cooper, you're working me. So take your faggoty attitude back in there and make him sign my deal or I'll pay someone else your money to do it for me.

HARVEY

First of all, Gerald, if you think anyone is gonna touch this deal after your bad faith, you're mistaken. Second, the way our agreement works is the minute Cooper signed the deal that gave you everything you wanted, our fee was due and payable.

Harvey reaches into his jacket pocket.

HARVEY

Which is why at 7:30, I received confirmation of a wire transfer from escrow indicating payment in full.

He removes a fax.

HARVEY

I would say the ball's in your court, but the truth is your balls are in my fist. I apologize if that image is too faggoty for you, but I'm comfortable enough with my manhood to put it out there.

Harvey holds out the fax to Gerald, who is dumbstruck.

HARVEY

Now get your ass in there and close this
God damn deal.

GERALD

(to Katherine)

You let him talk to me like this?

KATHERINE

Harvey speaks for the firm.

Gerald exits the office. Katherine leans in to Harvey.

KATHERINE

We got paid before Gerald signed the
deal?

HARVEY

This is a memo about some fire drill on
Tuesday. By the way, you're blue team
captain. You get to wear a fire hat.

INT. TREVOR STEVENS' CONDOMINIUM - CONTINUOUS

Leather couch, plasma TV, weed on the table; this is the pad
of a bachelor with serious disposable income. TREVOR, clean
cut, 22, suit and tie, takes a bite of a cheeseburger and
savors it. Mike looks at the bong, shakes his head to
himself and then turns to Trevor...

MIKE

I've got to get my shit together.

TREVOR

This is the best cheeseburger I've ever
had in my life.

MIKE

It's from Monday. Trevor, I'm serious.
I almost got caught today, then my client
stiffed me for half. I'm sick of this
life. I've gotta stop getting stoned and
get my act together.

TREVOR

Dude, look at me. You can bake up and
still be a success.

MIKE

You sell pot for a living.

TREVOR

It still saps the motivation. Look, all I'm saying is, you want in, you are in.

MIKE

That's basically your offer before I got caught cheating on your math test in third grade.

TREVOR

Goddamn memory.

MIKE

And by the way, it's your offer on every shady thing you've gotten me involved in.

TREVOR

How was I supposed to know that chick was the dean's daughter? Look, nobody's ever going to suspect you're a dealer.

Trevor indicates his clean cut image and suit and tie.

TREVOR

Look at me. This is a two-thousand dollar suit, I've got twelve of them.

Trevor starts counting on his fingers.

TREVOR

I have an office, I take on real software projects, my clients wear suits... They give me briefcases of cash, I give them identical briefcases with vacuum sealed bud. I'm telling you, hide in plain sight... oldest trick in the book.

MIKE

So what do you need me for?

TREVOR

I leave town tomorrow, I've got a client coming in wants to meet at the Ritz. I need somebody I trust to make the drop. It's totally safe. Come on, help me out.

MIKE

You know, one stands a greater chance of dying while dealing drugs than on death row in Texas. Which begs the question: why would anyone deal drugs?

TREVOR

What are you talking about?

MIKE

It's from "Freakonomics," which I suggest you read. But whether you do or you don't, you'll have to find someone else, because I'm not interested.

JENNY (O.S.)

Not interested in what?

JENNY GRIFFITH, Trevor's girlfriend, has entered the condo without them noticing. She's 22, dresses like a student, and has no idea that Trevor deals pot. Trevor is defensive.

TREVOR

What are you doing here? I thought you were sleeping at your place tonight.

JENNY

(what he should have said)
Hey, sweetie, what a pleasant surprise. I'm so glad you stopped by.

She kisses Trevor then turns to Mike.

JENNY

Not interested in what?

Mike and Trevor share a look, "What should we say?"

MIKE

Trevor's trying to set me up.

JENNY

(covering)
That's terrific. Who's the lucky girl?

TREVOR

I was trying to get him to work for me.

JENNY

(brightening)
That's a great idea. It would take some stress off of Trevor. And you'd pick up writing code like you do everything else.

MIKE

I'm gonna take off. I've got to get up early to see my grandmother.

As Mike heads out, Jenny squeezes his hand.

INT. MANHATTAN UPSCALE BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Harvey and Katherine sit surrounded by beautiful people.

KATHERINE

By the way, I've set up a meeting with you and John Dockery next week.

HARVEY

Dockery? He's Skadden's biggest client.

KATHERINE

Not anymore. He's looking around. He's asked us to do a preliminary evaluation of his corporate structure and assess where he's vulnerable to a takeover. I want you to charm him and close him.

HARVEY

Consider it done.

A stunning WAITRESS approaches with their drinks. As Katherine takes hers, she indicates Harvey to the waitress.

KATHERINE

Miss, you are looking at the best closer this city has ever seen.

HARVEY

(to waitress, not embarrassed)
Katherine, please you're embarrassing me.

WAITRESS

Closer, huh? Baseball?

HARVEY

Attorney. I close situations.

WAITRESS

So all you care about is money?

HARVEY

The truth is... I do it for the children.

WAITRESS

Handsome, wealthy, and funny... what do you think you're some kind of super hero?

HARVEY

I don't like to toot my own horn. I feel that question is best answered by one of the many people whose lives I've saved.

She laughs.

WAITRESS

I'm Lisa.

HARVEY

Harvey.

LISA

Well, Harvey, I don't usually do this, but I'm off in ten minutes. You want to take me out for a drink?

HARVEY

Your timing couldn't be more perfect. Katherine here was just leaving.

Katherine is just starting to sip her full drink.

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

The unit's barely larger than the table at the law firm. Mike is asleep on a pullout that takes up the entire place. An alarm rings. Mike hits snooze and goes back to sleep.

INT. EXQUISITE WEST END TOWN HOME - SAME

Katherine is eating an early breakfast with her mentor, PHILLIP, a distinguished man in his seventies. His elegantly appointed home resembles the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

KATHERINE

...point is I can see myself stepping down as senior partner in five years.

PHILLIP

Seems like it's only been ten minutes since I handed the reins to you.

KATHERINE

It hasn't. Time just moves a lot faster when you're a hundred and sixty.

She smiles. There's a pause...

PHILLIP

What's the matter?

KATHERINE

How did you know I was your successor?

PHILLIP

The truth? My gut. It told me you were the only one with the balls for the job.

KATHERINE

That's what I was afraid you were going to say. My gut tells me it's Harvey. But my heart tells me he's not ready.

PHILLIP
What's he missing?

KATHERINE
Compassion.

PHILLIP
Makes sense. The killer instinct that makes him a great lawyer is what concerns you about making him senior partner.

KATHERINE
Exactly. If the leader of a firm doesn't care about the people who work for him or the clients he represents... there won't be much of a firm left to lead.

Phillip refills her coffee.

PHILLIP
You know, you weren't completely ready. And he does have some years to learn.

KATHERINE
But compassion. I'm not sure you can learn that.

PHILLIP
What are you going to do about it?

KATHERINE
What would you do about it?

PHILLIP
A man's missing compassion? I'd shove it down his throat.

KATHERINE
How?

PHILLIP
I imagine the opportunity will present itself.

INT. HARVEY'S BEDROOM - SAME

Expansive, overlooking Central Park... if this bedroom were an apartment, it'd go for \$7,000 a month. Harvey leans over a sleeping Lisa, the waitress from the night before and gives her a kiss. She looks at the time.

HARVEY
Lisa, this was lovely, but it's time to go. I need to be in the office by 7:30.

LISA

Can't we hang out a little? I can make you some breakfast.

HARVEY

As tempting as that sounds, I'm afraid I hate to miss a workout, and I really want to get into the office before 7:30.

LISA

That's too bad. I was thinking maybe you could eat it off my stomach.

She pulls her shirt up. Harvey takes in her fantastic body.

HARVEY

I guess if I skip the gym, I can still get in by nine.

INT. NURSING HOME HALLWAY/MIKE'S GRANDMOTHER'S ROOM - LATER

Mike walks with the head physician at his grandmother's nursing home, DOCTOR SHRAGER. She's a kindly, older woman.

DOCTOR SHRAGER

Your grandmother's getting worse. I need to move her to full care, or I'll have to transfer her to a state facility.

MIKE

I won't put her in a state facility.

DOCTOR SHRAGER

Then you'll have to come up with \$10,000.

MIKE

Then I will.

They stop outside a room. Shrager pats Mike affectionately, then exits. Mike's GRANDMOTHER (75, frail) is reading. He approaches her. They hug. Mike sees her meds on the table.

MIKE

I hear you're not taking your pills.

GRAMMY

Because they're trying to poison me.

MIKE

That's nonsense. Doctor Shrager assured me she wouldn't poison you until January at the earliest. She reached this year's quota, and if she does it before January, she can't count it as a 2009 poisoning.

She eyes Mike suspiciously, then takes the pills.

MIKE

Now what did I teach you?

She and Mike tap fists.

GRAMMY

Michael, I'm worried about you. I'm not going to be around forever, and -- I want you to stop with that... stuff.

MIKE

You... know about that?

GRAMMY

I've got early stage Alzheimer's, I'm not an idiot. I know life's been hard for you, and you went looking for comfort. But comfort has consequences. You're not a kid anymore. I want you to promise you'll start living up to your potential.

MIKE

I promise.

She takes her book and starts reading. Mike sees the book is upside down. He tears up and walks out.

INT. KATHERINE'S OFFICE/HALLWAY - 9:30 AM

Harvey enters to see Katherine and Louis.

LOUIS

9:30. Nice of you to join us, Harvey. And I see you're dressed like a pimp.

HARVEY

My bad, Louis, I was out late after the huge deal I closed for the firm last night, and when I woke up, this was the suit your wife picked out for me.

Harvey casually takes a sip of his coffee.

KATHERINE

Moving along. Harvey, interviews are set up at the Ritz tomorrow.

HARVEY

What? Why didn't we just hire that Harvard summer intern douche?

KATHERINE

I think if you listen to the phrasing of that question, you'll come up with the answer.

HARVEY

What do you expect from Harvard? Book smarts, no street smarts. We need people with balls who can think on their feet, not another clone with a rod up his ass.

LOUIS

Harvey, the fact that we only hire from Harvard gives us a cache that's more valuable than a kid from SUNY Binghamton.

Harvey indicates that he can't hear...

HARVEY

Louis, if you're going to talk out of your ass, you have to remove the rod.

KATHERINE

You went to Harvard Law.

HARVEY

I'm an exception.

KATHERINE

Then find another one.

HARVEY

Then let me skip the recruiting. I work alone anyway.

KATHERINE

I would, Harvey, but all partners get an associate. It's just a rule.

Louis, caught off-guard turns to Katherine heatedly.

LOUIS

What? I deserve that partnership. I run the lower level associates, my billable hours destroy his and I am here night and day doing whatever's asked of me instead of swanning in and out whenever I please.

HARVEY

I have to admit, he does make me sound very swan-like.

LOUIS

Watch it, Harvey. You're not partner yet, and I've been an attorney here two years longer than you.

HARVEY

Yet the only skill you've developed is kissing Katherine's ass.

KATHERINE

Harvey, you won, shut up. Louis, this is how it is. Now you two make nice.

HARVEY

Louis, I'm sorry. I was out of line with the ass-kissing comment and I apologize.

Harvey holds his hand out. Louis reluctantly shakes it.

HARVEY

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to call your wife and tell her the man she loves just made partner.

(off Katherine's disapproval)

What? Too far? Come on, it's my way of showing there's no hard feelings.

INT. NURSING HOME HALLWAY/LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Mike walks through the hallways. He dials his cell. Then:

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Trevor, I'm in. One time deal, I want twenty-five. Take it or leave it.

INT. DRUG DEALER'S LIVING ROOM - NEW JERSEY - SAME

Trevor's with THREE WELL-DRESSED MEN holding weapons. They're surrounded by briefcases filled with cash and marijuana. Intercut Trevor and Mike.

TREVOR (INTO PHONE)

I'll take it. There's a briefcase in my room with the stuff, pick it up tomorrow. But you can't take it into a luxury hotel looking like a delivery guy. So you need to shave, get a haircut and buy a suit.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

That's a hell of a lot to ask.

TREVOR (INTO PHONE)

I'm not just asking you. I'm paying you twenty-five thousand dollars.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE HARVEY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Harvey approaches his career-long secretary, DONNA. She's in her 30's, good-looking, and would take a bullet for Harvey.

HARVEY

Donna, clear my day tomorrow. You and I are hiring a new associate.

DONNA

Done.

Harvey checks to make sure no one's looking. Then, quietly:

HARVEY

Does this suit make me look like a pimp?

Donna holds out her palm, indicating maybe.

INT. DRUG DEALER'S LIVING ROOM - NEW JERSEY - SAME

Trevor hangs up the phone and turns to the main dealer.

TREVOR

He's in. I'm gonna grab a beer.

Trevor exits. The main dealer turns to an underling.

DEALER #1

Good. In twenty four hours we'll know if this new buyer's a cop.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE DRUG DEALER'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Trevor turns back around -- he forgot something. He hears...

DEALER #2 (O.S.)

Why didn't you tell Trevor he might be sending the guy into set up?

DEALER #1 (O.S.)

Same reason I don't tell Gina I'm bangin' her sister. It'll only cause trouble...

The dealer and his cronies laugh. Trevor's face falls as Dealer #1 comes around the corner. Trevor smiles weakly...

TREVOR

I was just thinking I should get going.

DEALER #1

No. You shouldn't.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. TREVOR STEVENS' CONDOMINIUM - NEXT MORNING

Mike, clean cut and wearing a suit, grabs the briefcase and heads for the door. Jenny enters. Mike is startled.

MIKE

You scared the hell out of me.

JENNY

Sorry. Look at you. You look great. Tell me you decided to work with Trevor.

MIKE

Trial basis. What are you doing here?

JENNY

Wanna hear something ridiculous? My mom is coming by my place later and I don't want to mess it up, so I'm hanging here.

MIKE

That's not so bad.

JENNY

That's not the ridiculous part. After I finish scouring the place for her visit, I sprinkle a tee-ny bit of crumbs around.

MIKE

Why?

JENNY

Because I don't want her to think I scour the place just for her visit.

MIKE

That is ridiculous.

JENNY

I know. That's what I just said.

Mike and Jenny share a smile. He starts out, she stops him.

JENNY

You want to look perfect your first day.

Jenny fixes Mike's tie, it's very intimate. She finishes, noticing he's staring at her. A moment, then:

JENNY

Do you ever wonder what would have happened if you and I had met first?

MIKE

(beat)

I've got to go.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - SUITE 205 OUTER ROOM - SAME

DONNA sits at a desk, waiting for the wave of interviewees. Harvey pokes his head out of the inner room.

HARVEY

Donna, do me a favor, give each guy a hard time before you send him back. Then give me a wink if they say something clever.

DONNA

What are you looking for?

HARVEY

I've gotta work with this guy a long time. I've got to understand him, relate to him, and trust him. Which means I'm looking for another me.

DONNA

Got it. Witty, charming, ballsy, thinks he's the smartest one in the room...

HARVEY

That's why I love you. You get me.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL - LOBBY - A LITTLE LATER

Mike enters to see a group of students under a sign: "Harvard Law Interviews: Suite 205." They're dressed like Mike: blue suits, white shirts, blue ties. Mike heads inside, nervous.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - SUITE 205 OUTER ROOM - MINUTES LATER

A young, straight-laced applicant stands in front of Donna.

DONNA

What gives you the nerve to think we're going to let the whitest person I've ever seen interview for our law firm?

INTERVIEWEE #1

I... Because... I have an appointment.

Harvey checks to see if she'll wink: She shakes her head no.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON BATHROOM/HALLWAY/ELEVATOR - A LITTLE LATER

Mike stands in front of the mirror, puts water on his face, wipes it off, and looks at himself. He takes a deep breath.

MIKE

You can do this.

He picks up his briefcase, and heads out of the bathroom. We follow Mike back to the lobby. An elevator arrives. DING. Mike steels himself, gets on, and presses the fourth floor.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - SUITE 205 OUTER ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Another applicant stands in front of Donna. He's very short.

DONNA

Wow. Are you sure you're tall enough to go on this ride?

He answers in an extremely high-pitched, meek voice.

INTERVIEWEE #2

I don't appreciate derogatory statements about my physical characteristics.

Harvey looks out: Donna, amused, shakes her head no.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON ELEVATOR/HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Mike exits the elevator. He checks his watch: thirty seconds to ten. He walks down the hallway slowly. There's a BELLMAN in a RED uniform walking a MAN IN A SUIT to suite 412.

FLASHBACK MIKE'S MEMORY - RITZ-CARLTON ENTRANCE EARLIER

We see the scene as Mike entered; the uniforms are BLUE.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Something isn't right. The two men are staying in the room's entrance. Mike continues walking slowly.

FLASHBACK MIKE'S MEMORY - RITZ-CARLTON ENTRANCE EARLIER

Again, the scene as Mike entered the hotel. This time there is a sign, "Pool is Closed Due to Construction."

INT. RITZ-CARLTON HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mike keeps walking toward them. He approaches the bellman.

MIKE

Excuse me, I was thinking of going for a swim. Are the pool facilities here nice?

BELLMAN

Of course, sir, this is the Ritz-Carlton.

MIKE

Thank you.

(to man in suit)

Oh and do you have the time?

The man in the suit holds out his arm to check his watch, Mike sees that he's got a gun inside his jacket pocket.

SUIT

It's ten o'clock.

MIKE

Thank you.

Mike walks down the hall and turns the corner.

BELLMAN

He saw your gun.

SUIT

You think that's him?

BELLMAN

Matches the description. But he didn't go in the room.

SUIT

It's ten exactly, he's just walking by?

BELLMAN

It is a hotel.

SUIT

And by coincidence our guy's nowhere in sight.

BELLMAN

What do you want me to do? If our guy shows up, you don't look right standing here without a bellman.

SUIT

Go after him. Stay on the radio.

The bellman runs around the corner. The hallway is empty. At the end of it is a stairway. He runs toward it.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON STAIRWAY - THIRD FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Mike looks down the stairs, as he passes the third floor landing, the briefcase SLAMS into the stairway railing.

FLASHBACK MIKE'S MEMORY - RITZ-CARLTON ENTRANCE EARLIER

The group of Harvard Law students pass in front of Mike. Again the sign reads, "Harvard Law Interviews: Suite 205."

INT. RITZ-CARLTON STAIRWAY - SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Mike lands on the stairwell, again the briefcase gets SLAMMED as he bursts into the hall. As the door slowly closes...

INT. RITZ-CARLTON STAIRWAY - FOURTH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

The bellman opens the stairway door. He looks down... nothing. He looks up... nothing. Click. He hears the second floor door close. He races down the stairs.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - SUITE 205 OUTER ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

A nervous, young-looking INTERVIEWEE #3, approaches Donna.

DONNA

Kid, what's wrong with you? You look like you're eleven years old.

INTERVIEWEE #3

(extremely nervous)

I... I was late to puberty.

The Kid runs out. Harvey sticks his head out. Donna throws up her hands. Donna calls out to the other applicants.

DONNA

Rick Sorkin?... Rick Sorkin?

INT. RITZ-CARLTON HALLWAY/SUITE 205 OUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike tries to stop breathing heavily as he walks the hall toward Suite 205. He opens the door to the suite. It is filled with men who look and are dressed exactly like him.

DONNA (O.S.)

Mr. Sorkin, you're five minutes late. Do you have a reason I should let you in?

Mike looks over to see Donna. He stares at her. A beat.

MIKE

I'm only here to ditch the cops. I don't care if you let me in or not.

Harvey opens the door to meet Mike. Donna gives him a wink. As Mike enters the door, we see that the latch on the briefcase has come loose from being slammed...

INT. RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL - SUITE 205 - MOMENTS LATER

Mike and Harvey shake hands.

MIKE

Rick Sorkin.

HARVEY

Harvey Specter. Nice to meet you.

As they shake hands, the briefcase bursts open. Harvey sees the mound of pot. Mike looks busted.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON HALLWAY/SUITE 205 OUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The bellman enters and realizes there are twenty men who look exactly like Mike. He looks suspiciously at everyone.

DONNA

Can I help you?

INT. GERALD TATE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Gerald sits at his desk. His secretary appears at the door.

SECRETARY

There's a Louis Litt here to see you.

GERALD

Who the hell is Louis Litt?

SECRETARY

He says he's your lawyer.

GERALD

Send him in.

The secretary exits. A moment. Louis appears at the door.

LOUIS

Mr. Tate, I have information that I believe will lead you to the conclusion that you're better served at Pearson, Hardman with me as your lead counsel.

GERALD

Come in, have a seat.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL - SUITE 205 - A LITTLE LATER

Harvey and Mike sit together. Harvey leans in, fascinated.

HARVEY

How did you know they were the police?

MIKE

I read a novel in elementary school. The cops were staking out a hotel and they posed as a bellhop and a man in a suit. It was the exact same thing.

HARVEY

You read a novel in elementary school?

MIKE

What? I like to read.

HARVEY

Why did you ask them what time it was?

MIKE

To throw them off. What drug dealer asks a cop what time it is while he's carrying a briefcase full of pot?

Harvey shakes his head in awe.

HARVEY

Now that is ballsy thinking under fire. We should hire you. Jesus, I'd give you the twenty-five grand as a signing bonus.

MIKE

I'll take it.

HARVEY

Unfortunately, we only hire from Harvard. And you not only didn't go to Harvard Law School, you didn't go to any law school.

MIKE

What if I told you I consume knowledge like no one you've ever met, and I've actually passed the bar?

Harvey looks at Mike, "I'd say you're full of shit." Mike points at a book sticking out of Harvey's bag.

MIKE

I notice you have a Barbri Legal Handbook with you. Open it up, read me something.

Harvey looks skeptical, but he opens up the book.

HARVEY

"Civil liability associated with agency is based on several factors including --"

MIKE

"-- the deviation of the agent from his path, the reasonable inference of agency on behalf of the plaintiff, and the nature of the damages themselves."

HARVEY

(looking up, stunned)
How did you do that?

MIKE

I learned it when I studied for the bar.

HARVEY

Okay, hot shot, fire up that laptop, I'll show you what a Harvard Attorney can do. That's my database of every legal issue in existence. Pick one.

Harvey jumps up and points for Mike to sit at his laptop. Mike punches the arrow key a couple times and hits enter.

MIKE

Stock option backdating.

HARVEY

Although backdating options is legal, violations arise related to disclosures under both FASB 123R and Internal Revenue Code Section 409A.

MIKE

You forgot The Sarbanes Oxley Act of '02.

HARVEY

The statute of limitations renders Sarbanes Oxley moot post 2007.

Mike peers closely at the screen while clicking the mouse.

MIKE

Not if you can find actions to cover up the violation, as established in the sixth circuit, May 2008.

HARVEY

Impressive, but you are at a computer.

MIKE

(turning the screen to Harvey)
I've been playing hearts: If you're gonna beat me, it better be at something else.

Harvey is stunned.

HARVEY

How can you know all that --

MIKE

I told you. I like to read. And once I read something, I understand it. And once I understand it, I never forget it.

HARVEY

Why take the bar?

MIKE

Some dickhead bet me I couldn't pass it without going to law school.

HARVEY

How long did he give you to study?

MIKE

Four months. It was two months longer than I needed.

Harvey begins to actually consider Mike's proposition.

HARVEY

Do you really want this job?

MIKE

When I was in college my dream was to be a lawyer. My grandmother needed money and Trevor convinced me to memorize some math test and sell it. Turns out we sold it to the dean's daughter. I lost my scholarship and got thrown out of school.

Mike pauses, as if remembering how it felt... then:

MIKE

I got knocked into a different life, I've been wishing for a way back ever since.

HARVEY

I had someone take a chance on me once. But before she did, she made damn sure I was committed to the job. I'm talking about work. Long hours, high pressure, no fucking around. I need an adult.

MIKE

You give me this, I'll work as hard as it takes to school those Harvard douches, and be the best lawyer you've ever seen.

Harvey looks at a piece of paper he's written something on.

HARVEY

I'm inclined to give you a shot. But what if I decide to go another way?

MIKE

I'd say, fine. Sometimes I like to hang out with people that aren't that bright just to see how the other half lives.

We see the paper says, "Thinks he's the smartest one in the room." Harvey grins:

HARVEY

Move over. I'm emailing the firm I've found our next associate.

(as he types)

By the way, the bet with the dickhead, how much was it for?

MIKE

(joking)

Aaah, I can't remember.

They both laugh. Harvey is finished emailing.

HARVEY

All right, you start a week from Monday. Here's what you're gonna do...

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - TWO DAYS LATER

Mike packs a small bag with a couple of days worth of clothes as the rest of their conversation continues in voice over.

HARVEY (V.O.)

First off, that's it for the pot. We drug test. Stop now, you'll be fine. I assume that's all the drugs you do.

MIKE (V.O.)

(Harvey was on the money)

How do you know that?

HARVEY (V.O.)

You read books, I read people. And pot heads smoke pot. That's what they do.

MIKE (V.O.)

That's not all I do.

Mike takes a tiny bag of pot and heads into the bathroom.

HARVEY (V.O.)

You're Albert freaking Einstein, but you couldn't manage to go to law school. You think that's not from pot?

MIKE (V.O.)

Trevor got me kicked out of college. How would I have gotten into law school?

Mike hesitates, then flushes the bag down the toilet.

HARVEY (V.O.)

That's another thing. You're gonna ditch that briefcase and your boy Trevor.

Mike checks his cell: he's had six missed calls from Trevor.

HARVEY (V.O.)

Then you're gonna get on a plane to Harvard and you're gonna learn everything there is about going to law school there.

Mike pulls out the briefcase with the pot from behind the couch. He shoves it to the back of his oven, puts a couple pizza boxes in front to hide it, closes the oven and exits.

HARVEY (V.O.)

Now get out of here. Oh, one more thing, buy some better suits. You look like a Bar Mitzvah boy. And not in a good way.

EXT. AIRPLANE - A LITTLE LATER

The plane takes off as we hear the flight attendant.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Delta Flight 96 with direct service to Boston.

INT. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL - ADMISSIONS OFFICE - LATER

Mike approaches a dour looking old woman behind a desk.

MIKE

Excuse me, I was wondering how to sign up for the four o'clock law school tour?

OLD WOMAN

You go back in time six weeks, because that's when the four o'clock booked up.

(off Mike's look)

This is Harvard Law School, we get over seven thousand applications a year. You think you just walk in and take a tour?

EXT. HARVARD LAW LIBRARY - THREE FIFTY FIVE PM

Twenty people with name tags are in front of a sign: "Harvard Law School Tour." Mike sees a very cocky-looking YOUNG MAN by himself. Mike approaches and reads his name tag...

MIKE
Clifford Watkins?

CLIFFORD WATKINS
(air of superiority)
Can I help you?

MIKE
My name is Jonathan Atwater, I work for
Dean Wormer in the admissions office.

Clifford's attitude instantly changes.

CLIFFORD WATKINS
Yes, of course, what can I --

MIKE
Dean Wormer personally sent me to invite
you to an intimate cocktail hour for some
of our more... realistic candidates.

Clifford surveys the people around him and smiles knowingly.

MIKE
We'd like to be discreet, so if you'd be
so kind as to subtly hand me your name
tag you can proceed to the Dean's office.

Clifford smiles smugly, hands Mike his name tag and exits.
As Mike dons Clifford's name tag, a YOUNG WOMAN approaches.
As she starts the tour, Mike follows, taking in Harvard...

YOUNG WOMAN
Harvard Law is the oldest law school in
the country and boasts the most
successful graduates in the world.
Currently, we are six of nine Supreme
Court Justices, and of course, the
President of the United States...

Mike's going up against the smartest lawyers in the world...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - FOLLOWING MONDAY

Close on a closet with three suits, numerous shirts and ties. A hand reaches in and pulls out a blue suit, white shirt, red tie. Pullback to see that it is Mike. He lays his ensemble on the couch and then heads into the shower.

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

Mike is now out of the shower. He puts his ensemble back in the closet and picks out a brown suit, blue shirt and blue tie. He lays these out, then goes to shave.

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

We are close on Mike, tying his tie in the mirror. We pull back to see that he's changed his ensemble again and is now wearing a grey suit, white shirt and blue tie. He looks in the mirror, likes what he sees, and heads out.

EXT. STREET MANHATTAN - A LITTLE LATER

Mike comes up from the subway with an excitement in his step that only comes on the first day of a new career. His cell rings, it's Trevor again. He silences it and keeps walking.

INT. PEARSON, HARDMAN LAW FIRM - RECEPTION - A LITTLE LATER

Mike enters the lobby. As he takes in the grandeur of the firm, the import of what he's doing finally hits him... He approaches the receptionist nervously...

MIKE

Hi, I'm here to see Harvey... oh, my God, I can't think of his last name. I'm so nervous, I'm not sure I know my last name.

RACHEL (O.S.)

Ross. Mike Ross.

Mike turns to see RACHEL LANE, an attractive paralegal. He's been hit by a bolt of lightning. He stands there agog...

RACHEL

We've been expecting you. I'm Rachel Lane, paralegal. I'll be giving you your orientation.

She reaches to shake his hand. He blurts out...

MIKE

Wow, you're pretty.

RACHEL

Good, you've hit on me. We can get it out of the way that I'm not interested.

MIKE

(sincere)

I wasn't hitting on you. I --

RACHEL

Please. I've given dozens of these, and without fail, whatever new hotshot it is thinks because I'm just a paralegal, I'll be blown away by his dazzling degree. Let me assure you that I won't.

MIKE

(realizing)

I was. I was hitting on you.

She hands him a pad and pen.

RACHEL

Now, take notes because I'm not going to repeat myself.

Rachel turns and starts walking. Mike mouths to himself:

MIKE

I love you.

As Mike follows we see him take in the firm. The banks of offices lining the walls are fantastic. The interior walls are glass, and we see right through them to stunning views of downtown Manhattan. The interior of the firm is filled with cubicles of secretaries, paralegals, and associates.

RACHEL

Each bank of offices specializes in its own arena of the law and is anchored by Department Heads at either end. On my left is mergers and acquisitions, on the opposite side is high net worth divorce.

MIKE

Mergers across from divorce. Symmetry.
(off her look)
I'll just listen.

RACHEL

The firm operates on a chain of command model. Harvey's your commanding officer. However, Louis Litt oversees all associates so you also answer to him.

MIKE

What do you think about Harvey?

RACHEL

People are in awe of him, they say he's the best instinctive attorney anyone's ever seen, but I have very little contact with him, so I don't really know.

MIKE

What about Louis Litt?

Rachel looks at Mike, it's clear she doesn't think much of Louis Litt, but doesn't know Mike well enough to tell him.

RACHEL

Let's get on with your tour...

INT. PEARSON, HARDMAN LAW FIRM - 9:30 AM

Harvey arrives, strutting through the halls, even cockier than usual. As he passes people, he points at them, snaps his fingers, and generally acts like he is king of the world.

HARVEY

Hey, Becky, you are glowing. I wonder why that is? Oh, yeah, it's the day they announce my partnership. Nancy, have you lost weight? Steve-o, looking...

Steve-o is sloppy, fat and ugly.

HARVEY

...like a guy who came to work.

Harvey heads to his door, which has "Harvey Specter, Partner" newly stenciled on it. He stops short as a WORKER scratches the "Partner" off his door. Harvey remains unfazed.

HARVEY

Excuse me, why are you scratching the "Partner" off my door?

WORKER

I got a work order to take it off.

HARVEY

Who issued the work order?

WORKER

My supervisor.

HARVEY

Why did he issue the work order?

WORKER

If I knew that, I'd be his supervisor.

HARVEY

You seem to be enjoying yourself.

WORKER

I haven't enjoyed myself since 2004.

Harvey laughs. Donna shows up at the door.

HARVEY

Donna, somebody's trying to play a joke --

DONNA

Katherine wants you in her office now.

Harvey's face falls.

INT. PEARSON, HARDMAN LAW FIRM - LATER

Rachel arrives with Mike at his cubicle.

RACHEL

Finally, this is where you'll live.

(then, re: Mike's note pad)

What's wrong with you? I gave you that for a reason, you haven't taken one note.

MIKE

That's... because --

RACHEL

Because you've been too busy ogling me to listen to a word I've said.

Mike looks Rachel straight in the eye, but points at the various locations around the office as he refers to them.

MIKE

Partner's offices anchor the wings; fifth floor's research, sixth is security; any work gets billed even if it's finding an address; I answer to Harvey and Louis Litt and judging by how you responded to my questions, I should admire Harvey and fear Louis. You've been here five years and just because I outrank you, I have no authority to command your services.

(off her amazement)

Oh, it's also clear you think you're too smart to be a paralegal. That cover it?

Rachel looks at him, impressed. A beat. She covers:

RACHEL
You know, nobody likes a show-off.

MIKE
But... you challenged me. You used the
word ogling...

Rachel is walking away.

MIKE
Where are you going? When do I get to
see Harvey?

INT. KATHERINE PEARSON'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Katherine is at her desk. Harvey's standing in front of her.

KATHERINE
Gerald Tate fired the firm.

HARVEY
What?! When?

KATHERINE
An hour ago. When you were supposed to
be here.

HARVEY
So you're taking my partnership away?!

Katherine stands up, heatedly.

KATHERINE
Damn it, Harvey, most firms would put you
in front of the bar on ethics charges and
have your license stripped. You lied to
a client and he figured it out.

HARVEY
I lied to him to get him to do the right
thing and honor his goddamn contract.

KATHERINE
Be that as it may, you didn't get away
with it. And I can't justify handing you
a partnership the same day you lose a
huge client.

HARVEY
One client doesn't --

KATHERINE

One client? We're in an economic shit storm. Companies aren't lining up to spend money on attorneys right now.

This just sits there a minute.

KATHERINE

You know, he might have forgiven the lying if you hadn't humiliated him, but you did. And you need to accept that.

Harvey realizes he isn't going to change Katherine's mind.

HARVEY

Katherine, if you hadn't done as much for me as you have, I'd be heading for the door.

Katherine smiles.

KATHERINE

If I hadn't done as much for you as I have, I'd be throwing you out the window.

Harvey starts to leave.

KATHERINE

But Harvey, any shenanigans, you try to leave and take one client, tell one more lie... do one more thing that isn't straight as an arrow, and instead of covering your ass, I'll put you in front of the bar myself.

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Harvey enters, dejected. He doesn't see Mike sitting there.

MIKE

Who's ready for a great first day?!

HARVEY

Mike, I'm going to have to let you go.

MIKE

What?!

HARVEY

I just got my ass reamed for lying to a client. If they find out I lied about you going to Harvard Law School, they'll take away my license.

DONNA (ON INTERCOM)
You what?!

HARVEY (INTO INTERCOM)
Not now, Donna.
(then, to Mike)
I have to put my own interests above yours. It's not personal. You're fired.

MIKE
(putting it together)
So, you're worried if I stay, they might find out you lied about me and you'll lose your license. But if you fire me, I could tell them you lied about me and you'd definitely lose your license.

This pisses Harvey off.

HARVEY
Are you saying if I throw you under the bus, you're going to drag me with you?

MIKE
You put your interests above mine. I'm just putting mine back up next to yours.

HARVEY
I like that. You just gave me an idea. You're rehired.

INT. KATHERINE PEARSON'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Katherine is on the phone. Harvey storms in and hangs up.

HARVEY
Here's what's going to happen. You're going to tell that workman to put the "Partner" back on my door and that's the last we're going to talk about this.

KATHERINE
And why is that?

HARVEY
Because if you don't, I'm going across town to join Cynthia Harris. And then I'm going to approach every client I've ever closed, I'm going to put my charm on them, and I'm going to take them with me.

KATHERINE
If you do that, you'll force me to put you in front of the ethics board.

HARVEY

I don't think you'll put me in front of the ethics board.

KATHERINE

Why not?

HARVEY

Because you were obligated to notify them the second you knew I lied to Gerald, but you didn't. You put me in front of the board now, you'll be up there with me.

Katherine turns her back to Harvey in frustration. A beat. We see a smile cross her face. This is her plan. She lets out a deep breath and turns back to him, feigning defeat...

KATHERINE

I'll give you the partnership, but you're going to have to do something for me.

Harvey grins.

HARVEY

Anything. What do you need?

Katherine holds up a file.

KATHERINE

Take on a pro bono.

HARVEY

Anything but that...

KATHERINE

Harvey, we all do it, even me. Pro bono cases are how we as a firm show that we care about more than just ourselves. And it's how you can show people in the firm you care about more than just yourself.

HARVEY

I just did one.

KATHERINE

That was six years ago.

HARVEY

You didn't let me finish. I was going to say I just did one six years ago.

Harvey holds out his hand, he'll take the case.

KATHERINE

You'll handle it yourself? You won't pass it off to the new kid?

HARVEY

Absolutely.

Katherine hands him the file. He heads to the door.

KATHERINE

You want the "Partner" stenciled in bold, or underlined, or what?

HARVEY

Something subtle. In neon.

Katherine smiles as Harvey exits the room.

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Mike sits in a chair. Harvey tosses him the pro bono file.

HARVEY

Your first case. Donna set up a meeting with you and the client this afternoon.

MIKE

Awesome. What is it?

HARVEY

Pro bono. Sexual harassment. It's beneath me, but it's important to Katherine. So, don't tell anyone I laid it off on you and don't screw it up...

Mike starts out.

HARVEY

Wait a second. Didn't I tell you to get some better suits?

MIKE

What are you talking about?

(re: suit)

This is Men's Wearhouse. I spent four hundred dollars.

Harvey senses something's not right.

HARVEY

For how many suits?

MIKE

Five. What?

INT. DINER AT 53RD AND LEX - LATER THAT DAY

Mike is interviewing his client, Nancy, an attractive waitress in her mid-thirties. They sit in a booth.

MIKE

Please, Nancy, take me through the story as you see it.

NANCY

It started two years ago. I was a proud stay-at-home mother to our son, Freddie. One day, after little league...

She smiles, reminiscing...

NANCY

Freddie was seven. Hated that he couldn't play with the older kids...

Nancy gets serious again...

NANCY

We came home to find my husband on the floor of our bathroom. He died of a heart attack. Just like that...

MIKE

I'm so sorry.

NANCY

I was devastated, but I didn't have the time - I didn't have the luxury to grieve. So, I did the best I could, I got myself a job as a secretary at Devlin McGreggor.

Nancy becomes upbeat again as she remembers...

NANCY

I felt good about providing for me and Freddie, I even got promoted to secretary of the President, Charles Hunt.
(then)
That's when everything changed.

MIKE

Tell me what happened.

NANCY

He started asking me to stay late, have drinks, go to dinner...

MIKE

Did you?

NANCY

At first I thought it was for work, so, yes. But it started to not feel right, so I just did my job and went home. One night, Mr. Hunt called me into his office and told me if I slept with him, he'd take care of me within the firm, and if I didn't... he said he would fire me.

MIKE

Did he use those exact words? Was he that explicit?

NANCY

No. He's not stupid. But neither am I. And we both knew exactly what he meant.

MIKE

What did you do?

NANCY

I went to human resources. They said they investigated and found nothing to support my claim. Two months later I was fired for poor job performance. I was told to clean out my desk immediately.

She seems to be living it in her mind...

NANCY

They wouldn't let me say good-bye to anyone. They wouldn't give me a letter of recommendation... they wouldn't even allow me to get unemployment benefits.

Mike looks like he wants to kill Mr. Charles Hunt.

NANCY

I wasn't looking for a payoff. All I wanted was for it to stop. I feel so violated. Can you help me?

MIKE

There's some good news and some bad news. The bad news is, as you said, he's not stupid and it's going to be hard to prove he propositioned you without a witness.

NANCY

What's the good news?

MIKE

That's not what we have to prove. The biggest exposure employers have isn't the harassment itself, it's the retaliation.

NANCY

What do you mean?

Mike takes a sip of his coffee.

MIKE

Your complaint is on record. Two months later you got fired for poor performance. All we have to prove is your performance stayed consistent, and we've got them.

Nancy's face falls.

MIKE

What's the matter?

NANCY

After what he said to me in that room -- I was under a lot of stress. It affected me. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't keep concentrate... my performance was poor.

Mike looks at her and smiles bravely...

MIKE

Then we're going to have to prove what he said to you in that room.

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Mike is updating Harvey on the case.

HARVEY

You need my help? Give me an update.

MIKE

You know, she's a nice woman. She --

HARVEY

Not on the client. On the case. I don't get emotionally attached to the clients.

MIKE

This woman's had her entire life ripped apart. You don't care?

HARVEY

I'm not about caring. I'm about winning.

MIKE

Why can't you be about both?

HARVEY

I'd explain it to you, but then I'd have to care about you, now give me an update.

MIKE

Defense sent over the original files from the investigation as a courtesy, but I --

HARVEY

No they didn't. Nobody does anything as a courtesy. They sent over those files because that's where they want you to look. Listen to me, being a lawyer is like being a doctor.

MIKE

You mean how you don't get emotional about the client?

HARVEY

No. I mean, you keep pressing until it hurts, then you know where to look.

(then)

Forget about impeaching the investigation - it won't lead anywhere. No employee is going to testify against his own CEO.

Mike smiles at this...

MIKE

What would you suggest I do?

HARVEY

Think. If this guy's done this once...

MIKE

He's done it before.

HARVEY

And if people who work for him now won't testify against him...

MIKE

People who used to work for him might.

(realizing)

If I can find someone else he's done it to, I've got corroboration, and I've got him nailed.

HARVEY

I'd subpoena the personnel records of every woman who's left the firm during this guy's tenure.

Mike smiles as he holds up a subpoena.

MIKE

That's exactly what I thought.

HARVEY

Then what do you need my help for?

MIKE

I... don't know how to fill out a subpoena.

Harvey smiles and shakes his head. His boy is working out.

HARVEY (INTO INTERCOM)

Donna, I need you to show Mike how to fill out a subpoena.

DONNA (ON INTERCOM)

No problem. After that you want me to show him how to wipe his ass?

Harvey smiles, then looks at Mike.

HARVEY

It's funny, because you should already know how to do both those things.

Harvey slides a card across his desk to Mike.

MIKE

What's this?

HARVEY

It's my suit guy. Go in, tell him I sent you, and spend some goddamn money.

Mike looks at the card.

MIKE

What does it matter how much money I spend on suits?

HARVEY

Because we're in the business of convincing people to do what we want. And like it or not, people respond to how you're dressed.

(MORE)

HARVEY (CONT'D)

So if you want to be treated like you belong at this level, this is what you're going to have to do.

MIKE

Hey, you're giving me advice. It sounds like you actually care about me.

HARVEY

What I want you to understand is that you're a reflection of me. And as I told you before, I damn sure care about me.

INT. MIKE'S CUBICLE - A LITTLE LATER

Rachel approaches Mike as he puts his jacket on to leave...

RACHEL

Where are you going?

MIKE

It's six o'clock. I'm going home.

Rachel laughs.

MIKE

What's so funny?

RACHEL

You're a rookie associate. If you go home before nine on your first week, you won't make it through your first month.
(then)

Louis Litt wants to see you.

Mike gets up to go see Louis. He hesitates, then:

MIKE

Do you think this suit makes me look like a Bar Mitzvah boy?

INT. LOUIS'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Louis is at his desk. Mike sits across from him.

LOUIS

I know you had orientation from Rachel, but I'd like to give you a special welcome from me. Among other things, I'm sort of the disciplinarian of the associates.

An associate, GARY appears at the door and addresses Louis.

GARY
You wanted to see me?

LOUIS
Yes, please. Come on in, Gary. Mike,
this is Gary Lipsky. Gary's one of our
promising associates from last year.

Mike and Gary shake hands.

LOUIS
Gary, Mr. Pearson wanted me to ask if
you've completed the Petramco filing.

GARY
My brother was in over the weekend...

LOUIS
This is third time I've asked you.

GARY
I'll get right on it.

LOUIS
Don't bother. You're fired.

GARY
What?! You can't --

Louis stands up.

LOUIS
I can. And I did. Go pack your things,
and don't ever show your face here again.

Gary exits the office, stunned... Louis turns to Mike.

LOUIS
I arranged for you to see that because we
pay our associates very well and provide
the opportunity of unlimited advancement.
But in return we expect results. Have I
made myself clear?

MIKE
Yes.

LOUIS
Welcome to Pearson, Hardman.

Louis then reads a file as though Mike isn't there. A beat.

LOUIS
Feel free to go back to work.

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE - LATER

Harvey exits for the night. He runs into Katherine...

KATHERINE

Harvey. How's the new kid doing?

HARVEY

Pretty good.

KATHERINE

What do you have him working on?

Harvey doesn't want to tell her he dropped the case on Mike.

HARVEY

This and that. Various matters.

Katherine looks at Harvey curiously...

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Mike comes home to find Trevor on his couch, watching TV.

MIKE

What the hell are you doing here?

TREVOR

Watching Sportscenter. Boo-yah.

Trevor gives Mike a big smile. Nothing. He gets serious.

TREVOR

You won't return my calls.

MIKE

Yeah, because you set me up.

TREVOR

You think I knew about that?

MIKE

Here we go, round fifty of I get shafted, because you didn't know the whole story.

Now Trevor tries righteousness.

TREVOR

Hey, you knew there were risks when you quoted that shit from that book. You knew it, you needed the money, and I came through with an opportunity like always.

Trevor realizes this tack won't work. He goes for sympathy.

TREVOR

You know, you're not the only one who got screwed. They held a gun on me.

MIKE

Oh, really? Why did they do that?

TREVOR

To keep me from warning you.

MIKE

So you did know.

TREVOR

Not until after it was too late.

MIKE

Well it's damn sure too late now.

Mike holds the door open for Trevor to leave.

TREVOR

Let me make it up to you.

MIKE

You want to make it up? Give me my key.

TREVOR

(giving key, cajoling)

Mike, come on, you know I don't want to live in a world where we're not tight.

MIKE

(sarcastic)

Then kill yourself. Now get the hell out.

Trevor exits. Mike checks for the briefcase. It's there. He opens it to make sure it's still full of pot. It is...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. MIKE'S CUBICLE - NEXT AFTERNOON

Mike opens an envelope, reads it and quickly heads off...

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE/HALLWAY - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Harvey leaves his office and passes Donna on the way out.

HARVEY

Donna, I need the --

She instantly hands him an envelope clearly full of cash.

HARVEY

Oh, also I didn't get a chance to --

She gives him a coffee to go. A beat.

HARVEY

Marry me.

DONNA

I took care of that too. We've been married for the last seven years.

Harvey smiles and heads out. Mike approaches, concerned.

MIKE

The company's fighting the subpoena.
They filed a motion to dismiss the case
based on our lack of evidence.

Harvey doesn't stop walking.

HARVEY

Good.

Mike stands there a beat, then walks after Harvey.

MIKE

Good. What do you mean good?

HARVEY

They don't want to hand over the files.
You pressed where it hurt. You're
looking in the right place.

Mike catches up. They keep walking to the elevators.

HARVEY

Did you think they wouldn't fight back?

MIKE

Well... I... now that you mention it.

HARVEY

It's my fault. I keep forgetting you don't actually know anything. The idea is you make a move, they make a move and back and forth til one of you wins.

MIKE

But what if they win the motion and the case gets dismissed?

Harvey arrives at the elevators and presses the down button.

HARVEY

Then you're not as good as you think you are.

The elevator door opens. Katherine is in it. She stays in as the rest of the people file out...

KATHERINE

What a coincidence. I was just wondering how it's going with the pro bono case.

HARVEY

Fantastic, I'm all over it.

Katherine is now alone in the elevator. Harvey gets on.

KATHERINE

That makes me happy. Because if I were to find out you weren't giving it your full effort, I would be very upset...

Concern registers on Harvey's face as the door closes. Mike turns to go back to his cubicle. He sees Rachel, catches up to her and follows her through the halls back to her office.

MIKE

I need your help. There's a hearing on my subpoena.

RACHEL

I've got three other cases ahead of yours, so you'll have to wait in line.

MIKE

But my hearing is tomorrow.

She stops outside of her office and turns to Mike.

RACHEL

Why are you coming to me?

MIKE

Because Donna says you're the best researcher in the firm.

RACHEL

Let me see the motion.

Mike hands it to her. She reads it as they enter her office.

INT. RACHEL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mike sees Rachel's office is much nicer than his cubicle.

MIKE

Wait. You have an office? Why do you have an office and I only have a cubicle?

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL

Like you said, I'm the best researcher in the firm.

MIKE

Really? I just made that up. I didn't even have time to talk to Donna.

Mike smiles. Rachel isn't amused.

RACHEL

Is this all a joke to you? Because I take my job seriously.

MIKE

I'm sorry, I was just -- I care about this woman. She's got nowhere else to turn and -- I can't help her by myself.

Rachel looks at Mike and sees he's sincere. He puts his hands up to his head as though they are dog ears and then flaps one of them over. Rachel breaks into a smile.

RACHEL

I get it. You're a puppy. Do me a favor, don't poop on my laptop.

Rachel looks back down at the file, then back at Mike:

RACHEL

You're asking to look at private files without any evidence of your assertion.

MIKE

But the only way we can find the evidence is by looking at those files.

RACHEL

That's a rickety argument.

MIKE

But is there precedent?

She sees a stack of files in her in-box, then looks at Mike.

RACHEL

Let's go see if we can find one.

INT. PEARSON, HARDMAN LIBRARY - A LITTLE LATER

Mike and Rachel enter a miniature version of the Harvard Law library. Highly sophisticated, well stocked and beautiful.

RACHEL

Research is as much art as science, we'll look at privacy and harassment law and see if we can find a combination of cases to make an argument. I'll take privacy.

MIKE

I'll take harassment law...

RACHEL

This'll take a while. We need dinner.

MIKE

Chinese?

RACHEL

I can afford Chinese myself. This is on the firm, I want sushi.

We see a montage of them reading books, journals, etc... They show each other what they've found and shake their heads, it won't work. Dinner comes... as they finish their sushi.

MIKE

Remember when I said you thought you were too smart to be a paralegal?... Why --

RACHEL

-- aren't I a lawyer?

Rachel looks at Mike and decides to reveal her vulnerability.

RACHEL

I don't test well.

MIKE

What?

RACHEL

I'm smart, I know I'd be a good lawyer, but... I can't take tests. I don't know what happens to me. I bombed the LSAT's. Even if I could get into a law school, there's no way I'd ever pass the bar.

(wistfully)

If only there were some way to have someone take the tests for me.

Mike laughs.

MIKE

Yeah, if only there were.

Harvey walks in and sees them smiling at each other.

HARVEY

Where are you on the research for tomorrow's hearing?

MIKE

Nothing yet.

HARVEY

You say you care about the client. But if you keep playing footsie with the paralegal instead of finding me a valid argument, the client's going to lose.

Harvey exits. We resume the montage of Mike and Rachel working. Again, nothing is working. More frustration.

RACHEL

It's no use. They did an investigation and they did it by the book. It produced no evidence, and we look like the bad guys coming in putting them under duress.

MIKE

Wait a second, what did you say?

RACHEL

I said we look like the bad guys.

MIKE

No. You said they did it by the book, and we're putting them under duress.

RACHEL

So?

MIKE

They didn't do it by the book. The investigation was done under duress...

Mike picks up one of the books and shows it to Rachel...

EXT. ROOFTOP RESTAURANT - A LITTLE LATER

Harvey eats with VANESSA, a gorgeous woman in a killer dress.

HARVEY

So, we get there and my client decides it'll be funny to introduce me to his pastor as a recovering sex addict.

VANESSA

What did you do?

HARVEY

I hold out my hand to the pastor and go, "Who said anything about recovering?"

Vanessa laughs. They share a moment... then:

VANESSA

I believe you have something for me?

HARVEY

That's what I love about you, Vanessa. Business over pleasure.

Harvey puts the envelope of cash Donna gave him on the table.

HARVEY

By the way, that dress... damn.

VANESSA

This old thing? It was my father's.

Vanessa counts the money in the envelope and puts it away.

HARVEY

Vanessa, how come you and I never...

VANESSA

Because I don't sleep around. And I could never have a relationship with you. All you ever think about is yourself.

HARVEY

That's ridiculous. I'm thinking about you and me right now.

Vanessa smiles and shakes her head as she gets up to leave.

HARVEY

By the way, I'm not selfish everywhere.

VANESSA

Neither am I. But you'll never know it.

Vanessa hands Harvey a manila folder and heads off. Harvey watches her go, then looks opens the folder and looks inside.

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Mike stands as Harvey peruses his handiwork.

HARVEY

This is good. We're gonna have some fun.

MIKE

Did... you say we?

HARVEY

You didn't think I was going to let you come along?

MIKE

No.

HARVEY

Good instinct, I wasn't. Then I thought it would be cruel not to let you witness my greatness.

Mike smiles.

MIKE

You're a true giver.

INT. COURTROOM - NEXT DAY

Harvey, Mike and DEFENSE COUNSEL are arguing the motion to dismiss in front of a JUDGE, BAILIFF and STENOGRAPHER...

DEFENSE COUNSEL

Your honor, this case should be thrown out. Other than her story, plaintiff doesn't have one piece of evidence.

HARVEY

Because the evidence lies within their personnel files, which they're conveniently refusing to hand over.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

Those files have sensitive information.
He's fishing at the expense of our
employees' right to privacy.

Harvey scoffs.

HARVEY

Please, he doesn't give a rat's ass about
his employees' right to privacy.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

Your honor, Mr. Specter's claim that we
don't care about our employees, though
witty, carries no weight as a rule of law.

HARVEY

True. But what does carry weight is that
under Article Seven of the statute, the
investigation of sexual harassment must
be conducted without any duress.

JUDGE

Your point?

Harvey walks the courtroom with ease as he makes his case.

HARVEY

Both the investigator and every person
interviewed answers to the CEO they're
investigating. That is the definition of
duress. It'd be like your bailiff accused
you of sexual harassment, and you assigned
your stenographer to investigate. How
likely do you think it would be that the
investigation yielded any fruit?

JUDGE

You honestly think I would harass Herman?

Harvey looks at the bailiff, a slovenly, fifty year old man.

HARVEY

I don't know, your honor. Some people
have a thing for the uniform...

JUDGE

I'd like to think Herman would come to me
before it got to an investigation.

Harvey glances at Herman. Herman shakes his head no.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

I saw that. That should be stricken.

Harvey smiles, then continues to the Judge.

HARVEY

And what if Herman did come to you, your honor? And you betrayed his trust by firing him under false pretenses?

JUDGE

You really think that little of me?

HARVEY

I wouldn't trust you as far as I could throw you, your honor.

They share a smile.

JUDGE

Your point is taken.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

Your honor --

JUDGE

Hand over the files.

Mike beams with their victory. The Judge addresses Harvey.

JUDGE

But this doesn't go on forever. You've got one week to show me evidence backing up your claim or I'm dismissing the suit.

HARVEY

But, your honor --

JUDGE

That's it, I've made my ruling, now Herman and I have some communicating to do.

Mike turns to Harvey.

MIKE

That was awesome.

HARVEY

It was your argument. I just framed it in a way that humanized the situation and brightened all of our afternoons.

MIKE

I feel like Michael Corleone in that scene where the fat guy teaches him how to shoot the gun.

HARVEY

Are you saying I'm the fat guy?
(then)
I am not the fat guy.

INT. UPSCALE MENS STORE - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Mike walks into a world he never knew existed. The world's finest suits are on display. He approaches RENE, who looks him up and down in a condescending manner.

MIKE

Excuse me, I'm looking for Rene.

RENE

I'm Rene. When's the Bar Mitzvah?

MIKE

Did Harvey tell you I was coming here?

Rene looks at him with newfound respect.

RENE

Harvey Specter sent you? That's another story. Do you know your inseam?

Mike is amused at the notion that he would know his inseam.

MIKE

No, I don't.

RENE

My lucky day. Why don't you browse for a minute. The suits are arranged by price. Starting with the least expensive here and moving up in price as you go back.

Rene exits. Mike picks up an "inexpensive" suit. He sees the price: \$2,000. He puts it back and walks out the door.

EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Mike exits quickly. He sees Rene prancing toward the front window holding ten thousand dollars of clothing. Mike smiles to himself at his getaway. His cell phone rings, he answers.

JENNY

Mike, it's Jenny.

MIKE

Trevor's having you do his dirty work?

JENNY

Trevor doesn't even know I'm calling you. And all I know is that you're not talking to each other and I miss you and I want things to go back to the way they were.

This stops Mike short.

MIKE

I miss you too. But I don't think things are ever going back the way they were.

Mike hangs up the phone.

INT. TREVOR STEVENS' CONDOMINIUM

We see that Jenny is sitting there with Trevor.

TREVOR

What did he say?

JENNY

He said things aren't ever going back the way they were. What did you do?

A beat. Trevor lies.

TREVOR

I don't know.

INT. RACHEL'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

Rachel is at her desk. Mike enters.

MIKE

The files are on their way. We have a week to corroborate Nancy's story.

RACHEL

We won?! That's fantastic!

MIKE

I couldn't have done it without you.

RACHEL

Damn right, you couldn't have. You didn't even know where to look without me.

MIKE

You know, nobody likes a show-off.

Rachel smiles. Her intercom buzzes, she listens, then:

RACHEL

The files are in conference room C.

MIKE

Why didn't they bring them to my cubicle?

INT. AUXILIARY CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Mike shows up. The conference room is filled with boxes upon boxes. Mike looks at them all as Harvey approaches.

HARVEY

They know you only have a week to find whoever it is you're looking for.

MIKE

They're fighting back.

HARVEY

They're trying to bury you in paperwork.

Mike looks at Harvey with confidence.

MIKE

They picked the wrong guy.

HARVEY

That's what I like to hear. Now excuse me, I have to go charm a new client.

INT. JOHN DOCKERY'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

John Dockery, CEO of Dockery Chemical shakes Harvey's hand.

DOCKERY

Nice to finally meet you. Katherine says you're going to sweep me off my feet.

HARVEY

I'll do my best, Mr. Dockery.

Harvey hands him the manila folder from Vanessa, he opens it.

DOCKERY

What the hell is this?

HARVEY

Looks to me like it's you having sex with a woman who isn't Mrs. Dockery.

DOCKERY

Are you trying to blackmail me?!

HARVEY

No, I'm not. You asked my firm to see where you're vulnerable to corporate take-over. This is where you're vulnerable.

DOCKERY

What are you --

HARVEY

Your wife owns fifteen percent of the voting shares of your company. As far as I can tell, you've been seeing this woman and several others for quite some time. How do you think your wife's going to vote her shares after she finds out?

A beat:

DOCKERY

Who says she has to find out?

HARVEY

Mr. Dockery, my investigator was able to obtain these pictures in a week. What do you think a motivated competitor of yours will be able to dig up in a year?

This lands on Dockery. Harvey pours two glasses of water.

HARVEY (CONT'D)

I have a simple solution. Trade her your preferred shares, which have no voting rights for her common shares, which do.

DOCKERY

The preferred shares are worth two million dollars more.

HARVEY

A fraction of what you'll lose if you get voted out of your company.

Harvey offers a glass to Dockery. A beat.

DOCKERY

You looking down your nose at me?

HARVEY

John, please, I don't care if you sleep with the entire Knick's dancers. Just give her the preferred shares.

Harvey smiles. Dockery takes the glass.

DOCKERY

Katherine said you were going to charm me to get my business.

HARVEY

I'm not interested in getting your business. I'm interested in keeping it.

Harvey and Dockery share a drink.

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE - NEXT EVENING

Mike enters. He's been up all night and all the next day.

MIKE

I know where they don't want us to look.

HARVEY

You got through those files by yourself in a day and a half?

MIKE

I would have done it faster, but I ordered a pizza. Have you tried that Papa John's crazy bread? It's fantastic.
(off look, coming clean)
Rachel helped me. Half the files were men. Another chunk were women over sixty. I read the rest.

Harvey smiles at Mike trying to pull one over on him.

MIKE

Come on, it's still impressive!

HARVEY

What did you find?

MIKE

We pieced together from the records there was a dismissal on March 12, 2002. But the file containing the employee name is missing. That's our woman, I know it. I'm moving to slap monetary sanctions on their attorney, possible jail time... this guy isn't gonna know what hit him.

A beat. Harvey dials his phone. It rings on speaker.

HARVEY

Phil, it's Harvey Specter. Did you have anything to do with the March 12th, 2002 files being left out of discovery?

PHIL (ON SPEAKER)

No.

HARVEY

If the file is here by noon, I'll believe you, if not we're filing for sanctions...

Harvey hangs up the phone and looks at Mike.

HARVEY

Threat of sanctions is better than filing for sanctions.

MIKE

That's what I meant. I was going to threaten him. Not file. I meant that.

INT. DINER - LATER THAT DAY

Mike sits with Nancy again...

MIKE

Nancy, did you know, or have you ever heard of a woman named Joanna Webster?

NANCY

No. Not that I can think of. Why?

MIKE

The company tried to hide her existence from us. Her records show she met with personnel over "work related issues," in 2002, then was let go two months later.

NANCY

You think Hunt did the same thing to her that he did to me?

MIKE

Yes, I do.

NANCY

Then get her to come forward and say so.

Mike knows that's not going to be easy.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER THAT EVENING

Mike knocks on the door of an apartment. A woman, JOANNA WEBSTER answers, she looks surprisingly similar to Nancy.

JOANNA

Can I help you?

MIKE

Joanna Webster, my name is Mike Ross, I'm a lawyer. I have some questions about your time at Devlin McGreggor.

Joanna hesitates.

MIKE

Please, just let me tell you a story about my client, Nancy Johnson...

INT. JOANNA'S LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Mike and Joanna sit, he's clearly just told her about Nancy.

JOANNA

That sounds about the same as what happened to me. But --

MIKE

Please, all I need you to do is tell your story. If you corroborate Nancy's --

JOANNA

Mr. Ross, what happened to me, happened seven years ago. It was violating and horrible and there was a reason I didn't do anything about it. I know what they do. They'll put me on that stand and attack me and I don't want that.

MIKE

Joanna, this man is a predator. He did it to you, he did it to Nancy, and if you don't help stop him, he'll do it again.

Mike takes her hand.

MIKE

I'll be with you every step of the way. All you have to do is give a deposition tomorrow, and then testify again on Friday in front of the judge.

JOANNA

I'm sorry, I can't do it.

Mike's face falls...

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Harvey is working late at his desk. Mike enters and slumps into a chair, completely dejected...

HARVEY

What happened with the witness?

Mike becomes instantly excited:

MIKE

I got her to testify! You should've seen me. I threw everything at her. Told her if she didn't stop him he'd do it again, I'd be with her every step of the way...

Mike holds out his arms to Harvey in amazement.

MIKE

It didn't work! I was done. I had nothing. Then it hit me, I asked her what if it was her daughter she was testifying for... she melted. I used empathy to get her to testify.

(starts singing)

Testify. Testify. She's gonna testify.

A beat. Harvey looks at Mike:

HARVEY

Well, I'm glad to see the fact that you were up all night didn't make you giddy.

(smiles, then)

Now go get some sleep. I don't want you singing during tomorrow's deposition.

Mike leaves. Harvey smiles to himself as Katherine enters...

KATHERINE

Harvey, how's it going with the pro bono?

HARVEY

I just talked a witness into testifying.

KATHERINE

Really? What's the witness's name?

A moment. Harvey has no idea of the answer. He's caught...

KATHERINE

I'm not an idiot. Don't treat me like one. You pawned off the case.

HARVEY

I'm sorry you feel that way, but --

KATHERINE

Damn it Harvey, I told you this was a way for you to show that you thought about more than just yourself.

HARVEY

I've got higher profile cases that --

KATHERINE

Need I remind you when we met, you were a 28 year old screw up? I gave you a shot at the mail room, led you up the ranks to paralegal, then paid for you to go to Harvard Law. Where by the way you fucked off the whole time and I still hired you.

HARVEY

And you've benefitted from that ever since. I closed Dockery for you yesterday and I can't make time to --

KATHERINE

You made a promise to me! You made a promise, you broke it, and then you lied to my face. So, let me be clear, this isn't professional, this is personal. And I'll tell you something else, you made your bed, you better goddamn win.

Katherine leaves. Harvey realizes he let his mentor down...

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Mike enters his apartment, elated. It's been ransacked.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Mike surveys his ransacked apartment. A beat, he runs to the oven, the briefcase is still there. He dials his cell...

MIKE

What the hell is wrong with you?

TREVOR

I need you to give me that briefcase back.

MIKE

So that's what this has all been about. You don't care about our friendship. You just wanted the briefcase back.

TREVOR

That's not true. You're my oldest friend and you know it. But you don't seem to care about that anymore, so, yes, I also need the briefcase back.

MIKE

That's too bad, because I don't have it.

TREVOR

Who throws something like that away?

MIKE

I do. And by the way, I thought I had you give me my key back.

TREVOR

You think I wouldn't have made a backup? Mike, come on, why are you playing games?

MIKE

I told you. I don't have it. I ditched it while I was running away from the cops you sent me into.

TREVOR

I don't believe you. You can't --

Mike hangs up the phone.

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Mike is dressed. He goes to the oven, opens it, takes out the briefcase, and heads out to work with it...

INT. PEARSON, HARDMAN LAW FIRM - LAW FIRM

Mike exits the elevator. As he passes the receptionist...

LOUIS (O.S.)
Mike, hold it right there.

Mike freezes. He turns around to see Louis Litt.

LOUIS
Where do you think you're going?

A beat.

MIKE
To my cubicle.

LOUIS
No, you're not. It's pee in a cup time.

MIKE
What?

LOUIS
Drug test. Follow me.

MIKE
No problem.

Mike hesitates. He looks down at his briefcase.

MIKE
I'm just gonna put my things back at my --

LOUIS
Now.

Louis starts walking. Mike isn't sure what to do. A beat. Mike follows Louis to the elevator.

INT. PEARSON, HARDMAN LAW FIRM - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Mike and Louis ride the elevator down in silence. Ding. The door opens. They exit into a significantly less polished floor of the firm.

INT. PEARSON, HARDMAN - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mike nervously follows Louis into the bowels of the firm. Their feet click as they make their way down the hall.

LOUIS

By the way, my cousin was your year at Harvard. It's funny. I asked if he remembered you. He didn't.

MIKE

What's his name?

LOUIS

Mitch Samberg.

Another beat.

MIKE

Didn't know him... big school.

Louis looks at Mike, "not that big." Then he stops, opens a door and motions for Mike to go through.

LOUIS

Time to face the music.

INT. DONNA'S DESK - SAME

Harvey approaches Donna. He's a little anxious.

HARVEY

Donna, they're on the way for Mike's deposition. I've got to get to the Kendrick filing. Where the hell is Mike?

DONNA

I don't know.

Harvey nervously paces back to his office.

INT. DRUG TESTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike and Louis enter. The room looks like the examination room in a doctor's office. There is a technician there, who hands Mike a plastic cup and indicates a bathroom.

TECHNICIAN

Leave the cup on the counter.

Mike leaves the room: The technician points at his briefcase.

TECHNICIAN

You'll have to leave that out here.

MIKE

Why?

TECHNICIAN

If you take it in there with you, I have to check to make sure you don't have another urine sample in it.

Mike looks at Louis, sets the briefcase down and enters the bathroom. Louis looks at the briefcase suspiciously...

INT. DRUG TESTING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Mike exits the bathroom. He sees Louis is gone. He breathes a sign of relief, picks up the briefcase and exits.

INT. MIKE'S CUBICLE - MINUTES LATER

Mike enters his cubicle, opens a desk drawer, puts the briefcase in it, closes the drawer and locks it.

HARVEY (O.S.)

Where have you been?

Mike is startled again. He turns to see Harvey.

MIKE

I was being drug tested. Why?

HARVEY

The deposition's this afternoon. I'm going to handle it. I want you to dig into this woman's background and find anything they'll use against her. And grill her. Make her tell you everything. I want to be prepared. Now go...

Mike picks up his other briefcase and heads off.

INT. PEARSON, HARDMAN LAW FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Harvey, Mike, the Defense Attorney, Joanna and a STENOGRAPHER are all there. Joanna takes a deep breath.

JOANNA

I'd been working for Mr. Hunt six months when he started asking me to work late, order dinner... One night, late, he... tried to sleep with me. The next day, I went to HR to request a change of assignment. And two months later I was fired for having a bad attitude.

Defense Counsel starts in...

DEFENSE COUNSEL

Ms. Webster, after working for Devlin McGreggor, you went on to waitress at Hooters, did you not?

JOANNA

Yes, I did.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

A place that advertises the sexuality of its waitresses to get business?

JOANNA

You'll have to ask them that.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

I'm asking you.

HARVEY

And she's not answering. It has no relevance. Let's move on.

Mike looks at Joanna reassuringly.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

Ms. Webster, are you a truthful person?

JOANNA

Yes.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

When you said earlier that you'd never been arrested for a crime, were you telling the truth then?

JOANNA

Yes.

Defense counsel holds up a folder.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

In 1999 you weren't arrested for stealing a thousand dollars worth of jewelry from the Willow Grove mall in Pennsylvania?

Joanna's face falls. Mike looks at Harvey, "Oh, shit."

JOANNA

I was seventeen. It was one mistake. Those records were supposed to be sealed.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

So, when you say those records were sealed, what you mean is that you thought you could get away with a lie?

JOANNA

No, that's not it. I knew you would twist it around and make it seem different that it is.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

You've been arrested in your past. Then you lied about it under oath. Is that making it seem different than what it is?

Joanna looks at Mike and Harvey. They can't help her.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

No answer? Then I ask this, since you lied here once, what's to make us believe you're not lying about Mr. Hunt?

Joanna runs out of the room. Mike looks at Harvey.

HARVEY

Fix it.

Mike runs out after Joanna.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE OF PEARSON, HARDMAN - MINUTES LATER

Mike runs up to Joanna, who keeps walking...

MIKE

Joanna, wait...

JOANNA

This is why I didn't want to testify. They twist some thing from a hundred years ago and make me look like a liar.

She turns to Mike.

JOANNA

They make it sound like what he did to me didn't happen.

MIKE

Look, I know it was hard. But it doesn't matter what happened in there. I need you to have the courage to give testimony to the Judge on Friday to keep this case alive. I don't have time to find someone else between now and then...

She looks at him, then starts walking again...

MIKE

Wait --

JOANNA

No. I'm not waiting. You promised me this wouldn't happen and it did.

MIKE

You never told me you were arrested.

JOANNA

Please don't contact me again.

Mike watches as his chance to win walks away.

INT. MIKE'S CUBICLE - LATER

Mike sits with his head in hands. Harvey approaches him.

HARVEY

What happened?

MIKE

I couldn't convince her to stand her ground and tell the truth anyway.

HARVEY

How the hell did you miss that arrest?

MIKE

I don't know. I went to Rachel, we did every background check we have.

HARVEY

Did you grill her like I told you to?

MIKE

It was a sealed record!

HARVEY

Goddamn it, I knew it! You didn't grill her because you were afraid to make her uncomfortable. That's why I don't get emotionally involved. So I can ask the tough questions that you won't.

Mike starts packing up his things.

HARVEY

So, you're going to quit?

MIKE

It's either that or wait for Louis to fire me.

HARVEY

What are you talking about?

MIKE

My first day, Louis fired Gary Lipsky for screwing up a case. He said if I did the same thing I'd be gone as fast as Gary.

HARVEY

Then go to your witness' house and try to get her to testify again.

MIKE

I'm telling you, I was there today. There's no way.

HARVEY

There's always a way.

MIKE

Then why don't you go over there and convince her.

HARVEY

Because you screwed it up.

MIKE

And you don't give a damn about the client.

HARVEY

That's not my job.

MIKE

Does your job include giving a damn about me? Because the least you could do is offer to stand up to Louis Litt for me.

This pisses Harvey off.

HARVEY

Stand up for you?! I put my ass on the line for you, and the first roadblock you stumble into you want to quit. Being a success is about knowing the difference between having balls and having courage.

MIKE

And what is that?

HARVEY

You had the balls to get this job, but you don't have the courage to stick it out when it gets tough.

MIKE

That's not true.

HARVEY

Isn't it? You've had one foot out the door since you got here.

MIKE

What are you talking about?

HARVEY

I'm talking about that second briefcase locked in your desk.

(off Mike's look)

Yeah, I saw it. And I know what it is. It's a backup plan in case this doesn't work out. You can make some quick cash and go right back to the life you told me you didn't want to lead.

This hits Mike hard.

HARVEY

So, if you want to quit, go ahead. But it isn't because of Louis Litt, it isn't because of me and isn't because of your witness. It's because you're afraid you might fail and then you'll have to look yourself in the mirror and admit you're not as smart as you think you are.

A beat.

HARVEY

Now go home and think about that. If you're here in the morning, I'll know I still have an associate.

Harvey turns and walks away. Mike throws a stack of papers against the wall in frustration.

INT. SUBWAY - A LITTLE LATER

Mike is riding the subway with his box of things and one of his briefcases at his feet. The subway stops. He gets off.

INT. MIKE'S STUDIO APARTMENT - LATER

Mike enters and flops on the couch. He sits, not knowing what to do. He reaches under the couch and pulls out his old bong. He takes some pot out, puts it in the bong and lights a match. Before he takes the hit, he blows out the match and puts it all down in disgust. He gets up and leaves.

INT. NURSING HOME - MIKE'S GRANDMOTHER'S ROOM - LATER

Mike enters Grammy's room. She's asleep. He sits down next to her and holds her hand. She wakes and sees him in a suit.

GRAMMY

Michael, look at you... I'm so proud.

MIKE

Grammy, I made good on my promise, but... I want to quit. I can't take it.

GRAMMY

Why?

MIKE

Because I can't do the things I'm supposed to do.

GRAMMY

Michael, when your parents died, I lost my son and my daughter-in-law. I was scared, alone and too old to raise you.

She looks him in the eye and smiles.

GRAMMY

But I had no choice. I had to make do... because who else was going to care for my grandson? I wasn't going to give you up unless they ripped you from my arms.

Grammy takes a deep breath.

GRAMMY

You made me a promise before. You're in the door. Promise me now the only way you'll leave is if they rip you out.

MIKE

I promise.

Mike hugs her and exits. As before, he mumbles to himself...

MIKE

I just have to do one thing first.

INT. LOUIS'S OFFICE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Louis is working late. Harvey storms in.

HARVEY

Louis, I get that you were upset because I was promoted before you. But if you ever threaten to fire an associate of mine again, I'm gonna kick your ass.

LOUIS

What are you talking about?

HARVEY

Don't play dumb with me. You fired Gary Lipsky in front of Mike Ross.

Louis smirks.

HARVEY

What's so funny?

LOUIS

Gary Lipsky works in the mail room.

HARVEY

What?

LOUIS

He was a plant. I didn't fire anybody. It was just my way of letting Mike know what's expected of him.

HARVEY

What's wrong with you? You planted a fake an employee to manipulate Mike and --

A light bulb goes off in Harvey's mind.

HARVEY

That's it.
(then, to Louis)
You make me sick.

Louis seethes as Harvey runs out.

INT. TREVOR STEVENS' CONDOMINIUM - A LITTLE LATER

Mike, holding the briefcase, uses his key to let himself into Trevor's. Trevor and Jenny are immediately happy to see him.

TREVOR/JENNY

Mike!/Thank god.

MIKE

I'm not giving this back because you want it, I'm giving it back because I don't need it.

Mike puts the briefcase in front of Trevor. Jenny looks at Trevor, he's going to have some explaining to do...

MIKE

I don't know if I'm ever going to forgive you or not, but I know this: We're even.

Mike throws the key to Trevor's place back to Trevor.

MIKE

Wait a second...

Mike heads into Trevor's bedroom. He comes back out holding all of Trevor's two thousand dollars suits. As he exits...

MIKE

Now we're even.

EXT. PHILLIP'S TOWN HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Katherine rings Phillip's doorbell. He answers.

INT. PHILLIP'S TOWN HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Phillip pours them each a drink. He hands her the glass...

PHILLIP

Katherine, did you think he was going to change overnight?

KATHERINE

I'm worried he isn't going to change at all. I'll lose the best attorney I've got.

PHILLIP

If you care about Harvey, putting him through the ringer is his only chance.

Katherine takes a drink of her whiskey.

KATHERINE

Remember when I was coming up, it was a different time. Women weren't welcome -- I took a lot of cheap shots you never knew about.

Phillip looks at Katherine, "Didn't I?"

PHILLIP

Those cheap shots forged you into the woman you are today.

KATHERINE

My point is most men get hazed and think, "I went through it, I'm gonna stick it to the next guy." I always felt, "I hated that. Why put someone else through it?"

Phillip drinks his whiskey and smiles at the irony.

PHILLIP

Then you need to learn to be harder, so Harvey can learn to be softer.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER THAT NIGHT

Harvey knocks on Joanna Webster's front door. She opens it.

JOANNA

Who are you? What do you want?

HARVEY

I work with Mike Ross.

JOANNA

Well, you can save your breath, because I told Mike there's no way I'm going to testify at that hearing tomorrow.

She closes the door. Harvey stops it.

HARVEY

That's not why I'm here. I know what you did.

JOANNA

What are you talking about?

Harvey enters her place as she slowly backs away.

HARVEY

You're a plant. A fake employee. You never worked at Devlin McGreggor, and you were never harassed by Mr. Hunt.

JOANNA

That's not --

HARVEY

I could tell you I've got the canceled check, or the wire transfer, or whatever smoking gun that exists, but I don't.

Harvey looks her dead in the eye.

HARVEY

But I will. And when I do, you'll be going to jail. Unless you tell me what happened right now.

Joanna Webster doesn't know what to do.

HARVEY

I'm the guy you tell.

A moment.

JOANNA

All I had to do was waste your time until the hearing tomorrow. Please, I needed the money, I don't want to go to jail...

HARVEY

Here's what you're going to do...

INT. HARVEY'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Harvey's at his desk. Mike enters, sheepishly. Harvey smiles.

HARVEY

I see you came to work today. Nice suit.

MIKE

It was a barter transaction. I got twelve of them for one little briefcase.

Harvey smiles. He's proud of Mike. Mike gets serious.

MIKE

Listen, I'm sorry and --

HARVEY

Forget it. When I started, Katherine rode me so hard, I quit once a month. I just told you what you needed to hear.

Mike still needs to say what he was going to say...

MIKE

That's just it. When I was ten my mom and dad died in a car accident. After a thing like that, you don't trust anything or anyone. Except my Grammy. She raised me, she did the best she could...

Mike takes a deep breath and gets emotional.

MIKE

She always told me what I needed to hear.

Mike looks at Harvey.

MIKE

I guess it's time I trusted someone else.

A moment. Harvey is moved. He tosses Mike a file.

HARVEY

Merry Christmas.

Mike looks through the file, absorbs its contents, then:

MIKE

What would you have done with this if I hadn't come in today?

HARVEY

I'd have used it myself.

Harvey lets it sink in that if Mike hadn't come in today, Harvey wouldn't have tracked him down. Then:

HARVEY

You know what to do?

MIKE

Yeah. Press until it hurts.

INT. COURTHOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Mike slaps down a piece of paper. SLAM!

MIKE

Wire transfer from your account in the amount of five thousand dollars.

We reveal that Mike is standing in front of Mr. Hunt and his defense counsel. Harvey sits quietly at the table along with Nancy. Mike slaps down another piece of paper. SLAM!

MIKE

Phone records proving multiple contacts with Joanna Webster prior to her testimony.

Another document. SLAM!

MIKE

An affidavit stating you paid Ms. Webster to falsely testify.

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

Mr. Hunt, harassment is a civil violation, for which you were being sued. Witness tampering is a crime, for which you will go to prison.

Mike gathers up the pieces of paper.

MIKE

And I guarantee you're going to learn more about the act of unwanted sexual advances than you ever thought possible.

MR. HUNT

You think this is gonna intimidate me?! Even if this evidence was credible, who are you going to get to prosecute me for some piss-ant witness tampering charge?

Mike turns to Harvey.

MIKE

Harvey, didn't you graduate law school with New York's current U.S. Attorney?

HARVEY

In fact I did. I think he might be interested in pursuing a case like this.

MIKE

Are you two close?

HARVEY

I was the best man at his wedding.

MR. HUNT

No you weren't. You're bluffing.

Harvey nods to Mike, who puts pictures in front of Mr. Hunt.

HARVEY

Here's us at graduation. He's sad 'cause he just found out I outranked him.

(then)

Here's one with the District Attorney. I wouldn't show him this case, though.

He'd push for the death penalty.

(then)

Here's one of us at a bachelor party. It was lame, no strippers. But he can't put guys like you away for sexual harassment then go to strip clubs now, can he?

DEFENSE COUNSEL

What do you want?

Mike looks at Nancy, then addresses Mr. Hunt.

MIKE

A statement admitting what you did, your resignation, and a guarantee you will obtain treatment before working again.

Mr. Hunt nods his head yes.

MIKE

And Nancy gets reinstated with back pay, a raise, and damages in the amount of four years tuition for her son at the most expensive university in the country.

DEFENSE COUNSEL

Are we done?

MIKE

Yes, we're done.

Defense counsel and Mr. Hunt exit. Nancy turns to Mike.

NANCY

This is everything I wanted. My job back, my dignity, a future for Freddie...

Harvey smiles as Nancy hugs Mike...

NANCY

I can't thank you enough.

MIKE

It was my pleasure.

Nancy shakes Harvey's hand. Harvey and Mike exit the room...

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Harvey and Mike walk out of the courthouse.

MIKE

Okay, I just have one question, why did you go to Joanna Webster's house?

HARVEY

Because I figured it out.

MIKE

I think you did it because you cared about me.

HARVEY

I did it because it's my job.

MIKE

Admit it, you cared. I saw the smile on your face when I showed up this morning.

HARVEY

I didn't smile.

MIKE

Say what you want. You know it, and I know it, you smiled.

A beat.

HARVEY

I was thinking of a funny joke.

INT. KATHERINE'S OFFICE - THAT NIGHT

Harvey enters, contrite.

HARVEY

You know we won.

KATHERINE

Frankly, Harvey, I don't care.

A moment. This lands on Harvey. He's probably never said:

HARVEY

I broke a promise to you. I'm sorry.

KATHERINE

(steely)

Make it up to me.

She tosses him a file. He reads it.

HARVEY

This is a criminal case. I don't --

KATHERINE

The man's innocent. He's got a family. He needs a winner.

HARVEY

(putting it together)

You took my partnership away, folded instantly when I threatened you, then asked me to take a pro bono. Now you're asking me to do this?

KATHERINE

I'm not saying you can't still do the fun stuff. And this is a paying case...

HARVEY

What I'm wondering is, have you just been manipulating me this whole time into some kind of... personal growth?

KATHERINE

Am I smart enough to do that?

Harvey holds up the file.

HARVEY

Is this the last one?

KATHERINE

I don't make promises I can't keep.

INT. MIKE'S CUBICLE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Mike heads out, Harvey joins him and hands him the file...

HARVEY

We start on this tomorrow.

MIKE

Does this mean we're officially a team?

HARVEY

I wouldn't move your things into Wayne Manor just yet.

MIKE

So, now you're Batman?

HARVEY

Closer to him than the fat Godfather guy.

They approach the elevator as the door opens...

MIKE

George Clooney?

HARVEY

Christian Bale.

Mike shakes his head no as the elevator the door closes.

MIKE (O.S.)

Did you really quit when you were first here?

HARVEY (O.S.)

Of course not. I'm not a wuss.

END OF SHOW