

MY NAME IS TROUBLE  
An Original Half-Hour Pilot  
by  
Douglas Stark

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FADE IN:

EXT. MANSION - MONTECITO, CA - MORNING

A lush, upscale villa nestled in rolling hills. A MAN and WOMAN giggle O.S.--

NEIL (V.O.)

First things first, this isn't my place, not even close. My bank account's a few zeroes shy of this zip code. Don't get me wrong. I don't sleep on Egyptian cotton, but I do okay. That is until now. We'll get to that in a minute...

AT A WINDOW - the Man, 55, distinguished even in his underwear, is with a Woman, 20's, used to being naked.

NEIL (V.O.)

People here have money. Lots of it. They have fame, connections, lifestyles you and I can't imagine. But they also have problems.

PULL BACK FROM THE WINDOW -- a black Tesla stops in the circular driveway.

Behind the wheel: LILY DORF, 52, immaculate in Armani. Watching in silent horror as the Man, her husband, cavorts en flagrante with the Playmate.

NEIL (V.O.)

I know, I know -- world's full of bad marriages. But the world isn't full of couples like the Dorfs. And one thing's for sure - the more money, the messier the problem.

Lily spots a heavy-set PAPARAZZI peeking above a wall snapping pictures of the lovebirds. Plotzing, Lily dials her cellphone and grabs a golf club from the back seat--

LILY (INTO PHONE)

Pick up, Neil? Pick up, Neil!

Raging, Lily tosses the phone and gets out--

NEIL (V.O.)  
 When things get messy for people  
 like Lily Dorf, they don't call the  
 police or a lawyer or their shrink.

Removing her gabardine jacket, Lily goes, club in hand--

NEIL (V.O.)  
 They don't call friends or family,  
 not even Mom and Dad. They call  
me.

INT. PEGGY TATE'S OFFICE - LUPKE & TATE - DAY

NEIL DUNN, 30, thick head of hair, not too tall, plays  
 Animal Crossing in a club chair. An iPhone rings--

It's in a purse on a desk. Neil reaches for it.

He eyes photos on the desk: a well-dressed PEGGY TATE  
 with husband, JEFF. A picture of Peggy smiling with Neil  
 at a party. Neil checks the caller id, answers the call.

NEIL (INTO PHONE)  
Jeff...that's right, in the flesh.  
 Peggy's out, saw it was you...hard  
 feelings? Nooooo - I'm just saying  
 goodbye's then hitting the  
 unemployment line. Bigger and  
 better, right?...yeah, I heard. It  
is tough out there.

INT. ENTRANCE - LUPKE & TATE - DAY

PEGGY TATE, 29, rushed but never sloppy, enters in a  
 texting trance, skimming messages. She's met by ZULIEKA  
 FREEMAN, 23, lightning quick smarts, but anxious AF.

ZULIEKA  
 Okay, don't be mad.

PEGGY  
 About what?

ZULIEKA  
 He's in your office.

PEGGY  
 Who's he?

ZULIEKA  
 If I tell you, you'll be mad.

PEGGY  
Lori Loughlin's agent?

ZULIEKA  
No.

PEGGY  
Then I won't be mad.

ZULIEKA  
It's Neil.

PEGGY  
No. It isn't Neil. If it was  
Neil, you would've texted me. And  
I would've called Animal Control to  
have him put down.

Zulieka looks contrite. Peggy shakes her head.

PEGGY (CONT'D)  
You know the drill. If it's  
urgent, Insta. An emergency,  
WhatsApp. The Apocalypse...iPhone.

ZULIEKA  
iPhone's in there. With Neil.

PEGGY  
You let him in?

ZULIEKA  
It's Neil. His mouth moves, doors  
open.

PEGGY  
He said he wouldn't make a scene.

ZULIEKA  
Y'know how that goes. The latest--

Zulieka hands Peggy her cellphone showing a gossip site  
with a photo of a Starlet and a shady figure resembling  
Neil. Caption: "Kittie Cat's Mystery Man Revealed!"

PEGGY  
Where's the fucker's severance?

ZULIEKA  
Stamped and sealed.  
(offering envelope)  
You sure he's worth this?

PEGGY

I'd rather have Trump grab my  
pussy.

Peggy takes the envelope, steels her nerves, and goes--

INT. PEGGY'S OFFICE - DAY

Neil on the iPhone. A WOMAN passes the office - Margot  
Robbie's prettier sister - with a mullet-donning DUDE.

NEIL

Really, Jeff, I'm touched by the  
concern. But enough about me. I  
hear you and Peg patched things up.  
She let you back in the house? The  
beds at Howard Johnson's are too  
lumpy, huh?

Neil eyes the Woman, leaves the office to follow her--

INT. HALLWAY - LUPKE & TATE - CONTINUOUS

--and runs into Peggy.

PEGGY

Neil.

NEIL

Speak of the devil.

PEGGY

You had to make this excruciating  
as fuck.

NEIL

(into phone)

No wonder you came crawling back,  
bro. Peg looks smashing. She lost  
weight? Highlights?

PEGGY

Is that my husband?

NEIL

You're back to calling him that?

Peggy snatches the iPhone from Neil.

PEGGY

Hey, Sweetie...no, he hasn't been  
frisked.

(MORE)

PEGGY (CONT'D)

It's okay, he was just leaving.  
Like now. I'll call you back.  
(hanging up)  
Snooping in my office? Really?

NEIL

I wasn't snooping, I was stopping.  
To give you a chance to re-think  
that rash decision to fire me.

PEGGY

Let's see. Not a fucking chance,  
you dickless Hobbit. Go and clear  
out your desk.  
(offering envelope)  
And put this in your break-up box.

NEIL

Break-up? Wow. So no prom for us?

Peggy seethes. Neil grins. A NOISE O.S. breaks the  
stalemate. Neil and Peggy head to--

INT. RECEPTION AREA - LUPKE & TATE - CONTINUOUS

Zulieka tries to calm a hysterical Lily Dorf.

ZULIEKA

Please, Ma'am, calm down...

LILY

My life's circling the drain and  
the whole world's got a front row  
seat. This is calm.

ZULIEKA

Like I said, Neil's no longer here.

Neil approaches Lily, turning on the rosy charm.

NEIL

Yes, I am. Lily, you look amazi--

LILY

Like a pile of steaming dog shit.  
The Hell I've just been through--

NEIL

Amazingly upset. I'm all ears.

LILY

That's what I need to hear.

NEIL  
 Have you met Peggy Tate? Peggy,  
 this is Lily Dorf. Y'know, Senator  
 Dan Dorf's--

PEGGY  
 I watch the news, Neil.

LILY  
 Love to chit-chat with your  
 assistant, but--

NEIL  
 Right. Crisis control. Talk to  
 me.

Lily cries. Neil takes her arm, glancing at Peggy.

NEIL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
 Too many eyes and ears. Come--

LILY  
 It's a mess. A bad one. Like a  
 Kanye-without-a-prescription kind  
 of mess.

EXT. PARKING LOT - OUTSIDE LUPKE & TATE - DAY

Lily leads Neil through a maze of parked cars.

LILY  
 I take the red-eye home early after  
 delivering the keynote at the Earth  
 First conference and he's  
 practically rubbing my face in it.  
 The bimbo's younger than our  
 daughter. I completely lost it.

NEIL  
 A red-eye. You poor thing.

LILY  
 That wasn't the worst part. Things  
 got...out of control. I grabbed a  
 club. There was a photographer.

NEIL  
 He got pictures?

Lily stops at her Tesla. The heavy-set Papparazzi is in  
 the back -- arms, legs, and mouth bound by duct tape.

LILY  
You can fix this, right?

Off the Paparazzi's muffled screaming--

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LUPKE & TATE - DAY

Peggy delivers a vein-popping diatribe M.O.S. Neil watches her mouth move -- we only hear his thoughts.

NEIL (V.O.)  
A p.r. crisis doesn't compare to a real calamity like global warming, a pandemic, or the Middle East. A p.r. crisis is worse.

Neil looks past Peggy, spotting the Photographer, HANK, in a glass-walled room wiping donut drips off his shirt.

NEIL (V.O.)  
There's the crisis itself - like your Nobel-Prize winning husband porking a lingerie model. Put that in front of a billion eyeballs, now we're talking. Famine's a hard sell, but a Senator in his skivvies is a sixteen point banner.

Peggy hates being ignored. She jabs a finger at Neil--

PEGGY  
This is all your fault!

NEIL (V.O.)  
Peggy's my boss. Or was. She cried when she fired me. Despite what you see, she really likes me.

PEGGY  
You're doing this to torment me.

NEIL  
I didn't sleep with her.

PEGGY  
What?

NEIL  
Cat Carlisle. I didn't sleep with her.



PEGGY

Please. She's the biggest slut in town.

NEIL

She's egg-shell fragile. Needed some hand-holding.

(beat)

Not saying she didn't want to...

PEGGY

You were supposed to manage the story, not be the story. She'd do anything for a headline, even if it means fucking you.

NEIL

Whoa. I'm going to need to unpack that.

PEGGY

We're off-topic. Lily Dorf is not our client. Nancy Price handles her.

NEIL

Officially. But I've helped Lily in the past. Like that DUI thing.

PEGGY

What DUI thing?

Neil just looks at her -- 'see what I mean?'

PEGGY (CONT'D)

This mess is hu-uge. Even for you.

NEIL

Chill-ax, J-No. We make nice with Drizzly Adams, pay him to go away.

PEGGY

His name is Hank. I hired him.

NEIL

(oh shit)

Spotlight.com?

PEGGY

They've been trying to get dirt on Dorf for years. Money's insane.

Neil chuckles. Peggy eyes him - what?

NEIL

Dirt on Dorf. Funny.

PEGGY

Seriously, Neil, if I don't drop dead from an aneurysm, I'm gonna' cut your balls off and choke you with them.

NEIL

Not tryna' to unpack that. Look, there's a fix here.

PEGGY

Something that doesn't involve an ax and a shallow grave?

NEIL

Hank and his lot aren't the paragons of ethics that you and I are. There's a number in his head. Once we're there, it's 'Oops, the pics on my hard drive got erased.' Are you feeling me?

PEGGY

We? You don't work here any more.

NEIL

Lily doesn't know that.

PEGGY

I'm handling this. Get packing.

Neil droops. He's hurt.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

What now?

NEIL

I hope Lily hasn't reached out to Nancy Price. She gets her fangs in Humpty-Dumpty there, who knows what'll happen?

Peggy peeks at Hank - he's eyeing his cellphone.

PEGGY

Whatever he's asking, she'll pay.

NEIL

And he'll play both ends. Milk Lily to keep it hush-hush. String along Spotlight to drive up bids.

PEGGY  
Then screw them both and sell to  
TMZ. Trifecta.

Endgame. Peggy waves Neil's severance check envelope.

PEGGY (CONT'D)  
This will stay with me for now.  
I'll talk to Marsh about you  
staying to clean this up.

NEIL  
Or what? You'll fire me?

Zulieka sticks her head in.

ZULIEKA  
Peggy, your ten o'clock. The Miami  
Housewife's in your office.

PEGGY  
With her creepy husband?

ZULIEKA  
Are you two done breaking up?

PEGGY  
Give them some tanning lotion and  
tell them I'll be there in a sec.

Zulieka goes. Neil smirks.

NEIL  
Don't keep your housewife waiting.

PEGGY  
Shut up. She wants her own show  
and is sitting on a mound of cash--

Neil follows Peggy out of the room--

INT. HALLWAY - LUPKE & TATE

NEIL  
Always helping those in need.  
(beat)  
Seriously. I didn't sleep with  
her.

PEGGY  
Not buying it.

NEIL

You take Hank. I'll hold Lily's hand.

(beat)

Remember to call Jeff. Need help with the 'Welcome Home' banner?

PEGGY

When the smoke clears, you disappear quicker than Ted Cruz's neck.

Neil goes. Peggy turns to Hank. He waves at her, winks.

EXT. GOLF DRIVING RANGE - DAY

In her bare feet, Lily Dorf lines up her club to a tee'd up golf ball. Sleeves rolled up, Neil watches.

NEIL

Don't you want to go somewhere and relax?

LILY

I am relaxed.

Lily swats the ball 250 yards.

NEIL

You're a pro. Who knew?

LILY

Took up the game because Dan was always on the campaign trail. I needed something to help me focus. Wasn't long before I was a 2 handicap.

NEIL

The self-actualizing is impressive.

LILY

Dan goes to Congress and I've got even more time on my hands. I raised kids, started charities, ended up running the Red Cross. I became my own person. All because I needed something to do.

NEIL

How many girls are we talking?

LILY

Who cares? Dan and I had a deal.

NEIL

Let me guess. He gets shortlisted for top slot on the ticket--

LILY

And I get his Senate seat. He can fuck a goat as long as I'm North Carolina's own in the next cycle.

NEIL

You don't think he--?

LILY

Not his kink. More into nipple clamps and sissy play.

NEIL

The, uh, photographer situation.

LILY

No way I let him walk. Not with those pictures. It'd be a crime.

NEIL

Assault and kidnapping might be a tad more criminal. Bottom line - we may not be able to get those photos.

LILY

I will not have Dan's heat-seeking dick ruin 20 years of hard work.

Lily smacks a ball even further.

LILY (CONT'D)

It's why I called you, Neil. Nancy Price is good, but you're the best.

NEIL

True, but if Nancy finds out--

LILY

You take care of those pictures. I'll take care of Nancy.

Lily steps aside and Neil tees up a shot, shanking it badly. Someone SHRIEKS O.S. Neil winces.

INT. OFFICE - LUPKE & TATE - DAY

Paparazzi Hank sits across from Peg. He isn't happy.

HANK  
I'm supposed to let Ms. Looney  
Tunes off the hook? Screw you.

PEGGY  
C'mon, Hank. We go back...

HANK  
She attacks me with a nine-iron.  
Ties me up. Kidnaps me.

PEGGY  
Granted, all very serious--

HANK  
Those pics - I'm taking bids.

PEGGY  
We don't want to go there.

HANK  
Go ahead and try that 'we had an  
agreement' crap. Nothing's signed.  
I ain't paid. I'm free to shop.

PEGGY  
But, we've always had a 'pal'-sy  
handshake kinda' thing. Right?

HANK  
Yeah, well, these are the times.

Through the glass, Peggy spots the Margot Robbie clone  
with the DUDE on their way out. Zulieka intercepts them.

Peggy holds up a finger for Zulieka, who forces a smile.

PEGGY  
Okay - how much?

HANK  
For real?

PEGGY  
For real for real.

HANK  
'Cuz it's you, I'll sit on this a  
couple days.

(MORE)

HANK (CONT'D)

I'll dream up the kind of lifestyle a guy like me needs and call you with a number. How's that sound?

PEGGY

A girl's dreams answered, Hank.

Peggy starts for the door--

HANK

You don't owe these people, Peg. What're you getting out of this shit-show?

PEGGY

The classy people I get to mingle with, day in, day out.

Peggy goes to--

INT. RECEPTION AREA - LUPKE & TATE

--the Miami Couple: TARA SUMMERS, 25, buxom and botoxed, and her svengali/boyfriend, LARS.

PEGGY

I'm sorry for the wait.  
(to Zulieka)  
I'll take it from here.

ZULIEKA

I was going to just linger in the corner in case somebody got thirsty or needed medication.

Peggy eyes Zulieka. She goes. Peggy turns to a pissed-off Lars.

LARS

You shouldn't have kept Tara waiting.

PEGGY

We were working a crisis.

TARA

The crisis is me walking out that door.

PEGGY

I know you're looking to up your profile and break away from the Housewives.

(MORE)

PEGGY (CONT'D)

I can get you a cable deal,  
endorsements, publishing. Let's  
talk it out.

LARS

Ten minutes. Then I walk this  
moneymaker down the boulevard.

INT. PEGGY'S OFFICE - DAY

Peggy slides an open file to Tara and Lars.

PEGGY

We positioned Ayesha Curry as a  
guest host on Rachel Ray. Now  
she's meeting for her own show.

LARS

Ayesha who?

PEGGY

Curry. Steph's wife.  
(silence)  
He's a basketball player.

TARA

I don't cook.

PEGGY

We would target Health and Beauty.  
That's how people know you.

LARS

And that magnificent ass, too.

PEGGY

We can get you spots on morning  
shows. Makeup tips, exercise.  
While Housewives is on hiatus,  
we'll be pitching your own show.

TARA

Morning shows? I want to make a  
splash.

PEGGY

Let's hit a few singles first.

Lars takes out his iPad.

LARS

We want to swing for the fences.



Lars taps the iPad. Peggy's quiet. There's O.S. MOANING-

PEGGY

A porn movie?

LARS

Sex tape. That's my girl.

PEGGY

And that's your...haunches?

(Lars smiles)

I don't know what to say.

LARS

How about 'Thank you.' Housewives put Tara on the map. This will make her a phenomenon.

PEGGY

This?

LARS

Like you don't know how it works? The tape gets leaked, we pretend to fight the release of our "stolen" movie, use the exposure to step up. Then make a mint off the back end.

PEGGY

Honestly, I can't tell what's going on.

TARA

What do you mean? It's hot. Isn't it?

PEGGY

Camerawork is poor. Lighting's horrible. The sound is atrocious.

LARS

(to Tara)

I knew it. This chick's not for real. Can't appreciate quality.

PEGGY

You can't be serious. I'm talking about prime time on Bravo, not a spread in Hustler.

LARS

Let's go, Tara. Lady's a prude.

PEGGY

Whoa there, Favio. I know a good sex tape when I see it. This is strictly amateur hour.

TARA

Really? Why don't we reshoot it?

LARS

(great idea)

Awesome. I can get a crew.

(to Peggy)

So, it's all good, then?

Peggy stews. The only sound is Tara's MOANS O.S.--

EXT. NEIL'S CONDO - EVENING

A comfortable townhouse on the West Side. Neil pulls up in his classic '68 Mustang.

NEIL (V.O.)

Publicity used to be a small world. For every name on t.v., every important news story, every corporation getting its brand message out, there were a few movers who greased the media wheel.

Neil stops. A Black Escalade is parked at the condo's parking entrance. A door is half open. A pair of legs in stilettos stick out.

NEIL (V.O.)

But with the internet, everybody's a publicity whore. Who doesn't have a twitter feed and instant global reach? I got to hand it to Nancy Price. She won't let that keep her from clinging to the top of the publicity heap.

NANCY PRICE - 50's, elegant, snobby, stunning - emerges from the Escalade. Goes to Neil, who greets her--

NEIL

Nancy. You look--

NANCY

Of course I do. I'm not catching you at a bad time?

NEIL  
You know how it is with people like  
us. Give it a minute.

NANCY  
I'll get straight to the point--

NEIL  
That'll be a first.

NANCY  
What the fuck are you doing with  
Lily Dorf?

NEIL  
She called. We coffee'd. We  
chummed. So?

NANCY  
The day you start 'pal'-ing around  
with billionaire families will  
surely mean Hell has frozen.

NEIL  
She's worried about her image.

NANCY  
She pays me to worry about that.

NEIL  
Right. You've probably been busy  
helping her Senate exploratory  
committee. What was I thinking?

Nancy didn't know that. She hates not knowing.

NANCY  
Don't screw with me - I bite.

Nancy leaves in a huff. As she gets to the Escalade--

NANCY (CONT'D)  
By the by, Neil - Kitty Carlisle is  
the town's biggest sex spittoon.

NEIL  
I'll pass that on to her.

NANCY  
You might want to apply a little  
bronzer.

Nancy looks up to the building rooftop next door. A  
PHOTOGRAPHER is perched up there. As Nancy peels away--

NEIL (V.O.)

Like I said, publicity's a small world. The good news is, you see the same people over and over. The bad news is, most of them are like Nancy Price.

INT. OFFICE - HEAD BUZZ ADVERTISING & P.R. - DAY

Itchy in a starchy shirt and tie, Neil sits with super-nerd-cool DAVE, CEO/Genius of Head Buzz. HERMAN GETZ, shrimpy exec of Getz Brothers, shows off a trove of furs.

NEIL (V.O.)

The writing was on the wall for a while. Peggy was hot to can me because I got caught with America's former teen Sweetheart, Cat Carlisle. I needed a gig. Fast.

Getz holds up an ugly fur piece. Dave grins smugly.

NEIL (V.O.)

My old friend Dave brought me in to help with a new account.

GETZ

Go ahead. Guess. You're never going to believe it.

NEIL

It's fake--

GETZ

It's fake. 100% synthetic. Nothing animal about a Getz Fur.

NEIL

Great. How can I help you?

GETZ

Sales suck. People want the real stuff.

DAVE

Russian mob's making bank on the black market.

NEIL

So, on one hand, you've got PETA throwing paint on this stuff. On the other, Russian gangsters. Nice.

GETZ

Is no problem. I have the answer.

Getz gives Neil a dramatic pause.

NEIL

What might that be?

GETZ

What if people thought Getz Bros.  
fake fur was real fur?

NEIL

Great idea!

(oh no!)

Damn. Truth in advertising. Those  
pesky state and federal laws.

DAVE

We don't really say it.

GETZ

We hint it. Like a strong hint.

DAVE

Start something viral first. Find  
a tie-in to Vickie's Secret. Do a  
big print campaign in the glossies.

NEIL

Right.

DAVE

Noodle with it. Get back to me.

GETZ

Like printing money, guys.

(offers a fur)

For you. For inspiration.

Dave and Getz smile at Neil -- their future is bright.

INT. DEGRIGORIOS BISTRO - DAY

Movers and Shakers eating power-lunches. Peggy sits with  
MARSHALL LUPKE, 62, Grand Poobah of P.R. No longer a  
feared presence, he's happy people mention his name.

PEGGY

Marsh? Marsh?

LUPKE

They don't make it like they used to. Roast beef so thin you could see through it.

PEGGY

Marsh - can you make the call?

LUPKE

The call?

PEGGY

Lily Dorf. If she stays with Nancy Price, this could be a bigger blow than the one her husband got.

LUPKE

Nancy Price. Nails on chalkboard.

PEGGY

You need to convince Lily to use us.

LUPKE

There's pictures?

PEGGY

Her husband, the Senator. With a girl.

LUPKE

(resigned)

A girl. What else?

PEGGY

You know Dan Dorf, right?

LUPKE

Mr. Big Shot. I already called the bastard. He's meeting us here.

PEGGY

Today? Now?

LUPKE

He's got a four hour layover at LAX. Just enough time for an appetizer.

As if on cue, SENATOR DAN DORF, distinguished underwear cavorter, enters with a two man security detail.

DORF

Marshall, you old dog.

LUPKE

Senator - I feel like I won the lottery getting a lunch with you.

DORF

You haven't changed a bit.  
(to Peggy)  
Peggy Tate, right?

PEGGY

It's a pleasure, Senator.

Dorf takes her hand. She's taken by his charisma.

DORF

We met before. At Marsh's fundraiser in 2013.

PEGGY

You remembered?

DORF

A lucky guess. If only I could remember what I'm voting on tomorrow.

Peggy beams. Dorf has won her over.

TIME CUT TO:

LATER AT THE LUNCH TABLE

DORF

So there I am with my detail, we've been waiting six hours. And the customs guy at the airport finally gets around to us and asks, "Do you have anything to declare?" I said "Yeah, I hate Belgium."

Laughs all around. Dorf's security whispers in his ear.

DORF (CONT'D)

Gotta' move. Hazard of the job.  
(eyeing Peggy)  
Marsh, I've got a sensitive matter.

LUPKE

I've known Peggy for years. She's trusted with any secret.

DORF

I think Lily's having an affair.

PEGGY

Really?

A little too much sarcasm seeped out--

PEGGY (CONT'D)

I mean -- really?

DORF

The party's talking to me about making a Presidential run. I can't afford surprises. Not now.

LUPKE

Of course.

DORF

I'd use my people, but--

LUPKE

You want to keep this quiet.

DORF

If she knew I even suspected--

LUPKE

You can count on us, Dan.

DORF

I owe you.

LUPKE

You haven't seen the bill yet.

Dorf laughs uneasily. He stands to go.

DORF

Promise to stay in touch...

LUPKE

I always keep my promises.

DORF

(to Peggy)

I hope my petty family tribulations hasn't lessened your opinion of me.

PEGGY

My opinion of you hasn't changed one little bit, Senator.

Dorf winks, leaves with his detail. Lupke eyes his meal.



LUPKE

I'll never see those thin slices  
again.

INT. NEIL'S CONDO - DAY

Neil enters - hot, tired, defeated. Rips off his tie.  
Jacket to the floor. Shirt to the bed--

A Woman is under the covers. Long-haired, 21, skinny  
glamorous - it's CAT CARLISLE. Neil's a little spooked.

NEIL

How'd you get in here?

CAT

Your building manager's a big fan.

NEIL

And the hordes of cameras?

CAT

All my assistant needs is a wig and  
a Jag to throw them off.

(beat)

I miss you. I was hoping there'd  
be a Round Two.

NEIL

There wasn't a Round One, Cat.

CAT

What do you mean? We didn't sleep  
together?

NEIL

Not a chance.

CAT

Who was that then? It'll bug me.

NEIL

It's time you went back to Never-  
Never Land.

CAT

Neil - they've staked out my  
Beechwood place, the apartment, my  
pad in Malibu.

NEIL

I don't want more headlines.

CAT  
 (devilish)  
 Are you sure?  
 (beat)  
 Let me flop here for the night.  
 I'm running lines for my next film.  
 We'll order in. It'll be fun.

Neil's cell rings. He answers as Cat scans her phone.

INTERCUT WITH - PEGGY DRIVING ON THE FREEWAY

PEGGY  
 Marsh and I met with Dorf at  
 Zine's.

NEIL  
 Wouldn't shut up about the roast  
 beef?

PEGGY  
 Dorf thinks Lily's cheating on him.  
 Marsh promised to help.

NEIL  
 The Cheater becomes the Cheated?  
 It's a set up. Dorf'll feed you  
 pics of Lily with some guy so you  
 fob it off as a legit story. He  
 gets to fire the first shot.

PEGGY  
 Wait a minute - how do we know Lily  
 didn't shove that tart in Dan's  
 face? She could have set him up.

NEIL  
 Why would she do that?

PEGGY  
 He resigns in disgrace, she steps  
 in. Boom - Mrs. Junior Senator.

NEIL  
 I can't believe you're defending  
 him.

PEGGY  
 I can't believe you're defending  
 her.

Cat calls to Neil--

CAT

Chinese or Thai, what's your pick?

PEGGY

Who was that? Neil? Is that her?  
(silence)

You are not screwing me with a gang-  
bang-sized F.U.! Are you seriously  
serious?

NEIL

She escaped Paparazzi. Needed a  
place to chill. Nothing's going  
on.

PEGGY

If nothing's going on, why're you  
acting like nothing's going on?

NEIL

Y'know, you're right. The most  
fuckable star on Earth. A cover  
girl on fifty magazines. If  
something did happen, I'd be well  
within my rights as a red-blooded  
unattached hetero male. And me and  
my erections wouldn't have to  
answer to you. Not as my boss.  
Not as a woman. Not as anybody.

CAT

What's with the erection talk? Is  
that your Mom?

PEGGY

You're going to be sorry.

NEIL

You know who's sorry? Jeff. Why  
don't you get an apology from him?

Silence. Peggy uses her last ounce of professionalism.

PEGGY

Hank hasn't called back with a  
number.

NEIL

Nancy Price stopped by. She knows  
something's up. Caught up?

PEGGY

I gotta' go.

Click. Neil eyes Cat. She is the hottest star on Earth.

CAT

Are you okay?

Neil takes her, kissing her roughly, passionately, angry.

INT. BEDROOM - PEGGY'S HOME - NIGHT

Peggy and JEFF TATE, a good-looking 34, turning off the light in on the nightstand. Jeff gets close to Peggy.

JEFF

Glad I'm back?

PEGGY

Let's say we both are.

Jeff kisses Peggy. She's uneasy, looking away as he nibbles her neck.

INT. BEDROOM - NEIL'S CONDO - NIGHT

Neil lying next to a sleeping Cat, staring into space.

NEIL (V.O.)

The cool part about what I do is getting people to see what's best in a client. The successful CEO. The star athlete. The talented actress. Sometimes it's so obvious, no spotlight's needed.

INT. BEDROOM - PEGGY'S HOME - NIGHT

Peggy lying next to a sleeping Jeff, staring into space.

NEIL (V.O.)

The worst part is when there is no best in a client. Or even a little good. Not because they're evil, but because there's a human being behind the star. And that isn't so camera-ready. Most of us get to see only a fraction of our spouses, family, the people we work with. We only get peeks into their lives.

INT. HANK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A portly woman, GLORIA, puts on a jacket and grabs a stuffed suitcase. Angry, she stomps past HANK, who has tears in his eyes. He follow her to the door.

HANK

Gloria. I'll make it up to you.

GLORIA

I put up with the drinking and gambling long enough. I'm getting a divorce. And I'm taking you to the cleaners.

Gloria leaves, slamming the door. Distraught, Hank sits at the kitchen table. The photos of Dan Dorf lie there.

NEIL (V.O.)

Sometimes you got to look for the good, even when it's hard to find. I'm not sure if that's me or if that's the job. But it's what I do.

INT. BEDROOM - NEIL'S CONDO - NIGHT

Staring, restless, uneasy, Neil jumps out of bed--

INT. BEDROOM - PEGGY'S HOME - NIGHT

Peggy throws off the covers, gets up, head of steam--

INT. PEGGY'S OFFICE - LUPKE & TATE - NIGHT

Peggy scans the computer. Neil passes, coffee in hand. Surprise. He tiptoes in. Tosses his iPhone at her.

NEIL

It's all out there.

Peggy scans news site headlines - "A Senator's Affair" and sub-head - "Woman Admits Year-long Romance."

NEIL (CONT'D)

Maybe we can put a tourniquet on this. It's just one dalliance.

Peggy swivels her laptop for Neil to view --

The screen shows the Huffington Post masthead in bold --  
 "BIMBOGATE" with sub-head "Senator's Many Women Exposed."

PEGGY  
 So, you think Nancy Price knows?

INT. PEGGY'S OFFICE - LUPKE & TATE - MORNING

Peggy is asleep on the couch with the newspaper. Neil  
 stands over her, watching.

NEIL (V.O.)  
 Okay, I just had a no-strings-  
 attached night with an orgasmic 23  
 year-old. No arguing or  
 complaining, nobody telling me what  
 to do. I even left the toilet seat  
 up. So why am I staring at the  
 woman who fired me? Who corrects  
 my copy with red ink and frowny  
 faces? Who two days ago told me  
 she never wanted to see me again?  
 (beat)  
 Why am I staring? Who says I have  
 all the answers.

Neil puts steaming tea under her nose to wake her.

PEGGY  
 I better call Jeff.

NEIL  
 He sent a text. I replied.

PEGGY  
 You weren't pissy, were you?

NEIL  
 Me? Pissy?  
 (beat)  
 He thinks it's from you. You  
 promised to make it up to him for  
 sneaking away in the night.

A live feed plays on the laptop -- all-news chatter about  
 Dorf's affairs. Peggy flicks on a television - the same.

PEGGY  
 It's metastasized to stage 5.

NEIL  
 What do we do?

PEGGY

We?

NEIL

Tell me you're not going to sit there and let this story run amok.

PEGGY

(throwing hand up)

They're talking about the man's pussy cravings on the Food Network.

NEIL

Look, the only important thing now is what's going to happen next. That's the story.

PEGGY

I don't even know who we're work for.

NEIL

That's easy--

PEGGY

The Senator.

Lily.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Neil and Peggy look at each other.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Now that that's cleared up.

NEIL

I've known Lily for years.

PEGGY

Marsh and Dan Dorf are best buds.

Stalemate.

NEIL

Let Marsh decide.

PEGGY

He can't make up his mind about breakfast.

NEIL

Go home. Get some sleep. In the end, it's not our lives at stake.

Peggy puts on her jacket. Hands the tea back to Neil.

PEGGY

This tea sucks.

INT. PEGGY'S HOME - MORNING

Peggy enters. Jeff goes to her.

PEGGY

Sorry about taking off like that--

JEFF

It's work, I get it. Your  
breakfast is almost ready.

PEGGY

Breakfast?

JEFF

You said you wanted the whole  
morning just for us. I made your  
favorite - eggs Florentine.

PEGGY

Oh. Right. My text.

Peggy hugs Jeff.

INT. NEIL'S CONDO - MORNING

Neil enters - Cat goes to him and bathes him in kisses.

NEIL

What did I do?

CAT

The humble routine isn't working.

She snatches the fur from a counter. She's giddy.

CAT (CONT'D)

Aren't these illegal or something?  
I mean I feel bad an animal had to  
die, but it's absolutely precious.

(beat)

Neil, you don't have this kind of  
money.

NEIL

You're right. I don't.



CAT

If you're crafty plan is to get me  
to fall for you, it's working.

She jumps on Neil, kissing him.

INT. DELI - DAY

Marshall Lupke looks blankly at a salad plate. Peggy and  
Neil face him in a booth. Neil whispers--

NEIL

Should I call paramedics?

PEGGY

Marsh -- we need help here.

LUPKE

What I'd give for a good piroshki.

NEIL

What're we going to do for Lily  
Dorf?

LUPKE

You can't even find one any more.

PEGGY

Do we let Dan Dorf twist in the  
wind?

LUPKE

You two ask a lot of questions.

PEGGY

Marsh, the Dorfs are in it up to  
their fitbits. We need to move on  
this.

LUPKE

The Senator's chasing skirt. The  
wife's chasing the spotlight.

PEGGY

We lost our angle on this.

LUPKE

You and Neil have always found a  
way out before. Hell or high  
water, you make it work, right?

(re: salad)

Eating rabbit food. So you can  
eat, what, more rabbit food?

The wheels are spinning in Neil's head.

NEIL

Genius. The Man's a genius.

(rising)

Peggy. Charge your cell.

PEGGY

Neil, where are you--

But he's gone. Ping! Peggy gets a text - she scans it.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Marsh--

LUPKE

Off you go.

Peggy gives Lupke a kiss on the cheek and dashes away--

INT. 3-STORY HOME - HOLLYWOOD HILLS - DAY

Lars and Tara's spacious villa. Peggy enters, stepping past cables, lighting equipment, crew people. Tara approaches wearing a g-string.

TARA

I wasn't sure you got my text.

PEGGY

I owe it to you, Tara. I need to let you know why I can't take you on.

Lars arrives in a teeny Speed-O. Peggy convulses.

LARS

Didn't think you'd make it. Want to talk about the first shot?

PEGGY

No, Lars, I'm here because...

(looking around)

Who's lighting this mess? It looks like a Telemundo game show.

LARS

The first scene starts here, then we move to the bedroom. I'm the pool guy. I come up behind her--

Lars grabs Tara roughly from behind.

PEGGY  
 What are you doing? You're  
 smacking into her like a plough-  
 horse. You got to take it slow. I  
 mean, you love her, right?

Lars caresses Tara, still a little rough.

LARS  
 Like this?

PEGGY  
 Yeah - not hot, Bucko.

LARS  
 I'm feeling it. You feeling it,  
 babe?

TARA  
 I guess. Not really.

PEGGY  
 It's got to be natural. Not  
 forced. People can spot a fake,  
 even in a porn movie.

TARA  
 I like that. Now what?

Peggy goes quiet, thinking, then dials her cell as--

TARA (CONT'D)  
 Where are you going? We haven't  
 gotten to the hot stuff.

PEGGY  
 Neil, what I'm thinking about is a  
 sit-down...

Peggy is gone. Angry, Lars knocks over a light stand.

INT. 19TH HOLE SNACK SHACK - DAY

Neil and Lily, both in golf outfits, sit down to drink  
 lemonade after a round.

LILY  
 Exactly what the doctor ordered.

NEIL  
 Like you said, you're at your best  
 here, so I thought with all the  
 toilet bowl swirling going on--

LILY  
 So kind. Can't hit a golf ball to  
 save your life, but just a peach.

VOICES approach - Peggy enters with Senator Dan Dorf.

DORF  
 Marshall never told me he played  
 golf. I would've pegged him as a  
 tennis guy...

Lily and Dan Dorf freeze. They weren't expecting this.

DORF (CONT'D)  
 Lily.

LILY  
 Dan.

NEIL  
 Okay, we've got your attention.

LILY  
 (heading out)  
 It's been fun, Neil.

NEIL  
 Look, I know this is under-handed.  
 Peggy's done a lot worse, but for  
 the sake of argument, let's agree  
 conniving to get you in the same  
 room is a low blow.

DORF  
 I thought you two were pro's.

PEGGY  
 We are. And we're the best. I  
 mean, I am. But honestly, when  
 this fell in our laps, I wasn't  
 sure what to do. And then it hit  
 me - if I can't fix this, how are  
 you two going to survive the 24/7  
 media glare? You can't fake it  
 through this.

NEIL  
 So I came up with an answer.

DORF  
 This is your answer?

LILY  
 We had a deal, Dan.

NEIL

Obviously, things've changed. But that doesn't mean the deal's off.

DORF

I'm setting up a run for President.

NEIL

Yeah - not gonna' happen. If you're lucky, maybe you get that U.N. Ambassador's chair opening up next year.

PEGGY

And since Lily's put in the time and effort, she'll serve out your term in the Senate and run next fall.

DORF

Serve out my term?

NEIL

If you resign. Effective now. A deal's a deal. That's my answer.

PEGGY

Our answer. Time off might be just the thing you need, Senator.

DORF

Have you forgotten who's in the White House?

PEGGY

First, you don't want to go there. Second, you're making Tiger Woods look like an under-achiever. Third...there's a third here. Neil?

NEIL

How do you want this to play out, Senator? Embattled Senator plagued by sex scandal or...

LILY

Former Senator named Peace Ambassador to the Middle-East? I'll pull strings and get you on the Foreign Affairs committee.

DORF

I can't get on Foreign Affairs.

LILY  
Schumer doesn't talk to you.

Peggy slides a document and pen to Dan Dorf. He thinks it over, then grudgingly signs. Lily is beaming.

EXT. SNACK SHOP - DAY

Peggy and Neil walking together.

PEGGY  
'Peggy's done a lot worse'?

NEIL  
Fired your best employee, for starters.

PEGGY  
Okay, but, I'm rethinking that.

NEIL  
For real?

PEGGY  
For real for real.

NEIL  
Gotta' admit, we make a good team.

PEGGY  
Not so fast, Bilbo Baggins. You haven't had your interview yet.

NEIL  
You're enjoying this, aren't you?

PEGGY  
Let's start with your people skills.

As the two exit the snack shop wheeling golf clubs.

**THE END**