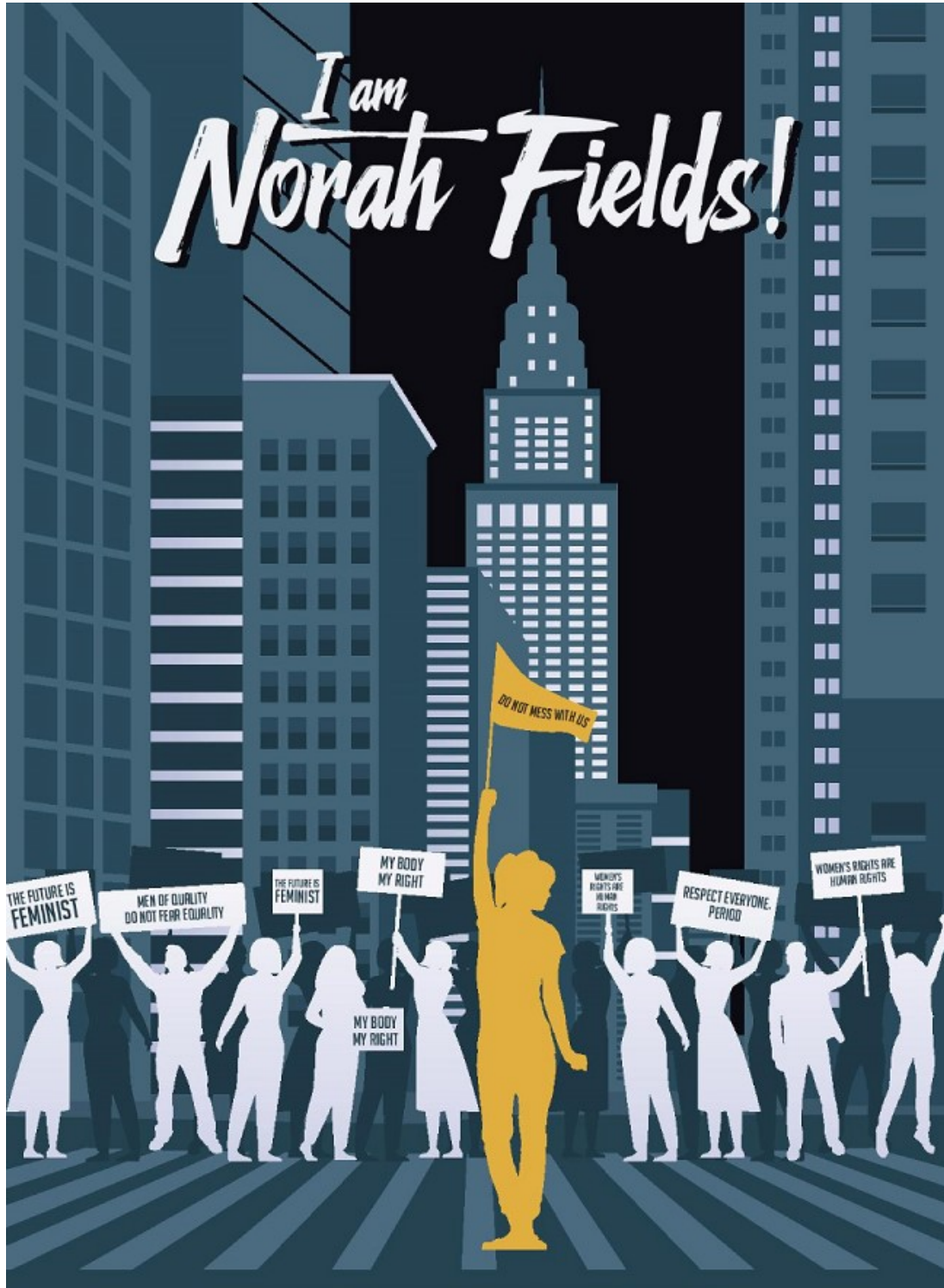


I AM NORAH FIELDS!



EXT. DILWORTH PARK, PHILADELPHIA PA - AFTERNOON

About 60 WOMEN, and a handful MEN, protest outside City Hall.

They yell, blow whistles and hold posters opposing sexual harassment and in favor of gender equality.

A few POLICE OFFICERS supervise .

A small number of REPORTERS cover the protest and interview NORAH FIELDS, late 20's, successful IP lawyer, short-haired, with a prominent sharp gaze.

Norah is known to be, city's flag bearer on feminism and social justice issues. Right now she is in a pumped up mood.

NORAH

Everyone knows he did it, and what do you know...? He is back at work as if nothing happened and the victim can't come back to work... this situation is ridiculous.

REPORTER 1

What are you planning next?

Norah is rapturous. Her eyes rove in all directions.

NORAH

Our aim is to get this sex maniac out of public domain... I'm in favor of shutting the municipality down, I--

A cab pulls up near the demonstration. The DRIVER opens his window and gives the ladies the finger.

CAB DRIVER

You fuckin' bitches, go home and take care of your children...

Norah quits the interview and runs into the street. A few demonstrators join her.

The cab disappears, but traffic snarls briefly.

Officers force the demonstrators back onto the sidewalk.

Norah returns to the reporters' ecstatic.

She shouts directly into the shooting camera.

NORAH

I am Norah Fields, as long as I'm around, such stories will not be silenced.

Norah, still panting, now gathers the participants. She hugs DEBBIE, mid 50's, well dressed Afro-American. Debbie observes Norah with admiration.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Okay ladies, I think we made our point. These bastards shouldn't get off the hook so easily anymore...

Norah looks around for MICHAEL, an attractive, well dressed guy, in his 30s.

She detects him and notices he is filming the demonstration on his smartphone. She waves to him and continues.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Please post and share images from here... thanks again for taking part.

Norah now gestures to Debbie, as she points around.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Do you mind taking care of all our stuff?

Debbie looks at Norah admiringly, and gives her a thumbs up.

As the women disperse, Norah approaches the reporters who are busy packing their equipment.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Thanks guys, I hope to see something in the news tonight.

The reporters nod. Norah approaches JUDY, late 20's, tall Latina, well dressed, a reporter for PHILLANEWS site. They hug.

NORAH (CONT'D)

What do you think?

JUDY

You did well, I hope this piece of shit is fired tomorrow. Text me if anything comes up.

Norah now walks over to Michael. A little hug goes between them.

NORAH
Thanks, any comments?

MICHAEL
Well, you promised a surprise and indeed, you surprised me.

NORAH
Listen here, when you asked me out, I told you I'm an activist, as you saw, I'm not a keyboard activist.

MICHAEL
Being an activist isn't a flaw... do you demonstrate often?

Her mood takes a sharp turn.

NORAH
(Assertively)
I demonstrate whenever needed, please don't count my activities...

MICHAEL
Mmh, very well.

Michael tries to figure out the situation. Norah is in next phase, her voice softens.

NORAH
Are you still interested?

MICHAEL
Well, yes... now I'm curious.

NORAH
So, Monday night?

MICHAEL
Sounds great, sure.

Norah snuggles up to Michael and smiles alluringly.

NORAH
I also have good qualities, you know?

MICHAEL
We'll see about that.

NORAH
See'ya.

Norah walks away, but abruptly turns around.

NORAH (CONT'D)
No, wait. Please send me now, a short clip or even an image of myself from just now, I've gotta send it to my dad.

Michael fiddles with his smartphone as Norah looks over his shoulder. He glances at her with his eyebrows raised.

MICHAEL
Your dad?

NORAH
Yep, we share everything.

Michael finishes editing a clip, presses *send* and looks at Norah. She watches it, smiles and winks to Michael, then forwards it to her father and to TIA her bestie.

MICHAEL
Very well, so, uhm, I'll see you.

INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

ETHAN, Norah's father, mid 60's, acclaimed president of Felix W. Donovan College and BRODY, life time friend of Ethan, mid 60's, clumsy-looking businessman, chat and have a beer.

Brody brags about his business while Ethan stares at some young girls sitting across the bar.

Ethan notices an incoming message from Norah.

ETHAN
Stop, stop, this is from my baby.

Ethan looks closely at his phone and smiles.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Take a look, I adore her...

Ethan passes the phone to Brody. Brody looks and nods.

BRODY
Again? How did'ya baby get involved in this feminist bullshit?

ETHAN
I brought her up to stand for what she believes in, and the hell she does...

Ethan watches the clip again, smiles and texts Norah --*"Proud of you, Love you, see you Saturday"*

ETHAN (CONT'D)

My Norah makes me so proud, she reminds me of her mother --

BRODY

She should cut this nonsense and get married, the sooner, the better.

Ethan stares irately at Brody.

ETHAN

Give me a break, it's neither your business nor mine.

Ethan rises with an angry expression.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I'll go now, you're the businessman, you take the bill.

Brody nods and smiles.

BRODY

Sure, like always, see you pal.

FEW DAYS LATER

EXT. BEACH HOUSE BALCONY, LONG BEACH NJ - DUSK

Norah and Ethan relax comfortably, as they drink a glass of wine.

The chirping of birds blends beautifully with a melody of Bach in the background.

Absentmindedly, Norah fingers with her necklace. It has her mother's initials "A.F." (Ann Fields). It's her only memory from her late mother.

Ethan notices, smiles and breaks the tranquility.

ETHAN

You still wear it, ahh?

NORAH

Yeah , sometimes, I like it.

They recline, and enjoy the tranquil atmosphere.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Guess what...

Ethan's attention is now drawn to Norah.

NORAH (CONT'D)
It seems I'm on the list for a nice
bonus this year--

ETHAN
Great news.

NORAH
The partners must appreciate my
work.

ETHAN
Knowing you, I'm sure they do...
however,

Ethan smiles shrewdly.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I know you, ahh, that clip you sent
me... your real passion is in your
feminism business, ahh?

Norah beams with pride. She turns to her father.

NORAH
You're really familiar with your
daughter's priorities, ahh?

Ethan smiles at her, gently touches her arm.

They both relax eyes closed.

Norah rouses abruptly. She nudges her father's shoulder.

NORAH (CONT'D)
You won't believe this, I've
recruited Gal Gadot to accompany me
on a visit to a young girl
shelter... Gal Gadot!

ETHAN
That's marvelous darling.

NORAH
I hope my enthusiasm won't mess the
whole thing up.

Ethan reclines back.

ETHAN
You'll be fine, I'm sure.

Norah smiles and reclines too.

A FEW DAYS LATER

INT. ETHAN FIELDS OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Ethan examines several papers at his desk.

He occasionally glances at his laptop, as a sexist promotion video runs.

The phone rings.

ETHAN
Yes... who?? Sure, let him in.

Ethan closes his laptop and rushes to the door, which already opens from the other side.

Mr. ERICSSON, head of The Board of Trustees, early 70's, tall gentleman, wearing an expensive suit, enters.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
MR. Ericsson, what an honor, please sit down, can I get you a drink?

Mr. Ericsson sits and keeps silence for while. He looks around the office, then relaxes back.

Ethan's countenance conveys expectation.

MR. ERICSSON
A drink Mr. Fields? No, no, ahh, I need your attention for a moment.

Ethan sits and leans forward.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)
How long have you been with us Mr. Fields?

ETHAN
Well, about--

MR. ERICSSON
It's been 15 years, that's impressive.

ETHAN

Yes Sir, time flies.

Mr. Ericsson makes himself comfortable while he examines the armchair leather, he then turns to Ethan and talks calmly.

MR. ERICSSON

Well Mr. Fields. The Board Of Trustees, which I proudly lead, has given some thought, yes?

Mr. Ericsson carefully considers his statement.

Ethan appears tense.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)

And ahh, we have come to a unanimous decision umm, to grant you a ahh, a special achievement award and...

Ethan's tension dissipates, he's exultant.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)

That comes of course with a nice bonus.

ETHAN

Mr. Ericsson, I appreciate this very much, thank you and thank the--

Mr. Ericsson raises his hand.

MR. ERICSSON

Mr. Fields, please save all the nice words for your speech. I must inform you, the governor will attend the ceremony and personally grant you the award. Therefore I recommend you dress accordingly and uhm, you might want to inform your daughter, it might be embarrassing if she reads about this in the newspapers.

Ethan is stunned.

Ericsson examines the walls as he rises.

Ethan is visibly embarrassed. They shake hands and Mr. Ericsson leaves.

Ethan sits, draws a deep breath, and dials Norah.

ETHAN
My favorite daughter, how are you?

INTERCUT

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Norah wears a headset. Several law books are open on her desk as she works on her laptop.

NORAH
Ohh, my preferred dad, what's up?

ETHAN
Do you have some time for your old man?

NORAH
I'm busy, but you know, we multitask, what's up Dad?

ETHAN
Not much. Ahh, Mr. Ericsson just left my office. Umm, they're honoring me with a special achievement award.

Norah stops her work and lightens up.

NORAH
Wow Dad, excuse me, President Fields, not much?

ETHAN
It'll be a big ceremony with, uhh, many bigshots and newspapers and all that, you know, and It comes with a nice bonus as well.

NORAH
Great news, you deserve it.

ETHAN
Thanks, however, you can still refer to me as dad.

NORAH
So humble... I love you Dad, send me the details, I'll be there.

ETHAN
Will do, my baby, love you, bye.

NORAH
See you Dad.

END INTERCUT

NEXT DAY

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Norah & TIA, early 30's, impressive Afro-American, stroll to their office.

They stop at a coffee stand and grab a cup of coffee and doughnut each.

TIA
So, will you give me details, or--

NORAH
What are'ya talking about?

TIA
Don't give me that shit. That Michael guy, the one you brought to the gallery the other night.

NORAH
(Nonchalantly)
What about him?

TIA
Come on, he seemed a nice guy.

NORAH
Ahh, It's over.

TIA
What the fuck, again? Are you telling me you dumped him already?

NORAH
Yes, I did...

TIA
You're something else. Did you... you know...

NORAH
(Nonchalantly)
Yes, I slept with him and I dumped him the next morning. Is there anything wrong with that?

TIA
Oh Norah, you're crazy but I love
you.

They hug, smile and walk into an office building.

EXT. COLLEGE PARKING LOT - MORNING

Ethan exits his car as KEVIN, mid 20's, Afro-American
reporter, approaches him.

KEVIN
Mr. Fields?

ETHAN
Yes, how can I help you?

KEVIN
Well, I'm Kevin Baker, and I'm a
reporter for the PHILLANEWS site, I
wonder if you have a few minutes
for me?

Ethan straightens up, smiles and arranges his suit.

ETHAN
Sure.

KEVIN
Sir, uhh, do you know Miss Wright?

Ethan's mood shifts. He becomes sullen.

ETHAN
Ahh, Miss Wright? The librarian?
What is going on here?

KEVIN
Well sir, yes, that Miss Wright,
she claims--

ETHAN
This is over now.

Ethan turns around and walks away. Kevin follows him.

KEVIN
Sir, please, she claims you
harassed her.

Ethan increases his pace.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Both by touching her and using
dirty language, can I have your
comment? Please Sir...

Ethan is furious. He examines the surroundings in
trepidation.

ETHAN
Never happened! Now leave me alone,
I'll call security.

Ethan storms into a building.

Kevin writes something and goes back to his car.

INT. LOBBY OF ETHANS OFFICE - DAY

Ethan storms by JANE, early 50's, well-groomed appearance
secretary with glasses, straight into his office and slams
door behind him.

JANE
Good morning Sir, wow...

INT. ETHANS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ethan sits in his armchair alarmed. He dials Norah but hangs
up before the call goes through. The desk phone rings, he
sees it's Jane, picks up the phone.

ETHAN
Everything is fine Jane. If anyone
calls, I'm out.

Ethan is agitated. He hangs up. Then stands up, pours a glass
of whiskey, sits back, and moisturizes his lips.

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - DAY-MOMENTS LATER

Norah sits at her desk and notices missed call from her
father. She calls him.

NORAH
Are you okay? I see a missed--

INTERCUT

Ethan is hesitant.

ETHAN

No honey, I ahh, I probably pressed the dial button by accident, ahh--

NORAH

Are you sure? Your voice sounds shaky.

ETHAN

I'm fine honey, I, you know, I ahh, ran up from the parking lot, don't worry, ahh yes, I'm still in shape.

NORAH

Just look after yourself, I still need you, you know...

ETHAN

And I need you honey, we'll talk later, I must go now.

NORAH

Love you.

END INTERCUT

Ethan drinks whole glass in one shot and falls back in his armchair. For a short while he's motionless.

After a few minutes he calls Brody.

ETHAN

Hey Brody, I need to talk to you.

BRODY

(O.S.)

I'm busy, what's up?

Ethan's expression conveys fear.

ETHAN

I need to see you.

BRODY

(O.S.)

Uhh, come over to my place this evening or--

ETHAN

No. Now. Where are you? I need to talk with you right now.

BRODY

(O.S.)

Well ahh, come over to this new place I purchased, I'll text you the address, it's a mess, but we can talk.

Ethan rises, takes a deep breathe and walks out.

INT. LOBBY OF ETHAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ethan refrains to look at Jane.

ETHAN

I'll be back in an hour or so. Uhm, if Mr. Ericsson calls let him know I'm out, otherwise, say I'm busy.

Jane eyebrows rise.

JANE

Sure sir.

INT. MESSY APPARTMENT - DAY

Ethan enters a noisy & dusty apartment. Laborers perform various modifications. Brody notices Ethan.

BRODY

I'll be with you in a minute.

Brody points at a door and gestures with his head.

Ethan walks out the door, his foot bumps into a wood log which causes some pieces of plaster and dust to fall on him.

ETHAN

Shit!

Brody rushes over.

BRODY

Are you okay? What happened?

ETHAN

This fucking log hit the plaster and it--

BRODY

Not that, what's so urgent?

Ethan looks at him scared stiff.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Are you sick or something... what
the hell is wrong?

ETHAN
Listen, I don't know... Norah will
kill me.

Ethan stands tremulous.

BRODY
What the fuck are you talking
about? Have you fucked a student?

ETHAN
Please man, lower your voice, no I
haven't done anything to anyone...

Ethan leans his head against a wall and without turning
around says.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Listen pal, I'm in trouble.

Brody puts his head near the wall to see Ethans face. He
put's his hand on Ethan's shoulder and turns him around.

BRODY
What's going on? Will you spit it
out already... what trouble?

Ethan closes his eyes momentarily and takes a deep breathe.

ETHAN
Okay, okay... so... ahh well, a
librarian at the college has gone
to the newspapers and said I
harassed her.. ahh...
sexually...Brody, I can't have this
scandal... Norah...

BRODY
Calm down pal, breathe, try to
think clearly... tell me
everything, who, what, when...

Ethan lingers shortly, then

ETHAN
So, ahh, about an hour ago a
reporter came up to me at work, he
asked me about sexual harassment...
he said...ahh, ahh--

BRODY

Ethan, it's me, I'm not the fucking
FBI, come on, spit it out.

Ethan is very trepidatious.

ETHAN

Wow, Norah, ahh...

Ethan trembles and appears to be about to cry.

Broody slaps him on his face and shouts.

BRODY

Calm down now, do you want me to
help you? Ha, do ya?

As Ethan continues to shiver, his lower jaw shudders

ETHAN

Ahhh, so... college librarian, Miss
Wright, ahh, told a reporter I,
ahh, harassed her in a sexual way,
the...ahh, the reporter asked for
my response...

Ethan's head drops, Brody's hand lifts it.

BRODY

Look at me, did you say anything?
What did you tell him?

ETHAN

I didn't say anything, I denied and
ran to my office.

BRODY

Did you touch the fucking lady?
Tell me exactly what you did...

Ethan grimaces, gestures as if to say, I have no idea...

ETHAN

(Low tone)

It's all over, what will Norah say,
it's all over, Norah, shit.

BRODY

Nothing is over, we can fix
everything. We'll sort things out,
just calm down.

ETHAN

And the upcoming ceremony, I'm done...Brody, I'm done!

BRODY

Ethan... pal, leave the ceremony out for now, what did you do to this librarian? Tell me exactly.

Evidently, Ethan seems terrified. It seems he seeks comfort in Brody.

ETHAN

What can you do? I hardly touched her, I complimented her body, ahh--

BRODY

Cut, cut the bullshit. Listen, do you know where this lady lives? Working hours? Married? Children?

Ethan wipes his eyes.

ETHAN

She's an old bachelorette, I thought, ahh, I thought she'll be flattered.

Brody stares at Ethan directly and claps his hands.

BRODY

Details, I need details... do you know where she lives?

ETHAN

What will you do? I don't want to hurt her.

BRODY

(Slowly and clearly)
Nothing is over, you came to me because you know I can fix things, right? Listen, I'll send some of my guys to talk with the lady, they won't hurt her and she'll forget everything... am I getting through to you?

Ethan's expression is puzzled.

ETHAN

What? How? Things can only get worse... no Brody...

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I'll go with Norah to the police,
I'll come clean, my game is over, I
don't know...

Brody raises his right hand with his forefinger out.

BRODY
No! You'll trust me! I won't let my
friend go down just like that, am I
clear? Ethan, everything is going
to be fine... okay?

ETHAN
Are you sure? If Norah hears about
this, I'm a dead man, what, ahh,
what will your guys do?

Brody exhibits great determination.

BRODY
Nothing, their looks will do the
job, believe me Ethan, nothing.

Ethan is agitated. Eventually he turns to Brody.

ETHAN
I don't know, Brody, and if it
won't work, it's a felony. I ahh...

Ethan is now perplexed.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I'm a respectful president, no
Brody, there must be another way,
I'll go with Norah and--

Brody raises his voice.

BRODY
No you won't... Ethan, you'll trust
me, am I clear?

Ethan approaches a window, sticks his head out and inhales
deeply.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Come on pal, trust me!

ETHAN
I don't know, I don't care about my
job or career, Norah is my only
concern, ahh--

BRODY

(Loud and assertive)

Just get me the address! Today! And go have a drink, you look guilty. Wash your self, go back to your office, behave normal and text me the damn address!

Ethan walks away. He slams one of the plaster walls, causing more dust to fall on him.

ETHAN

Shit!

INT. LAW OFFICE MEETING ROOM - AFTERNOON

A meeting has just ended. Norah and Mr. BROOKS, a lawyer in his 50s, rise together.

NORAH

The ball is now in your court, Mr. Brooks. Let me know what you decide.

MR. BROOKS

My client and myself will discuss it over and we'll be in touch.

Norah escorts Mr. Brooks towards exit.

INT. LAW OFFICE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Brooks examines Norah thoroughly as they walk out.

MR. BROOKS

It's nice doing business with such an attractive attorney, If you don't--

Norah turns...

NORAH

(Loud and unequivocally)

Mr. Brooks, me being attractive or not, has nothing to do with our business, I'll appreciate if you remember that! Goodbye now.

Norah turns around.

Mr. Brooks is dumbfounded.

Receptionist, SHELLY, mid 20's, nods admiringly and smiles.

Norah's administrator, SAMMY, in his 30's, of Latin descent, tall and well-dressed, emerges from his office. Marveled, he looks at Shelly. Her head indicates Norah's office.

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sammy concerned, glances into Norah's office.

SAMMY

What's up? Are'ya good?

NORAH

Sure. I put this attorney in place because he said something that he shouldn't have.

SAMMY

Kudos.

NORAH

You know me, ya give people an inch, they'll run all over you...

Sammy smiles.

SAMMY

Way to go! I admire your directness.

NORAH

Thanks. That's me.

Sammy seems uncertain.

SAMMY

Ahh, I'm going to the machine, would you like some coffee?

NORAH

No thanks, I'm good.

Sammy leaves, Norah opens her laptop.

NEXT DAY

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - DAY

As Norah deletes a text message from Michael, she smiles dismissively.

Tia enters.

TIA
What's up? You have a weird
smile...

Norah looks up and breaks into laughter.

NORAH
It's my conscience Ti, I think I
was to harsh on him--

TIA
On who, this guy you dumped?

NORAH
Hell no, just now, I yelled, to say
the least, at someone who smoked in
the men's bathroom...

Norah searches for something online while she speaks. Tia
grins.

TIA
If your conscience bothers you, I
can't imagine how this guy feels...

They both grin.

NORAH
Never mind that, take a look at
this, I'm so proud of my father.

Tia sees a news headline regarding Ethan -

*"President Ethan Fields, of Felix W. Donovan College will be
granted a prestigious award"*

Tia seems baffled.

TIA
What can I say, ahh, nice...

NORAH
It's a great achievement, he--

Tia bends over and checks a crease in her trousers.

TIA
If you say so, ahm, very well, I
just came by to say good morning.

Tia straightens, looks around Norah's office.

TIA (CONT'D)
 I must go now, you know,
 meetings... see ya later.

As Tia walks out, Norah's eyes escort her with a peculiar look.

NORAH
 Bye Ti

NEXT DAY.

E/I. BUILDING - AFTERNOON

Miss LILY WRIGHT, mid 40's, handsome woman, walks into a building, checks for post in her box and enters the elevator.

INT. MISS WRIGHT'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Miss Wright locks the front door and walks to the kitchen. Suddenly, she notices three, not particularly attractive, THUGS in her living room.

MISS WRIGHT
 Ahhhh, whhh...who are you? ahhhh,
 ahhhh, help!

Miss Wright runs for the door, MUTE THUG precedes her. Mrs. Wright is startled. The three thugs stay calm.

TATTOOED THUG
 Miss Lily, you don't have to react
 like that, we are friends, we won't
 hurt you.

Clearly, Miss. Wright is deterred.

MISS WRIGHT
 Ahhhh, what do you want? I have no
 money.

Bald thug examines his colleagues and makes a gesture of astonishment.

BALD THUG
 Why do people always think about
 money? Miss Lily, please...

Miss Wright trembles as she wipes a tear.

MISS WRIGHT

Who are you? Haa, how do you know
my name?

Bald thug looks at Miss Wright, at his friends and then back
at Miss Wright.

BALD THUG

Why do you think it is important
who we are? It has nothing to do
with our business.

Mute thug closes in on Miss Wright, she recoils.

MISS WRIGHT

Get away from me... I'll scream.

Bald Thug points at mute thug and continues calmly.

BALD THUG

He can't hear Miss Lily, and can't
talk either... why do you think we
care if you scream? Did we say
you're not allowed to scream? All
we want is you to sit down and
we'll have a short conversation, Is
that too much to ask, Miss Lily?

Bald thug raises his voice.

BALD THUG (CONT'D)

Sit down.

Miss Wright sits down frightened. She examines the three
strangers. Then she looks around her apartment.

MISS WRIGHT

Who sent you? I don't owe money to
anyone...

TATTOOED THUG shakes his head and waves his hands.

TATTOOED THUG

Again money? Do you like money?
We're here to discuss business, not
money, can I bring you water?

Miss Wright Bursts into tears.

MISS WRIGHT

I, I don't want anything, I want
you out of my home.

Bald thug offers her a napkin, she doesn't take it.

TATTOOED THUG
So, this is our business
proposition--

BALD THUG
We leave this place right away--

TATTOOED THUG
And, in exchange, you text this
reporter, tell him you made
everything up, find a reason, I
couldn't care less... and you
forget you ever talked to anyone
about President Fields.

Bald Thug puts his face close to Miss Wright's.

BALD THUG
Are we on the same page? Forget,
yes? You completely forget--

TATTOOED THUG
And we leave now and all parties
forget about this incident...yeah?

Miss Wright looks at the three strangers from one to the
other, frightened, they stare at her.

MISS WRIGHT
Did Mr. Fields send--

Tattooed thug waves both hands in front of Miss Wright and
his voice becomes louder and more assertive.

TATTOOED THUG
Stop, stop, stop... we meant forget
everything... am I clear?
Everything!

MISS WRIGHT
Please go now.

TATTOOED THUG
Everything?

MISS WRIGHT
Yes, yes... just go away, now...

BALD THUG
Do we have a deal? You understand
we can't leave unless you say - we
have a deal--

Unsettled, Miss Wright stares at the floor. Tattooed thug speaks now in a loud, clear and determined voice.

TATTOED THUG

A deal both parties agree upon? You understand, if we won't agree on the deal, we won't be able to leave, maybe for ever.

BALD THUG

But we do want to leave, so please say you agree to our deal.

Miss Wright now examines the three strangers, one after the other. She's on the verge of tears.

MISS WRIGHT

Yes, yes, I agree... please go away, just go away.

The three thugs rise and surround Miss Wright.

BALD THUG

You know what guys, I really don't want to come back here, I don't like this place.

TATTOED THUG

I think Miss Lily is on our side now, she also doesn't want us back at her place. It seems we have a deal with her, let's go home.

The three stare at Miss Wright as they exit.

She remains on her couch, tries to catch her breathe. At first she dials 911 on her phone but starts to shake and immediately hangs up.

She inhales deeply and texts Kevin the reporter-

"I made everything up! Please don't go out with the story, I made it all up, nothing is true!"

Very shortly after, Kevin texts back.

"Are you sure? What happened?"

Miss Wright is anxious. Shortly afterwards, she texts Kevin again.

"Nothing is true, please don't contact me anymore!"

INT. NORAH'S LIVINGROOM - DAY

Norah enjoys a peaceful weekend with a book in her hands and a glass of wine on the coffee table. Relaxing music fills the air.

Her phone rings. She looks at the display, her eyebrows rise.

NORAH
Hi Judy, what's up?

INTERCUT

I/E. JUDY'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Judy drives around. Restlessness is evident in her behavior.

JUDY
Do you have a minute?

NORAH
Sure, what's up?

JUDY
Well, ahh, it's a delicate issue.

Norah's head slightly shudders.

NORAH
In what way?

JUDY
So... ahh... first of all, this call is confidential, no one should ever know I talked to you.

Norah appears perturbed.

NORAH
No problem at all, go ahead.

JUDY
Well, the second thing, ahh... it concerns your father.

Norah experiences a disturbing arousal.

NORAH
My dad? What've you got to do with my dad?

Judy ponders, clearly uncomfortable in this situation.

JUDY

Uhm, I'm not blaming your father of anything, I'm only tipping you off, about a rumor spreading in my milieu, okay?

Norah's eyes become sharp, she bites her lips.

NORAH

Yeah , go ahead.

JUDY

So, apparently a librarian at the college, got in touch with one of my colleagues and accused your father with...ah, well, sexual harassment and--

The senses of Norah become acute.

NORAH

What the fuck? That's impossible

JUDY

Give me a second, please.

A sense of anger begins to develop in Norah. Her muscles tense up and her breath becomes rapid.

NORAH

Go on...

JUDY

My colleague is trustworthy, yes? He's not the guy who'll make up such a story unless he's absolutely sure the facts are true. Anyway, ahh, our editor has stalled the story for now, and I've no idea why.

NORAH

I understand, doesn't that mean it's fabricated?

Judy parks her car. Evidently, she's concerned.

JUDY

Well, according to the rumors, ahh, please remember, I'm just giving you what I heard, the librarian texted my colleague and told him to drop the issue all together and--

NORAH
There you are, I told you.

JUDY
Yes but, you know...

Norah is unable to control her anger.

NORAH
If he publishes anything I'll sue
his ass off.

JUDY
Norah, my colleague is convinced
the allegations are true...

NORAH
Convinced? Why? How?

JUDY
I'm only the messenger, I've no
idea.

Norah analyzes in her mind the information she has just
received.

JUDY (CONT'D)
Hello, are'ya still with me?

NORAH
Yeah Judy, ahhh... I understand,
I'll dig into this, thank you for
sharing with me.

JUDY
Norah, once again, this
conversation never took place.

NORAH
Sure thing.

END OF INTERCUT

Norah is frenziedly agitated. Restless, she walks back and
forth within her apartment. Eventually, she grabs her car
keys and leaves.

INT. NORAH'S CAR - DAY

Norah drives aggressively and occasionally she hits the
steering wheel hard and shouts out.

NORAH
Shit...shit...shit

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Norah closes the door from the inside.

NORAH
Dad?

No answer.

At first, Norah considers taking a drink from the bar. Choosing not to, she sits down in the living room and waits.

Her posture is tense.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Ethan enters. Her presence surprises him.

ETHAN
Darling, what are you doing here?

A little jittered, she comes straight at him.

NORAH
(Assertively)
Do you know what I've heard?

Ethan is flustered and on the verge of panic.

ETHAN
Ahh... no honey, what is--

NORAH
I'll ask you directly, Dad...

Norah pauses as her eyes express her untoward thoughts.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Did you sexually harass the
librarian at the--

ETHAN
What the hell--

NORAH
Don't what the hell me now, did you
or didn't you harass the librarian
at the college?

Ethan breaks his eye contact and moves restlessly.

ETHAN

Of course not! How did you come up
with this, ahh, this nonsense?

Norah makes an effort to maintain eye contact.

NORAH

Dad, I'm serious! Did you or didn't
you harass the librarian?

At first, Ethan is demeaned and unable to react.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Ha, did--

ETHAN

Stop! I'm your father. Please, I
don't know what the hell you're
talking about, and--

Norah gets even closer and continues.

NORAH

Dad, you know me. I need an honest
answer. Did you misbehave or, have
you done anything that might have
been perceived as inappropriate?

Ethan attempts to hug her, but Norah eludes.

ETHAN

Why are you making up this story?
Where did you hear this nonsense?

NORAH

Dad, please, I must have the truth.

Ethan tries to stare directly into Norah's eyes, again she
doesn't move an inch and he look's away. Anguished, he stands
at a loss.

ETHAN

I haven't done anything to Miss
Wright! Okay? You, ahh, you should
be on my side.

Norah keeps her tone slow and clear.

NORAH

Ah-ha, now we have a name. Listen. A rumor is spreading rapidly, that you harassed this Miss whatever, sexually I mean. Now, I need answers, honest answers.

Norah points at the couch and places a chair in front of it.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Please sit down, Dad. Lets try figure out what happened here, why these rumors are spreading.

Ethan approaches the bar, Norah stops him.

NORAH (CONT'D)

No Dad, not now, first lets get down to the roots of this mess.

Ethan hesitates for a while and sits down.

ETHAN

Ahh, umm, I honestly have no idea what you're talking about.

NORAH

Who is this Miss what's her name? Have I ever met her? I know as a fact she accused you for something... Dad, you must understand, if I support you and it turns out you lied,

Norah slows her speech.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Something bad is going to happen. Am I clear?

ETHAN

Yeah, yeah. You know me well, ahh, do you think I can misbehave in such a way?

NORAH

Well, no! You can't, however in most cases, the accuser is right. So, for now you're in deep shit, are you sure you have no idea what I'm talking about?

Perplexed, Ethan tries to stabilize his voice.

ETHAN
Ab- absolutely.

NORAH
I'm trying to figure out why she's making up these accusations?

ETHAN
Who said she is?

NORAH
That's not the issue now. I must have answers and fast... is there anything you can tell me about this lady? Have you had an argument with her? Do you see her at all?

Ethan sways in the couch uncomfortably.

ETHAN
Well, a few months ago, ahh, she approached me directly and said she deserves a promotion, I ahh, I answered her that the issue would be discussed at next management meeting--

NORAH
Did she get the promotion?

ETHAN
No, the management--

Norah extends her hand and nods to stop Ethan.

NORAH
No is enough... okay, now we have something, do you think she made these accusations to get revenge?

ETHAN
Darling, I have no idea.

Norah stares directly into Ethan's eyes.

NORAH
Dad, you must understand, I'm going to find out what is going on here, for good or for bad... I really hope you're not mumbling me around.

Ethan glances at Norah, at the floor then back at Norah.

ETHAN

I'm so offended you don't believe me. You've known me all your life, I'm your father.

Norah becomes more apoplectic.

NORAH

Please stop Dad... this issue must be closed and filed as NOTHING! Do you have the address of this Miss Lily whatever?

ETHAN

What? But why?

Norah nods and speaks slowly and clearly.

NORAH

Are you listening to me at all? In a few hours the whole city will be talking about President Fields harassing around. I'll have to give answers. And I'm going to have the answers, do you understand me?

Ethan rises. He walks around the living room.

ETHAN

You have no shame blaming your father with--

Norah shouts.

NORAH

Dad, don't go that way with me now. I love you, but believe me, I'm going to get to the roots of this.

Ethan's voice wobbles.

ETHAN

Do... don't raise your voice to me, I'm... I am your father.

NORAH

I'm sorry Dad, you're my father, nevertheless, I am Norah fields! Until I know what the fuck is going on, you're a suspect of sexual harassment... now, do you have her address?

ETHAN

I don't know why you're doing this to me, but I'll get you her address tomorrow--

Norah eyes become sharp.

NORAH

Now! I need it now.

Ethan circles in the kitchen and texts Brody. Brody assures him that Miss Wright won't change her mind again, and that Norah is welcome to go see her. Ethan texts Norah Miss Wright's address and returns to the living room.

ETHAN

I texted you her address. I ahh, I figure out why you didn't reject the accusations.

Norah walks toward the door. She turns.

NORAH

I really love you... but you know who I am... good night now.

Norah closes the door and Ethan goes to the bar.

I/E. MISS WRIGHTS APARTMENT - EVENING

Norah is outside the door. She firmly knocks on the door. Miss Wright calls out loud from inside.

MISS WRIGHT

Who is it?

NORAH

Miss Wright? Can I speak to you?

MISS WRIGHT

Who is it? I'll activate the emergency alarm... who are you? What do you want?

NORAH

I'm Norah Fields, daughter of President Fields.

Miss Wright is paralyzed with fear.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Are you okay? I'd like to clarify some issues regarding my father, please open the door.

MISS WRIGHT

I've nothing --

NORAH

Please, can you open the door for a short chat?

Miss Wright contemplates for a brief while, eventually opens the door without releasing the latch. She glances through the narrow crack.

MISS WRIGHT

I don't know anything about your father, why are you here?

NORAH

May I come in?

MISS WRIGHT

I'm sorry, ahh, I'm not dressed for guests. What --

NORAH

Okay, if you prefer it this way. I want to ask you a direct question, is that fine with you?

Miss Wright now hides her head.

MISS WRIGHT

I told you, I don't know anything about your father.

NORAH

Very well, I'll go straight to the point. I know as a fact you contacted a reporter and told him my father misbehaved with you, is it true?

Miss Wright keeps silence. She is on the brink of crying.

MISS WRIGHT

Who told you that? Ahh... it's not true, why are you saying that, it's not true.

Norah struggles to contain her temper as she wanders restlessly.

NORAH

Miss Wright, please believe me, I know that's true. I'm trying to figure if your stories are true or out of your imagination --

MISS WRIGHT

Why? Who told you about this?

NORAH

Miss Wright, hiding information like this can put you in deep shit. I'm a lawyer, please believe me...

Miss Wright gasps heavily behind.

MISS WRIGHT

I, ahh...I made up the whole story, I didn't mean it at all, and--

Norah leans her head closer to the door.

NORAH

So now you admit you talked to the reporter?

MISS WRIGHT

I already told the reporter I made up the story... ahh, what do you want from me now? I told--

NORAH

Miss Wright, why did you make up the story in the first place? Has my father done anything bad to you?

MISS WRIGHT

I answered you... I... ahhh... he...he didn't do anything, I made up the whole story. Please go now.

NORAH

I'm trying to figure out what the hell is going on here? And why are you so frightened?

Miss Wright delays her answer. She stomps with one foot on the floor. By now she sobs. Quietly.

MISS WRIGHT

I acted incorrectly. I'm so sorry, please go away now. Your father didn't do anything.

(MORE)

MISS WRIGHT (CONT'D)

Ahh, I'm so sorry, I must close the door now, you must... ahh... must go now.

Norah attempts to summarize the situation in her mind. The door shuts; Norah knocks again. The door opens, Miss Wright is not visible.

NORAH

You have my trust. I appreciate your time.

Without further response, the door closes.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LATER

Ethan is on the floor. An empty bottle of scotch in his hand.

Norah kneels to him. Her face shows compassion. One hand tenderly caress his head. Her voice is soft.

NORAH

Dad, Dad, it's me Norah.

Ethan wakes up perplexed.

ETHAN

Norah, yes Norah... my head is turning around, I didn't... ahh.

Norah looks at her father and wipes some tears off her cheek.

NORAH

Dad, get up, please get up.

ETHAN

Norah, I love you my darling... I really do.

Norah struggles to pull her father up.

NORAH

Me too Dad, please get up now.

Ethan struggles to get up. Norah helps him and walks him to the bathroom.

ETHAN

Norah my love, I'll be fine. Ahh, you can go now.

Norah closes the bathroom door and stands against the wall, eyes closed. Then she goes in the living room to cry.

The sound of the bathroom door sends her running to help her father to bed, no words exchanged.

She takes a shower and retires to the spare bedroom.

NEXT DAY

INT. MAE CAROL JEMISON SHELTER FOR GIRLS - DAY

Norah, appears to be feverish. She barely finishes giving a speech.

The room is filled with 25 young GIRLS sitting on chairs, sofas, and on the floor. Their eyes shine as they look at Norah.

NORAH

(Soft voice)

...okay Ladies, I'm done with my story, but allow me to add, your story will be determined by you and you only.

Norah, closes her eyes, and gently massages her temples. She checks her phone and sees a message from GAL GADOT "5 min's out".

NORAH (CONT'D)

And now girls, I would like to read you a magnificent poem written by a talented poet, her name is **Britta B.** It's called "Dear Young Women".

I hope you find you

I hope you find love

I see all the armor you wear

I see all the jewels and gems of wisdom you share

It's okay to shine, ma

It's okay to shine

It's okay to have pride, ma

You don't have to live a lie

Don't let the violence fool you into silence,

Convincing you that you're not worthy of space and time

*You might not know it yet,
But you got
A multi-dimensional set of eyes
Looking out for you
Someday,
You'll be part of that legacy
And become a guiding light too
Trust that what is meant for you
Is relying on you to show up
Show up.
You can lose your religion
But you will never lose your spirit
Each of your breaths
Have minds and LIVES of their own
I doubt we'll ever know the full impact of our presence
But do you notice
That even at your lowest
Your aura orbits this
Quantum measure of hopefulness?
The more inner kindness
The less the focus is of brokenness
Young Woman I wish you enough
I wish you enough time for all of your skills and talents
I wish you more
I wish you more revelations than disrespects and regrets
And I beg you to believe in yourself
More than your parents ever did*

*Carry out your curiosities
 In spite of the corruptions you experience
 You let yourself free
 When you let yourself forgive
 So when you do (and I know you will)
 I hope you find you
 I hope you find love again"*

The girls are at first silent, with tears in their eyes. They applaud and huddle around Norah. She hugs them and smiles when she notices a text - "I'm here, coming in".

Gal Gadot is behind them, so Norah gestures for silence.

NORAH (CONT'D)
 Ladies, ladies.. Please, I have a surprise for you.

The girls look at Norah, and at each other...

NORAH (CONT'D)
 How many of you saw "Wonder Woman"?

Most girls raise their hands.

NORAH (CONT'D)
 So look behind you... do you recognize?

Gal gives herself to the girls, and there is a happy commotion around her.

The commotion allows Norah to relax. Again, she massages her temples.

AMBER, a 28-year-old Director of the girls' home, places a hand on her shoulder. Norah gestures that she is fine.

GAL GADOT
 Wow, thank you girls for such an exciting welcome... girls, I want to say one thing... **You can!** So, go for it...

Together, the girls cheer for Gal and shout.

GIRLS
 Wonder women, wonder woman...

Once again, Gal takes selfies with everyone.

After celebration calms down, Gal, Norah and Amber, gather aside.

AMBER

Thank you so much Gal, and you Norah, you could've canceled, I would've understood, you don't look at your best. However I appreciate you made it, I'm sure the girls will take something from your speech Norah, and Gal...

Amber's hands spread in astonishment as a huge smile oozes from her face.

AMBER (CONT'D)

I think you understand how important your visit is for these girls, I'm sure they won't forget this day... wow, thanks again, I love you both.

NORAH

Amber, an establishment like this, is more important than my headache, I'm glad I made it, now I'll go home and doze off...

GAL GADOT

I thank you! Amber, and you Norah...

Gal hugs Norah and whispers.

GAL GADOT (CONT'D)

You really look as if you need a rest.

GAL GADOT (CONT'D)

(To Amber)

I'm so glad I'm on the east coast and I had the time today, Amber, If you ever need anything, let Norah know, if I'm available, I'd love to help.

NEXT DAY.

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Norah, Sammy and Tia sit at Norah's desk. She is upright and tensed.

NORAH

Guy's, ahh, you're my closest friends, I trust you, therefore, I will put it on the table with no more delays.

Norah frenzied, stares at her colleagues.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Apparently, someone has accused my father with sexual harassment. Now, you both know who I am--

Sammy and Tia look at each other.

SAMMY

Is it true?

TIA

(Low tone)

Wow, this comes as a shock...

Tia shakes her head to move her hair from her eyes, then looks out the window. Norah does not notice.

NORAH

Wait guys, please, let me finish. A friend of mine tipped me about this. So, as soon as I heard about it, I rushed over to confront him.

SAMMY

What--

Norah stares at Sammy with a sullen and impatient look.

NORAH

One minute, please, my father vehemently denied, now let me remind you, I love this person as if...ahh, You know...

TIA

Norah. If--

Norah stares at Tia with flames in her eyes.

NORAH

Let me finish!

Tia curls her lips and looks around the room.

NORAH (CONT'D)

I put pressure on him, he finally said something about a librarian at his college who asked for promotion a few months ago, her request was denied, by management, not solely by my dad.

Tia and Sammy have stupefaction expressions. Norah continues in a monotonous, determined tone.

NORAH (CONT'D)

I got this librarian address and I drove right away over to her. When she refused to let me in, I thought something is fishy however--

SAMMY

So you didn't talk to her?

Norah stares at Sammy coldly.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Norah, please continue.

NORAH

She opened the door without releasing the latch and ahh, we had a conversation with her being behind the door.

Norah examines Tia and Sammy's reactions as she speaks.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Anyway, at first she claimed she knows nothing, after some persuasion, she admitted she accused my father however she then claimed she fabricated the whole story, apologized, and repeated a few times that my father didn't misbehave with her.

TIA

And, you believe that?

Norah nods and continues.

NORAH

I do. Now I need you guys. I'm sure this story is going to hit the streets soon, what do you guys think?

Taking a cynical tone, Tia proceeds to speak as though to herself.

TIA

I really don't know... I'm not sure the Norah Fields I know would have let "this man" off so easy.

Norah raises her voice in protest at this attitude.

NORAH

Ti, please, "this man" is my father. This situation isn't "letting 'the man' off so easy" I--

Sammy gestures with both arms, suggesting "relax".

SAMMY

Hang on for a second, we all know who you are.

Sammy eyes move from Norah to Tia and back.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

And who your father is and what he means to you. Now, you say this woman admitted the accusations are false. Therefore, for now I don't think you have what to worry about.

Norah turns to Tia.

NORAH

And you Ti, what do you think?

TIA

First of all, I hope you don't mind me reminding you, it is your slogan-- 'The accuser is always right'! I do agree that for now things are on your side. Nevertheless, what will happen when this shit does get to the streets? What then?

Norah falls silent for a moment, and stares at her friends.

NORAH

Can I count on your support? As Ti implies, when this shit hit's the streets, I would need a bullet proof vest, and I'll need you. I'm going to fight for my dad, whatever it takes.

The three of them look at each other.

TIA

If things stay as they are, I'm with you but to be honest, I'm not sure that'll be the case.

NORAH

Ti, again... this is my father and I know as a fact he didn't do anything to anyone.

Tia refrains to reply and gazes at the ground. Norah stares at Sammy with a question mark in her eyes.

SAMMY

Norah, I'm with you, If things will change, our strategy will change.

NORAH

Thank you for now, I hope to kill this story before it goes out of proportion.

Tia & Sammy rise. Tia leaves right away.

Sammy seems to be digesting the news. He leaves the room too. Norah reclines back and closes her eyes.

EXT. FELIX W. DONOVAN COLLEGE GROUNDS - DAY

Montage of Kevin as he wanders around the college grounds.

-- Kevin walks toward a couple of STUDENTS, stops them and has a chat with them. They shake their heads and continue on their way.

-- Kevin interviews two MAINTANENCE PERSONAL as they are repairing a broken fence. Their arms are extended sideways as a sign of a lack of knowledge.

-- Kevin stops two LECTURERS as they walk. The two nod and continue on their way. One of them turns to observe what Kevin is doing.

-- Kevin approaches a group of students seated on the lawn. Some ignore him while others get up and leave.

-- Kevin writes in a notebook while he stands by his car. He then gets into his car and drives away.

THE NEXT DAY

INT. COLLEGE MEETING ROOM - DAY

An extraordinary meeting is held. Senior management and members of the board attend.

Ethan attends the meeting and sits silently. The meeting is concluded by Mr. Ericsson. People glanced at Ethan as silence spread through the room.

MR. ERICSSON

What are the facts at hand? A reporter seeks information about President Fields. President Fields might have done something bad, but no one knows for sure. I believe we shouldn't act impetuously.

Mr. Ericsson stares at Ethan, then with a solemn expression at the others.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)

In the event that this story makes it into the media, I suggest we issue a statement in support of President Fields.

Mr. Ericsson looks at Ethan now and gestures with his hands to express a lack of options.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry President Fields. I hope this witch-hunt ends as fast as it began. Would anyone like to add anything?

MRS. AROYO (ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT)

Sir, I'm not opposing your suggestion...

Mrs. Aroyo glances at President Fields.

MRS. AROYO (CONT'D)

Sorry sir, ahh, however,

Turns back to Mr. Ericsson.

MRS. AROYO (CONT'D)
I think our steps should be calculated. I don't mean to imply anything, but you know, an automatic response could turn out to be a blunder...

Ethan's discomposure doesn't go unnoticed.

MR. ERICSSON
Aah, I see.

Mr. Ericsson makes a gesture towards Mr. Davis.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)
Should we need to take action, I'll consult with Mr. Davis about the phrasing. Anyone else please?

Silence.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)
Very well, the meeting is over.

As everyone disperse, Mr. Ericsson stands up, and he approaches Ethan and shakes his hand warmly.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)
President Fields, we support you, and I think everything will work out for the best.

ETHAN
Thank you Sir, I appreciate this.

NEXT DAY

The rumors do spread.

MONTAGE- NEWS PAPERS, NEWS SITES & TV NEWS

-- *"Are there allegations of sexual harassment against a respected president in one of our colleges?"*

-- *"local President suspect of sexual harassment?"*

-- *"#MeToo in one of our colleges!"*

-- *"Age of decadence!"*

-- *"Sexual harassment in a college near you!"*

INT. MR. ERICSSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Mr. Ericsson and Mr. Davis formulate a response.

MR. ERICSSON
Are we in agreement?

Mr. Davis reads from the notepad, nods.

MR. DAVIS
In my opinion, this would be a good reflection of our decision to back Mr. Fields.

A press release is published in local newspapers and online sites.

-- "As a result of rumors circulating in the local media, Felix W. Donovan College announces that an internal investigation has been conducted. Our president has since been declared entirely innocent following an investigation of the rumors against him; in addition, no one has stepped forward to accuse him. In light of this, we express our utmost support for President Ethan Fields."

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - DAY

A steady stream of notifications on Norah's cellphone draw her eyes away from her work. She becomes agitated.

Tia enters her office, stands in front of her desk, and confronts her.

NORAH
I'm so happy to see you, how--

Tia's attitude is determined and emotional.

TIA
Politeness and manners later, confrontation now. How will you respond to all the shit thrown at your father with leftovers for you?

NORAH
I thought you're on my side.

TIA
(MONOTONOUSLY)
Norah, the phrase- The victim is always right, is yours!

Norah is antsy now.

NORAH

But there is NO Victim, can't you understand this? No victim... So, who is right?

There seems to be a struggle for Tia to find the right words.

TIA

It was you, Norah, who said- a rumor is the basis for truth during all our conversations.

NORAH

The person accused this time is familiar to me, I have confronted him, and I believe he is innocent. Yet again... there is no accuser! There is no victim!

The hands of Tia rest on her hips while she speaks, occasionally using one of them.

TIA

Give me a break... we all know the source of these rumors will appear sooner or later.

Norah stands up and stares at Tia.

NORAH

This will never happen. For now, can I count on your support?

Tia looks at Norah, then turns around and adds on her way out.

TIA

We'll see about that.

Norah is deeply disturbed.

She reads a newly arrived email with a frustrated expression.

Sammy puts his head through the door.

SAMMY

What's up, are you okay? Can I come in?

Norah's gaze reveals her distress.

NORAH

Please come in, look at this...

Norah shows Sammy the email.

NORAH (CONT'D)

These bastards prohibited me from attending this crucial conference. My mind is blown by how fast they judge.

Norah point at the door.

NORAH (CONT'D)

And Tia, she knows my dad. He can't harm a fly, so what the hell is wrong with her? I consider her my best friend...

SAMMY

Norah, please relax, can I bring you water? Coffee?

Norah hands over her phone to Sammy.

NORAH

Look at these...

Sammy nods.

SAMMY

This is ridiculous, I understand your frustration.

Sammy gives Norah back her phone.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Obviously, we all know who you are and how you handle situations like this, so --

NORAH

Sammy, it's not one of those "situations", you too can't get it?

Sammy restrains himself.

SAMMY

Wait , please, let me... please.

NORAH

You must understand, I talked--

SAMMY

We all know the reputation you have.

(MORE)

SAMMY (CONT'D)

I believe that you spoke to your father and are convinced he didn't misbehave.

Norah calms down slightly. She stares at Sammy.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Let's think for a moment hypothetically--

NORAH

I don't like--

Sammy raises his voice.

SAMMY

Hypothetically. You must be honest with me. If an accuser appears, yes? Then what? How will you respond?

The internal swirl of Norah is apparent.

In no way does Sammy intervene.

NORAH

(MONOTONOUSLY)

If I find out my father misbehaved with anyone, I'll kick his ass to hell! Let me say it again, I'll kick his ass off!

SAMMY

Now that you have said that, let's remain focused and not react impulsively.

NORAH

When these bastards accuse my father of this shit, how can I remain calm?

SAMMY

Let's try to stay calm. It'll get ugly, you, ahh... we'll have to consider our steps, If? When? What?

Norah gawks at Sammy.

NORAH

One finds out who her real friends are in situations such as this, thank you Sammy.

Getting up, Norah walks around her desk and embraces Sammy tightly.

NORAH (CONT'D)
I appreciate this conversation.

SAMMY
I'm happy to be of help to you.

Sammy turns around and walks away. At the door, and looks back at Norah.

NORAH
Anything else?

SAMMY
Ahh... yes Norah, you know, umm...
would you like, I mean, can I take
you out for dinner? I think you
need--

Norah smiles.

NORAH
Well, I defiantly need something
else. I would like that very much.

INT. SMALL RESTAURANT - EVENING

Sammy and Norah are dining together. Last of the wine is poured into their glasses by Sammy.

A WAITER brings the bill.

NORAH
I truly appreciate this. I needed
it.

SAMMY
Ahm, I'm glad it worked for you.

As Sammy places his card on the bill, Norah adds hers. A bewildered look from Sammy meets Norah's rebuke look. They both smile at each other.

The waiter splits the charge. As they walk out, they embrace each other.

EXT. OUTSIDE REASTAURANT - NIGHT

Sammy signals for a cab. Norah enters after Sammy opens the door for her.

SAMMY

Good night, I'll see--

Norah smiles and holds the door open as she winks...

NORAH

Come in, we'll go to my place.

Sammy looks at Norah, then at the street. Somewhat embarrassed, he joins Norah.

INT. NORAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Norah and Sammy engage in passionate love and fall asleep in the arms of each other.

INT. NORAH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Norah is awake, she examines Sammy intently. Then she lies with her head on his chest.

Sammy wakes up and they make love again. They get up, shower, and leave hugged.

INT. LAW OFFICE LOBBY - MORNING

Norah enters; Shelley appears surprised.

SHELLY

Good morning. I didn't think I'd see you today...

Norah stares at her as her eyes narrow.

NORAH

(Assertively)
And why is that?

SHELLY

Ohh Norah, I didn't mean anything bad... you know--

NORAH

I don't like what you're implying.

SHELLY

No. You know, people talk.

Norah raises her voice.

NORAH

Please give my number to whoever
talks, I'll deal with them.

Norah strides to her office.

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - MORNING

Norah opens her laptop and checks the "*Women For Women*" Facebook page she runs. Many nasty talkbacks against her. Furthermore, a new Facebook page named "Norah Fields betrayed us" was created.

Several of her friends "like" this page. Agitated, she texts Sammy.

A minute later, Sammy enters.

Vexed, Norah turns her laptop around and walks around the desk.

NORAH

Look at this! Look what the
bastards have done!

Sammy examines her laptop.

SAMMY

Norah, please--

NORAH

And some of them I considered
friends of mine--

SAMMY

Norah...

NORAH

Bastards!

SAMMY

Please...

Sammy leads Norah to her chair, sits on the other side, and stares at her.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Bursting out won't do any good to
the situation.

Norah's expression is rigid.

NORAH
Very well, what now?

SAMMY
Look, we knew it'll get nasty.

NORAH
Sure, but--

SAMMY
"But" isn't applicable here.
Considering your reputation, this
is expected, we can draft your
response and upload it, without any
apologies, in my opinion.

NORAH
What do you mean?

SAMMY
Write a response to this Facebook
group, and yes, use your
assertiveness, give them your side.

Norah mulls over her options.

Sammy stays put.

Norah turns her laptop back and carefully studies the posts.

NORAH
Umm, that's a good piece of advice,
thanks.

SAMMY
Very well, however, let me add,
this is not the end of this, you do
understand this, yes?

Sammy leaves her office.

Norah formulates a response. Self-satisfied, she posts it.

Immediately, dislikes appear. While frustrated, she works on.

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - LATER

A knock on the door raises Norah's head. Shelly's head peeks
in.

SHELLY
Excuse me Norah.

NORAH
Yes Shelly, what's up?

Shelly avoids eye contact with Norah.

SHELLY
I'm sorry, but you might want to
come and look out the window from
my desk...

NORAH
What's going on?

SHELLY
Come see for your self.

INT. LAW OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

Norah looks out the window and spots a demonstration outside
the building. She becomes irritated. Determined, she exits
the office.

EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

Approximately fifteen women protest against Norah. They carry
images of Norah and posters criticizing her and her father.

Debbie is among them.

Norah ignores the loud commotion and shouts directly to
Debbie.

NORAH
(Assertive & loud)
You're such a disappointment...

DEBBIE
You're not the Norah I--

NORAH
This is bullshit. I know my father,
you know my father.

Debbie yells however Norah's voice prevails.

DEBBIE
We didn't--

NORAH
Don't give me this shit!

Norah points disparagingly at all the protesters.

NORAH (CONT'D)
You all have no idea! You follow a
rumor as if it were the New
Testament.

Norah's voice triumphs over the protestors.

NORAH (CONT'D)
You all came here as a flock of
sheep after a blind shepherd.

Shouts gradually fade around her. Only Debbie tries. Norah
points to her.

Demonstrators begin to disperse.

NORAH (CONT'D)
What do you think to yourself, ahh?
I am Norah Fields! If I say my dad
is innocent, he's innocent!

Norah refuses to leave until all protestors have left.

Sammy arrives on the scene and hugs Norah. She shakes him off
and gasps. After a while, they enter the building.

INT. BAR - AFTERNOON

Ethan sits in a dark corner of the bar. A glass stands empty
in front of him. Brody joins him.

BRODY
Hey pal, how's it going? You
sounded awful on the phone...

Ethan examines the surrounding.

ETHAN
Ahh, I'm afraid things will get out
of hand.

BRODY
Listen man, that lady won't turn, I
guaranty! I can't control
everything, you know...

ETHAN
I'm most worried about, uhh, you
know, Norah's reaction.

BRODY

Pal, It's important that you relax.
My police contacts will check this
out. You appear and act guilty.

Ethan struggles to keep his head up.

BRODY (CONT'D)

You know what? Leave this shit and
come work for me.

ETHAN

Don't talk nonsense, I can't do
that.

BRODY

Seriously, why not?

ETHAN

If this issue gets off the
headlines and this Miss Wright
stays quite, I'll be good. I have a
good job --

BRODY

Yeah, but if not?

ETHAN

Shit Brody, you're supposed to
support me.

BRODY

Come on, something is fishy here,
have you been bad to other women?

Ethan seems perplexed. He rises and leaves.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Where the fuck are you going? Pal,
Ethan...

Brody nod's, pays and leaves too.

NEXT DAY.

INT. STREET - MORNING

With a newspaper in hand, Norah walks towards her office.
Today's headlines mention "Another complaint against the
college president".

NORAH

Shit!

She stands still and reads the article.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Bastards..

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Norah tries to call her father. No answer.

She texts Sammy.

Norah examines the situation while resting her head on her hands. She then examines her laptop and notices that the news had been posted on the Facebook page opened against her.

She responds -"*Fuck you all! All of you will beg for my forgiveness*" and shuts down her laptop.

Eventually she call's Judy the reporter.

NORAH
Hello Judy, can you talk right now?

JUDY
(O.S.)
I'm sorry, ahh, I can't talk right now. Can we meet later?

NORAH
Well...ahh, yes, that'll work, I'll text you about location.

JUDY
(O.S.)
Uhh, no, I'll text you about location, see you later.

Sammy enters.

NORAH
Sammy, come see this...

Sammy comes in and sits in front of Norah.

SAMMY
Ahh, this issue with more complaints, I saw it.

Clearly, Norah is asking for help.

NORAH

What should I do? I tried calling
my dad, he didn't answer... Sammy,
I'm going out of my mind.

Norah rests her hands on her desk. Sammy does so as well.
Their hands come together.

SAMMY

You must try to relax and think
rationally. In my opinion this is a
prank by the news site designed to
cause disinformation and entice
women to complain.

Sammy tightens his grip on Norah's hands.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Our firm sometimes uses this tactic
to make others make mistakes, as
you know. Media use this dirty
trick to increase their rating.

Norah releases her grip, relaxes back and stares at Sammy.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

If someone had approached them
about your father, they would have
published her name and testimony.

Norah stares at Sammy without reaction as two text messages
come in. From Judy and from her father.

NORAH

I'm sorry, but do you mind if I
speak with my father privately?

SAMMY

Sure, if you need me call me.

Sammy pauses for a moment to stare at Norah. He then leaves.
Norah calls her father.

NORAH

Dad? Can you talk?

INTERCUT

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - SAME TIME

In attempt to get away from the stir , Ethan drives in
circles.

ETHAN

Yes my love.

NORAH

Dad, are you okay?

ETHAN

Well, not really, this article, uhh, about more women, it's not true. I promise you I don't know--

NORAH

Dad, you must--

Ethan gets emotional. Norah too.

ETHAN

My love, I have no idea--

NORAH

Dad, can I... please?

ETHAN

Sure my love, go ahead.

NORAH

Dad, the news site has no name so for now I believe you, I'm on your side. However--

ETHAN

Thank you darling, I need your support, this isn't easy for me.

NORAH

Neither easy for me, but Dad, you must promise me there won't be any names. I need--

Ethan's voice is shaky.

ETHAN

Sure, dear. There'll be no names, you should trust me.

Norah sheds a few tears.

NORAH

I love you and I trust you, Dad. Together, we will overcome this.

END INTERCUT

She wipes her eyes and checks the address Judy sent her.

"*I'm on the way*", she texts Judy.

INT. GAS STATION COFFEE SHOP - DAY

In the coffee shop, Norah finds Judy, approaches her, and they embrace.

JUDY

It's the new complainants, huh?

Norah straightens, stares at Judy.

NORAH

Is it true?

Judy is very tense.

JUDY

Well, Norah, I'm unsure. Uh, this is between us, right?

Judy glances aside and outside.

NORAH

Sure, go ahead...

JUDY

Kevin, the reporter with the story, holds his cards close to his chest. There may be something our editor knows, but no one else in our office knows...

NORAH

Does he have a name? Are these accusations serious?

JUDY

I don't know. As I said, no one--

Norah's voice becomes monotonous.

NORAH

It is true your site publishes stuff like that without names? Can--

JUDY

I'm not going to reveal trade secrets. However--

NORAH
Judy, I consider you as a friend
and--

JUDY
I really don't know.

Norah leans back. Her eyes reveal her doubts.

NORAH
I guess a good way to summarize our
conversation is to say there are
probably no names?

JUDY
I don't know. If I'll hear anything
else, I'll update you.

NORAH
Judy, I appreciate your time and
willingness to help; I owe you one.

They both smile to each other and leave the place.

NEXT DAY

INT. TIA'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Upon entering the room, Norah smiles and holds out her arms
for a hug.

NORAH
Congratulations Ti, everyone is
talking about your big victory.

Tia smiles hesitantly. She comes around her desk to hug
Norah.

TIA
Thanks darling, good news does
travel fast.

While they hug, Norah asks Tia.

NORAH
Are we good?

Tia strengthens their hug, they separate. Norah leaves to her
office.

INT. LAW OFFICE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Norah bumps into Sammy.

SAMMY

Hi, could you spare a minute?

NORAH

Sure --

SAMMY

Can I offer you some escapism? I mean, ahm, would ya like to come with me to a concert?

With a nod and a smile, Norah affirms.

Sammy's blitheness is obvious.

Norah approaches him and kisses him. The two smile at one another and separate.

INT. NORAH'S LEAVING ROOM - EVENING

Norah is on the couch, with her laptop open.

The doorbell rings.

Askance, she approaches the door. Not expecting anyone, she looks through the door peephole and opens the door rapidly with her eyes wide open.

NORAH

Dad, what's up?

ETHAN

I'm sorry, I had nowhere to go...

Norah puts her arm around her father and escorts him in.

NORAH

Come in, come in. What happened?

ETHAN

Norah, ahh, I arrived home from work this evening to find demonstrators outside my building, shouting--

Norah is furious.

NORAH

Bastards!

ETHAN

-- ahh... and sign boards were held
against me and you, with our
images.

Norah points at the couch, Ethan sit's down.

NORAH

Dad, calm down. Did you confront
them?

ETHAN

No, ahh, when I saw our images, I
just kept driving, you know...

Ethan is emotional.

Norah demonstrates empathy.

NORAH

Oh, Dad. You shouldn't let them get
under your skin. I'll pour us a
drink.

Norah fixes them a glass of scotch each. She notices an
unanswered call from Sammy but ignores it. She sits with her
father, caresses his forehead and stares at him.

ETHAN

Honey, please tell me you believe
me. I need that more than anything.

NORAH

Dad, I've found out a few things,
I'm with you, however please,

Norah rests her arm on her fathers shoulder.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Please tell me there won't be
another scandal, no more names.

Ethan now hugs Norah firmly, his face, however, shows
solicitude.

They separate, Ethan now sits back, withdrawn on the couch.

ETHAN

No names honey, I'll ahh, I'll
finish my drink and go home.

Ethan finishes his drink. He rises and walks to the door,
Norah hugs him.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I really appreciate your support.
Good night.

NORAH
I love you, good night.

After the door closes, Norah calls Sammy.

NORAH (CONT'D)
You called?

SAMMY
(O.S.)
Yeah , have you seen the PHTV news?
The governor dropped out of the
ceremony in honor of your father.

NORAH
What the fuck? You sure? He just
left my place.

SAMMY
(O.S.)
The governor was talking--

NORAH
Sorry, I'm running to find him.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Norah emerges from the building and examines the parked cars.
Ethan is about to depart.

Ethan notices her and waves.

ETHAN
Have I forgotten anything, honey?

Norah gasps and stands near her father's car.

NORAH
No Dad, some news came in--

The darkness of the vehicle allows Ethan to conceal his
anxiety.

ETHAN
What news? It can't, I mean--

NORAH
Well ahh, the governor has
withdrawn from your ceremony.

Ethan leans his head on the wheel, the horn goes off accidentally.

ETHAN

Shit! Where does this put me? Us?

NORAH

I don't know. I just don't know, do you want to stay for the night?

ETHAN

I'll be fine darling, don't worry.

NORAH

Good night Dad.

Ethan drives away.

Norah stands and looks at the car disappear with a puzzled look.

NEXT DAY

INT. ETHANS OFFICE - MORNING

Ethan tries to work, however every few seconds he checks the PHILLINEWS site.

There is a knock at the door. He closes the news page and raises his head.

ETHAN

Yes, come in please.

Jane puts her head trough the door.

JANE

Excuse me Sir, can I come in?

ETHAN

Sure Jane, please do.

Ethan rises to move Jane's chair. He gently guides her to sit, as his arm is placed around her waist. Uncomfortably, Jane glances at his arm.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Please sit down.

Jane sits and Ethan returns to his chair.

JANE

Sir, I ah, well, phone calls come in with people cursing you and--

ETHAN

Oh Jane, I'm so sorry you have to go through this.

JANE

Yes Sir, and ahh, one other thing, some donors have also called, and they said they'll withdraw their donations. Sir, I'm so sorry.

Jane gets emotional.

ETHAN

You don't have to put up with this poison. Until further notice, don't answer the external lines! Am I clear?

JANE

Very well Sir, Thank you.

ETHAN

Would you like to take the rest of day off? Paid of course...

JANE

No Sir, I'm good... Thank you Sir.

Getting up, he hugs Jane and walks her to the door. After closing the door, he sits again. He is very stressed. He calls Mr. Ericsson's secretary directly and requests to see him right away.

INT. MR. ERICSSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Ethan enters Mr. Ericsson's office. In a gesture of sympathy, Mr. Ericsson shakes his hand. The two sit down in the seating area.

Ericsson carefully examines Ethan.

MR. ERICSSON

Mr. Fields, I--

ETHAN

Please Sir, let me...

MR. ERICSSON

Ahh, very well, please go ahead.

Ethan's body language shows great concern.

ETHAN

Sir, I understand donors have announced they withdraw their donations...

MR. ERICSSON

Well--

ETHAN

Uhm, I'm willing to quit all my duties, Sir--

Mr. Ericsson raises his voice.

MR. ERICSSON

Ethan, I have heard enough, now you listen to me!

Pulsated, Ethan looks at Mr. Ericsson.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)

Mr. Fields, you must understand, we support you! We don't act as respond to rumors. Am I clear?

ETHAN

Yes Sir, however--

MR. ERICSSON

A Board of Trustees meeting will be held tomorrow morning. I'll defend my position by all means, are you with me?

Ethan hesitates for a short while.

ETHAN

Yes sir...

MR. ERICSSON

Mr. Fields, I hope that everything will work out. You can immediately return to work.

ETHAN

Thank you Sir.

Ethan leaves Mr. Ericsson's office.

INT. ETHANS OFFICE - DAY

Ethan sits and calls Norah.

ETHAN
Do you have a minute for me?

INTERCAT

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Norah has an ear piece on as she reads an online article.

NORAH
Sure Dad, what's up?

ETHAN
Ahm, just a quick update.

Norah's full attention is drawn to her father.

NORAH
Go ahead,

ETHAN
Evidently, a few donors have notified the college they are pulling their donations.

NORAH
What the fuck?

ETHAN
Wait, so I...ahh, I met with Mr. Ericsson, you know, to consult--

NORAH
What? Why?

ETHAN
Norah, let me finish... Mr. Ericsson, well, uhh, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow. Their support for me will remain, according to him.

NORAH
That's good news, Mr. Ericsson is a fine gentleman.

ETHAN
He is. Well, I won't bother you anymore, see you, my love.

NORAH
Thanks for the update, love you.

END INTERCUT

EXT. COLLAGE GROUNDS - EVENING

As Ethan walks to the parking lot, a college GARDENER approaches him.

GARDENER
Excuse me Mr. Fields, I think there're some reporters waiting at the parking lot.

ETHAN
Thank you, ahh, Mr. Samson I believe?

GARDENER
Yes Sir,

ETHAN
Thanks.

Ethan turns around and leaves through the main entrance.

I/E. CAB - LATER

Ethan texts Norah while in a cab- *"Reporters at college, I took a cab home, talk to you later"*

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Ethan stands in his living room and call's Norah.

ETHAN
Are you home already darling?

INTERCUT

INT. NORAH'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Wearing an evening dress, Norah answers the phone while she looks in the mirror.

NORAH
Yes Dad, I'm home, however I'm getting ready to go out--

ETHAN
Go out? With who?

NORAH
Dad, you--

ETHAN
Sure, I'm sorry--

NORAH
Never mind that, how are you? What happened at the college?

ETHAN
Nothing, I saw them and decided not to confront them.

Norah becomes serious.

NORAH
Dad, we must expect more and you must be aware of things you say...

Ethan seems to be flustered.

ETHAN
I, ahh, I plan to evade them...

NORAH
As your lawyer, yeah, I advise you not to say anything to anyone. Am I clear? I guarantee you that you'll come across them...

Ethan falls to the sofa. He is pale.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Remember, all you say is- "no accuser", am I clear?

ETHAN
(Low tone)
Yes honey, I think I'll do well.

NORAH
I must go now. Ahh, look after yourself and, update me if--

ETHAN
Very well darling, thank you. Enjoy yourself, good night.

END INTERCUT

EXT. STREET. - NIGHT

Norah and Sammy embrace tightly as they exit a concert. Norah's expression is mischievous.

NORAH

So, is it appropriate going to my place? I mean, in terms of political correctness and work space ethics...

SAMMY

Well, we can always go to my place and it can be considered a one timer.

Sammy is amused. Norah considers her options.

NORAH

Let's go to your place...

They catch a cab.

INT. SAMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In bed, Norah and Sammy embrace after making love. Norah seems relaxed.

NORAH

You know, I'm really concerned about my father.

SAMMY

I know, I know...

NORAH

Yes, but--

SAMMY

Norah, you should consider both options, that's all, you know...

NORAH

It is painful for me to think about him committing, ah, you know, sexual harassment.

SAMMY

I understand, and--

NORAH

Sammy, this conversation stays in this bed, yeah, I trust you.

SAMMY

Obviously. Nevertheless, both scenarios can develop into a mess, and you should be prepared in either case.

Norah contemplates quietly.

NORAH

Your persistence to prepare me for an undesirable outcome, even when you are convinced of my father's innocence, is appreciated.

Sammy kisses Norah and smiles.

SAMMY

Sometimes being a lawyer comes in handy. Norah, I care deeply for you.

NORAH

Yes Sammy, but let's leave it as it is for now...

They hug each other and fall asleep.

INT. BUILDING LOBBY - MORNING

In the lobby, Ethan picks up his newspaper. Through the glass door, he notices a few REPORTERS waiting for him. His mood changes.

ETHAN

Shit!

Ethan stands in the lobby for a while. Eventually, he exits.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The reporters encircle him. Among them is Kevin.

REPORTER B

Mr. Fields, will you resign?

REPORTER C

How did your daughter respond?

REPORTER D

Mr. Fields, would you--

Ethan stares at them with blazing eyes.

ETHAN

You're all leeches. After the story has been refuted, you just can't let it go.

The reporters record Ethan's words.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You have nothing, zero evidence.

Ethan waves his hand with his fingers shaped as zero.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Can't you get it? No accuser! All you want is ahh, rating for your organization, you want more people to read your shit.

Reporter A points to the newspaper under Ethan's armpits.

REPORTER A

So why do you read our newspaper if it's shit?

Ethan's temper flares up.

ETHAN

Nobody, no name whatsoever, can back up your wild imagination, you have no meat to your story. Find a real job...

He passes between the porters in vigorous steps. Kevin responds, however, to his claims.

KEVIN

I suggest you follow our site, Mr. Fields. You may see something interesting over the weekend or at the beginning of next week.

Ethan's face becomes white. He enters a cab.

I/E. CAB - DAY

Ethan is irritated. He calls Brody.

INTERCUT

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Brody engages in sex with a young woman. His phone rings.

BRODY

Who the fuck calls at this time??
Fuck them...

The phone keeps ringing. Brody loses his temper and his interest in the sex. He walks away from the girl who stares at him. He gives her a fifty dollar bill.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Take your 50 bucks and get the hell
out of here, go, go, go...

The young girl gets dressed and leaves. Brody answers his phone. He yells.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Why do you bother me? Who are you?
What the fuck do you want from me?

Ethan is flabbergasted at the thunderous reaction.

ETHAN

What's the matter with you? Brody,
this is Ethan.

Brody continues.

BRODY

Why, for god's sake, are you
calling me this time of the day?
What's the matter with you?

ETHAN

Brody it's me, Ethan, and--

BRODY

I don't give a damn who you are,
don't call me at this time.

ETHAN

Brody, Brody...

Brody hangs up and gets dressed. Ethan tries again. The third time, Brody responds calmly.

BRODY

Do you have to call me in the
middle of screwing a beautiful
girl? What's the matter with you?

(MORE)

BRODY (CONT'D)

Have I ever bothered you during sex, you motherfucker.

ETHAN

I'm sorry Brody, how could I know?

BRODY

I'll share my screwing schedule with you. Shit! The phone rings as if someone had a heart attack while dialing...

Ethan looks at the driver and whispers.

ETHAN

I'm uhh, the reporter said uhh, I--

BRODY

What? I can't--

ETHAN

We are...ahh, I'm in trouble.

BRODY

What now? Have you touched another librarian?

ETHAN

Ahhh, Bro--

BRODY

Cut the bullshit. Meet me in thirty minutes at the same location.

END OF INTERCUT

Ethan stares at his phone.

Once he arrives at the college, he jumps into his car and drives off.

INT. MESSY APPARTMENT - DAY

Ethan enters. Brady examines the circuit breakers.

BRODY

You're here then... the contractor hasn't arrived yet. Now what have you gotten yourself into?

Ethan is at a loss.

ETHAN

(Low tone)

I fear another woman has contacted the reporter, uhh, and she might be willing to--

Ethan falls to his knees and whines.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What should I do? I'll be fed to the lions by Norah.

Brody helps Ethan up.

BRODY

Come on pal, get up.

ETHAN

This time I think it's over--

Brody becomes upset.

BRODY

What the fuck is over?

Ethan wanders around the room troubled.

ETHAN

Man, please. The reporter who spoke with me appeared determined. There seems to be a new complainant.

BRODY

Damn, how many women did you harass?

Ethan hides his head.

ETHAN

What can I do? Norah will kill me, I know it.

Ethan weeps. Brody shakes him and stares into his eyes.

BRODY

Stop! We won't be beaten! Am I clear? Do you hear me?

It takes a minute for Ethan to relax.

ETHAN

So, what should I do?

BRODY
First of all, stop being a pussy,
second, we--

Ethan's phone rings. He sees it's Norah and is startled.

ETHAN
It's Norah, I must answer her...

Brody nods, points to Ethan's phone and shouts.

BRODY
Put down your phone, damn it! We'll
deal with her in a moment.

Ethan looks at his phone and declines the call.

ETHAN
What, what?

BRODY
Just tell me slowly what the hell
happened.

ETHAN
So,

Ethan gasps heavily.

BRODY
Come on, come on...

Ethan uses his hands to describe what went on. His voice is monotonous and submissive.

ETHAN
Ahh, this morning I saw a bunch of
reporters outside my building, and
I walked right out to them...

With a hand gesture, Brody hastens him.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
So I told them they're full of
crap, but the one reporter... ahh,

Brody shakes his head.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
...told me to expect a surprise
this weekend. He smiled defiantly
at me. He may, I fear...

Again, Ethan's phone rings. Once again, it's Norah. He is utterly helpless.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I must answer her.

BRODY
Text her, you'll talk to her later.

Ethan hands shake as he texts Norah- "*Honey, I'll call you shortly*"

BRODY (CONT'D)
Very well. I now want the truth.
How many women have you touched,
for god's sake? Perhaps you've
talked dirty to someone? Could you
have sent someone a 'Dickpic'?

Ethan's mouth shakes however, no words come out.

ETHAN
Oh, ho, oh...

BRODY
I'm your friend damn it, answer me!

ETHAN
Yes! I'll never admit that to
Norah. I just talked, you know,
sent messages, and so on.

BRODY
And what? Give it to me.

ETHAN
I touched a bum or two. Norah
should never hear of this.

BRODY
Try to relax now. I'll contact my
police friends. I'll see if they
can look into this reporter, what's
his name?

Ethan stands stunned. Brody yells.

BRODY (CONT'D)
What's the guy's name? For god's
sake, are you with me?

ETHAN

Yes, yes... he's with PHILLANEWS, I think his name is Kevin... What about Norah, you know...?

BRODY

Give her some shit... Now, go to work and change the look on your face. As soon as I have something, I'll call you. I hope the reporter is merely playing dirty, go now.

Ethan hesitates for a short while and leaves the place.

I/E. ETHAN'S CAR - DAY

Ethan drives to work, he holds the wheel tight as he looks at his phone.

ETHAN

Shit! Shit! Shit!

Ethan is concerned and hesitant. Eventually, he dials.

INTERCUT

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Norah sits back in her chair, stares at her phone, and when it rings, she grabs it.

NORAH

What's going on? Are you okay?

Ethan voice creaks.

ETHAN

Sure honey, I had this, ahh--

Norah now focuses on the conversation.

NORAH

What's going on?

Ethan tries to maintain a steady voice.

ETHAN

Norah, I'm sorry, uhh, I'm fine, I had this incident with some reporters...

NORAH
What incident? Why didn't you call
me? What did--

ETHAN
I...I, did as, as you told me.

NORAH
How did--?

Ethan misses the college exit inadvertently.

ETHAN
Shit.

NORAH
What?

ETHAN
I'm with you so I, ahh, I missed
the college entrance. I'll have to
turn around.

NORAH
Dad, what's going on?

ETHAN
Nothing my love, I missed the turn,
noting tragic...

NORAH
Dad, I'm worried, you sound
agitated.

ETHAN
It's this situation. I'll be fine,
I promise.

As Norah contemplates a bit, she continues in a low voice.

NORAH
I understand, please look after
yourself.

ETHAN
Ahh, honey, knowing you're with me,
gives me confidence. Goodbye, dear.

NORAH
Bye Dad, love you.

END INTERCUT

Norah examines her phone for a while. Sammy enters and signals he must speak with her.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Yeah, what's up?

Sammy has serious face.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Are you good?

SAMMY
Uhm, all I can say is--

NORAH
Come out with it, it's me...

Sammy dithers.

SAMMY
So, uhm, just to let you know, you might hear from partners today.

Clearly surprised, Norah stares at him.

NORAH
What the fuck?

Sammy looks at Norah with a puzzled look.

SAMMY
You understand of course, I can't talk about it, I might have said too much already.

NORAH
Ya think they want to show me the door?

SAMMY
No, I'm sure that's not the issue.

Norah gestures Sammy to step on it.

NORAH
So, what's the issue?

Sammy opens his mouth to say something, but he stops as his phone buzzes. He looks at his phone.

SAMMY
I'm sorry Norah, look at this.

Sammy passes his phone to Norah. She reads an email-

"Please ask Miss Fields to come over to my office".

NORAH
Mr. Sharp, interesting...

SAMMY
Your work has been appreciated many times, don't worry...

Norah gets up and approaches Sammy, she kisses him.

NORAH
See you in a bit, you can wait here.

INT. NORAH'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Sammy checks his emails while he waits. Norah returns and his eyes follow her to her chair.

SAMMY
So? What did they--

Norah smiles cynically.

NORAH
They expressed their deep and sincere support... shit!

SAMMY
What do you mean?

Norah imitates Mr. Sharp.

NORAH
"We of course believe in your righteousness"

Sammy stares at her empathetically.

NORAH (CONT'D)
"Phone calls and emails...blah, blah, blah...we can't afford the bad publicity...blah, blah, blah", you know.

Sammy comes near Norah and tries to embrace her, she recoils.

NORAH (CONT'D)
I'll kill you if you know about this... Sammy, why didn't you tell me about this?

SAMMY

About what? What did they say?

Norah sits down and stares at Sammy.

NORAH

Uhhm... how did you know about this meeting?

SAMMY

I'm the administrator of this office, you know...

Sammy studies Norah with anticipation.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

For god's sake, what did they say?

NORAH

"It would be appreciated if you could take a few weeks off". In other words, I'm on leave for two weeks, starting now.

Sammy approaches Norah and stares into her eyes.

SAMMY

Norah, try to understand their point of view and don't judge them, you'll be back in no time.

NORAH

He added, and this disappoints me greatly, several of my personal clients have requested that I not represent them. He won't tell me who... are you aware of who?

SAMMY

Not at all, Norah. As a lawyer, I can understand. However, there is a substantial possibility that, should it turn out your father behaved improperly and you supported him, people could view that as impudence.

NORAH

Sammy, don't--

SAMMY

Norah, please understand, I know you well and I've met your father, however not all your clients have--

Norah stares at Sammy attentively.

NORAH

I guess you're right. My anger needs to be channeled in the right direction.

Norah pauses again and thinks aloud.

NORAH (CONT'D)

I'll have the time and energy to take care of my father and to ensure this nightmare ends. Come hug me.

A warm hug is exchanged between Sammy and Norah.

Norah leaves the office and texts her father.

"Are ya free for lunch??"

The answer arrives right away.

"Hey honey, I just received a call from Mr. Ericsson. I'll call you when I'm done"

Norah stops by Tia's office on her way out.

INT. TIA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tia is on the phone, and when she sees Norah, she hangs up.

TIA

What's up honey?

NORAH

It could've been better, Mr. Sharp asked me to take two weeks off...

Tia's head tilts backward as she is truly alarmed.

TIA

What the fuck?

NORAH

Asked...?? My options were limited, to be more accurate.

Tia now gets up and comes in front of her desk.

TIA

Does this have to do with your father? Can I be honest with you?

Norah puts her arm on Tia's shoulder.

NORAH
Sure Ti, give it to me.

Tia gently places her palm on Norah's arm.

TIA
Norah, I want to be more
supportive, you know... however,
please forgive me saying this, your
automatic support for your father
isn't the Norah I know, do you
understand?

Norah opens her mouth to say something, Tia stops her.

TIA (CONT'D)
Obviously, I'd like to hug you,
talk to you, and spend more time
with you. But, I'm not comfortable--

NORAH
Ti, it bothers me that you don't
believe me when I say I fried my
dad. He didn't harm anyone, I know
that.

Tia gives Norah a warm hug, and then disengages, leaving one hand resting on her shoulder. She speaks softly as tears fall from her eyes.

TIA
Your friendship is very important
to me. I really want to be there
for you. Norah, it's difficult for
me, please forgive me.

NORAH
I adore you, Ti. My dad is
innocent, and I hope you'll realize
that as soon as possible.

Tia hugs Norah again, more tears come out of her eyes.

TIA
I love you dear, be strong.

NORAH
Thanks Ti, I'll talk to you and see
you in a couple of weeks...

Norah leaves Tia's office a little teary-eyed. Tia Too is emotional.

INT. MR. ERICSSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Mr. Ericsson leads Ethan toward the back of his office.

MR. ERICSSON

Please take a seat Ethan, do you
mind if I call you Ethan?

ETHAN

Not at all.

Ethan sits down. In silence, Mr. Ericsson walks up and down the office with his arms behind his back. As his eyes follow him, Ethan's face is filled with bewilderment.

Mr. Ericsson walks over to the bar, pours two glasses of scotch, and brings them to the sitting area. He puts one glass in front of Ethan and sits next to him.

MR. ERICSSON

Mr. Fields, Ethan, how long have I
known you?

ETHAN

About--

MR. ERICSSON

Please, that was a rhetorical
question.

Mr. Ericsson is silent again for a short time. The situation is uncomfortable for Ethan.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)

Ethan, a meeting of the board of
trustees was held this morning to
discuss this issue shaking the
media, as I ahh, informed you.

Ethan stares curiously at Mr. Erickson.

ETHAN

Mr, Ericsson, I--

MR. ERICSSON

Please allow me to say what I have
to say, Mr. Fields.

Ethan inhales deeply and carefully examines Mr. Ericsson.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)
Let me put it this way. Our meeting
wasn't easy. However, you're
neither fired nor suspended.

Ethan's gaze is frozen.

ETHAN
So, should I go back to work?

MR. ERICSSON
Please allow me to explain. Ummm,
from a donor's perspective, the
situation doesn't seem good...

Ethan's posture converges. He then takes a sip from his
scotch.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)
Here's the deal. As I said, we
decided not to suspend or dismiss
you--

ETHAN
Sir, I'm willing to resign if
needed--

MR. ERICSSON
Save the paper, I won't except your
resignation--

ETHAN
I don't understand, what should I
do?

Mr. Ericsson takes another sip. Ethan twists.

MR. ERICSSON
As far as I'm concerned, you can
now go back to your office. Rumors
should not be the basis for
decisions. On the other hand...

Mr. Ericsson's expression is empathic.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)
Ahh, the board has opted to
postpone the awards ceremony.

Ethan's disappointment is evident.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)
Since the governor decided not to
attend, I apologize, you know...

As a fish out of water, Ethan seems lost.

Putting his palm on Ethan's arm, Mr. Ericsson stares into Ethans eyes, as he comes closer.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)

It's my reputation that rests on defending you. Can you, ahh, please state, unequivocally, that you did not misbehave toward anyone?

Ethan moves with discomfort. It takes a while to answer.

Mr. Ericsson refrains from hastening him.

ETHAN

Uhh, I truly don't know the origin of these rumors, sir.

Ethan slightly shivers.

Mr. Ericsson leans towards him, touches his shoulder and stares at him.

MR. ERICSSON

I believe you, Ethan. The ceremony will take place and you'll get the award! Depending on how you feel, you can go from here to your office however...

Mr. Ericsson lingers.

MR. ERICSSON (CONT'D)

Ahh..., I would appreciate it if you could... take some time off--

ETHAN

Sure, sure--

MR. ERICSSON

You know, in order to calm the situation down.

ETHAN

Yes Sir, I'm fine with that--

MR. ERICSSON

An announcement would be published stating that you requested leave to clear your name.

ETHAN

In fact, I intend to do just that.

Mr. Ericsson raises his glass of scotch, Ethan follows him.

MR. ERICSSON
To F.W.Donovan!

ETHAN
To F.W.Donovan!

EXT. FELIX W. DONOVAN COLLAGE GROUNDS - DAY

Ethan calls Norah. He tries to speak calmly.

ETHAN
Honey, is lunch still on?

INTERCUT

INT. RESTAURANT - SAME TIME

Norah drinks a glass of wine at the bar.

NORAH
Sure, I'm waiting for you already.

ETHAN
Regular place?

NORAH
Where else?

ETHAN
I'll be there in twenty minutes.

END INTERCUT

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

As Norah sits at the bar, she spots her father and approaches him. She gives him a warm hug. They sit at a table and hold hands for a moment, quietly. A waiter approaches and takes their order.

NORAH
He's new, he didn't recognize us.

ETHAN
Maybe it's for the better.

Norah places her palms on Ethan's arms and holds him tight.

NORAH
You cannot talk like a loser, Dad.
This temporary obstacle will soon
disappear in the past.

ETHAN
Sure honey, sure.

Norah releases her grip.

NORAH
How did the meeting with Mr.
Ericsson go?

Ethan lingers over his answer.

ETHAN
Well, he gave me the option to go
back to work right away and--

NORAH
That's great, I knew he--

ETHAN
Norah, I requested leave--

NORAH
What the hell? Leave?

ETHAN
I believe I need the time and
energy to fight for my innocence.

Norah stares at her father wordless.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
What's wrong? Do you think--

NORAH
This will blow your mind. I was
also asked, or rather directed, to
take leave...

ETHAN
What? Why? What have you done?

NORAH
Some clients of the firm have not
been pleased with my support for
you. They called to share their
views with their partners.

ETHAN

This is ridiculous. Do you agree with this?

NORAH

I was ordered to take leave; what were my options?

They are served their meal. They start to eat without saying a word. Soon after, they resumed their discussion.

ETHAN

And, you know, the award ceremony...

Ethan, has a gloomy expression.

NORAH

Yes, what about it, I understand the governor canceled his participation, who will--

ETHAN

So, ahh, it's postponed...

NORAH

What the fuck, I thought Mr. Ericsson is protecting your interests, not blowing them up.

ETHAN

Norah, Mr. Ericsson is a real respectful gentleman, he supports me and--

NORAH

Support my ass.

ETHAN

Norah, what--

NORAH

Oops, I'm sorry Dad.

As they eat, they remain silent. They gaze at each other as they drink their wine.

NORAH (CONT'D)

So, hmm, how'll this story end?

Ethan squirms in his chair uncomfortably. He then takes a long swig and stares worriedly at Norah.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Dad, are you feeling okay?

Ethan leans back on his chair.

ETHAN
Ahh, mm... sure honey, I'm good.

Ethan's phone rings. It's Brody, he declines.

NORAH
Who is it? Take your call, I'll check my emails.

ETHAN
It's Brody, you're ahh, you're more important than him. I'll speak with him later.

NORAH
Just talk to the man, I've got some business to take care of.

Ethan hesitates, he looks at Norah, at his phone, then at Norah again. Norah gets busy on her phone. He dials Brody.

ETHAN
Hey pal, what's up?

BRODY
(O.S.)
What do you mean what's up? Have you gone nuts? You're in deep shit, I'll tell you that. My police--

Ethan smiles a contrived smile.

ETHAN
Sure man, which place of yours--

BRODY
(O.S.)
Cut the bullshit, what's wrong with you? I talked--

ETHAN
Yes man, that's nice of you.

Ethan checks out Norah, she's busy with her phone.

BRODY
(O.S.)
Pal, I'm going to hang up if you don't come to yourself.

Ethan seems lost, he struggles to remain calm.

ETHAN

Ahh, very well man, that's what I
call a friend.

Brody hangs up, Ethan smiles and continues as if he is in a
conversation with Brody.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

So, let me know, thanks, see you
later.

Again, Ethan checks Norah's reaction to his conversation.
Norah smiles as she raises her head.

NORAH

I'll be right with you.

Ethan requests the bill. He sweats and avoids eye contact
with Norah. When the waiter delivers the bill, Ethan pays
with his card. Norah finishes her smartphone business and
they both get up and walk out.

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Norah puts an arm around Ethan's shoulders as they walk.

NORAH

What did he want?

ETHAN

He, ahh, he offered me to stay at
one of his places.

NORAH

That's nice of him.

They reach Ethan's car and are about to part ways.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Thanks for the meal, ahh, why are
you sweating like that?

Ethan is perplexed. Norah's hand rests on his shoulder as she
stares at him.

NORAH (CONT'D)

You don't seem well, Dad...

Ethan doesn't answer. He looks at Norah who becomes startled.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Dad, answer me, should I call 911?

As if still in a nightmare, Ethan tries to smile.

ETHAN
I'm fine my love, I'm fine.

Ethan wipes his forehead and gasps heavily. Norah stares into his eyes, he looks away and leans against the car, face down.

NORAH
I'm calling 911!

Norah dials.

ETHAN
No need for that, I'm--

NORAH
You may need a paramedic.

Ethan looks at Norah abashedly as he turns around.

ETHAN
No need darling, I'll be fine.

Norah examines him carefully and hangs up.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Norah my love, we have reached the point we'll need all our emotional resources.

NORAH
What are you talking about?

ETHAN
Umm, a new development has arisen--

Norah takes a step back from her father, tilts her head.

NORAH
What the fuck? Please don't tell me a new name came up, please...

ETHAN
It's not as simple as that.

NORAH
What do you mean?

Norah's temper flares up.

NORAH (CONT'D)
 (Loud and steady)
 What do you mean, Dad? What the
 fuck is going on?

The shouting attracts the attention of passersby.

ETHAN
 Please Norah, lower your voice, I
 need your support now, please--

NORAH
 Just tell me what's going on, don't
 go around in circles.

Evidently, Ethan is stressed out. His voice is barely
 audible.

ETHAN
 I uhm, I assure you that I didn't
 hurt anyone....

Sparks fly from Norah's eyes. She becomes more assertive.

NORAH
 I'm not sure I like the direction
 this is going... Is there a new
 name?

Ethan bows his head.

ETHAN
 I didn't touch anyone nor misbehave
 or anything like that. I, uhm, you
 must believe me.

Norah's voice rises again.

NORAH
 Get to the point Dad, I'm waiting
 to hear what you did do and to
 whom, not what you didn't.

Ethan shacks and sob's quietly, Norah's expression changes
 from tense to empathetic. Her voice softens.

NORAH (CONT'D)
 Dad, if you want my support and
 empathy, tell me what's going on.

ETHAN
 Norah, you must under--

NORAH

Get to the fucking point, have you lied to me? Are you fired?

ETHAN

No Norah, no, the reporter, ahh, he, ahh... Norah, it's not true.

Norah loses her patience and yells.

NORAH

What's not true?

Ethan examines the surroundings.

ETHAN

Please Norah, you're shouting.

Ethan falls on Norah's shoulders, she slightly nods.

NORAH

Dad, I want to support you.
Nevertheless, I need to know what
is the new development.

With tears in their eyes, the two embrace. Ethan keeps his head on Norah's shoulder.

ETHAN

Norah my love, it seems there will
be a new name towards the weekend
or beginning of next week.

Ethan raises his head and tries to look at Norah with a compelling expression. He is unable to stabilize his gaze.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

But you must believe me, it's false
too... I don't know--

Norah stops crying. She shakes her head.

NORAH

Come on, give it to me.

Ethan opens the car, sits down, and leans back. He speaks, but can't look at Norah. He does glance at her occasionally.

ETHAN

This morning, as I told you, ahh... the reporters where outside my building, I told them what you instructed me, you know, "their is no accuser, therefore there is no story", I...

Ethan keeps his head down now.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Umm, so the reporter, ahh, I mean a reporter, said to me, I should ahh, I should expect a surprise on their weekend edition.

NORAH

Do you think someone else came up to accuse you for something? Please look at me.

Ethan tries to look at Norah. Without success.

ETHAN

Well, I have no clue. It seemed he meant that. Ahh, it's also possible, ahh, the reporter may have attempted to inflame my feelings, so I would make a mistake, or who knows...

A vigorous walk leads her Norah her car. Her palm slams against the roof of her car.

Ethan glances towards her.

NORAH

Shit, what have you done? Damn it!

Norah walks back to her father.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Give me one reason I should support you... now, get out of the car.

Ethan gets out of his car. He's defensive. His jaw trembles.

ETHAN

Ahh, Norah, my love, umm, you've known me all your life, and--

NORAH

You must give me something better than that.

ETHAN
Honey, that's all I have, your familiarity with me, my reputation, our mutual love...

In a tough and firm voice, Norah insists.

NORAH
Dad, I need a resounding assurance that you haven't misbehaved!

ETHAN
I have no idea why this witch hunt began, as I said, and as you know...

Ethan's voice trembles a little but he manages to control it.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Yeah? Ahh, Miss Wright fabricated her accusations.

Ethan checks with his eyes to see Norah's respond.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I have no idea if this reporter's threat is serious, and...

Norah closes her eyes and shakes her head.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Ahh, and if he in fact has a new name. Most likely, yeah, most likely whoever it is, fabricated too, ahh, I don't know, fabricated something, for a reason I have no idea about.

Norah walks back and forth in the parking lot. She then comes back to stand in front of her father.

NORAH
It's no secret, Dad, that I love you. I must, however, tell you directly. You'll lose my support if a serious charge is brought against you, and I'll fight you with all means available.

Ethan stares incoherently at Norah.

ETHAN
Auh, but Honey--

NORAH

Dad, I'm sorry, don't honey me now.
If I have confirmation of you
misbehaving, I'll slaughter you,
metaphorically of course, am I
clear?

ETHAN

Norah, I've done nothing, and I--

NORAH

Sorry Dad, I have a horrible
headache right now, and I have to
sleep.

ETHAN

Sure honey, me too. I'll text you
the address of Brody's place, I'll
talk to you later, come give me a
hug.

Norah approaches her father, however her hug is cold.

INT. NORAH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Norah sits on the sofa in adversity. Clearly, she is
contemplating her options.

After a short time, she takes a long shower.

She then packs some items into a small suitcase. She texts
both Tia and Sammy- *"please call me..."*.

INT. BRODY'S OFFICE - DAY

Ethan enters. At his messy desk, Brody reads the newspaper.
Brody's SECRETARY plays 'patience' on her computer.

ETHAN

Brody, I hope you--

BRODY

Well, well. Look who's here...

ETHAN

Please...

BRODY

What do you want from me? Are you
back to earth?

Brody raises his tone.

BRODY (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you? Are You
crazy?

Brody looks at Ethan then at his secretary. He whistles.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Please take a walk, I've got to
talk to this idiot.

Brody's secretary leaves. Ethan sits.

BRODY (CONT'D)
You're in deep shit, pal.

ETHAN
What do you mean? What did'ya find
out?

BRODY
Do you want me to talk nonsense,
the same way you did earlier?

ETHAN
I'm sorry Brody, I was having lunch
with Norah, I couldn't talk to you,
but what's this deep shit?

Brody reads the newspaper. Ethan pulls the paper away.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Please don't play games. What
have'ya got?

Brody stares at Ethan, nods and takes a deep breath.

BRODY
So, apparently this reporter has
called for a press conference next
Monday, guess where?

ETHAN
Come on, don't joke now.

BRODY
In front of a police station, and
apparently he'll have a new accuser
with him and--

ETHAN
No Brody, no... Shit,

Ethan leans his head on the desk.

BRODY
Once they're done giving a
statement, they'll enter...

The expression on Ethan's face vanishes. Brody continues.

BRODY (CONT'D)
...yeah, enter the police station
and officially submit a complaint
against you.

Ethan sits without reaction.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Are you good? You horny bastard!
You just can't keep your hands to
yourself, ha?

Brady gets up and throws a glass of water on Ethan. Ethan
wakes up out of his shock, but still can't react.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Get up pal, get up. Things do look
bleak at the moment but--

ETHAN
(Low tone)
What do you suggest? How--

BRODY
You with me now? My guys can look
for dirt on this reporter or
perhaps even track down this new
woman. Are you aware of who she
might be?

ETHAN
No.

BRODY
Because there were more women, Ha?
What will we do with you?

ETHAN
I think I should go confess to
Norah and let her represent me...

Ethan muses over his situation.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
No! I can't do that, she, ahm,
she... fuck, Brody, what should I
do?

BRODY

To be honest, I don't have an idea right now. I hope I'll come up with something. You know, I have some friends in the newspapers.

ETHAN

I'm done!

BRODY

Until further notice, please stay in this small apartment I have on the other side of town. Stay inside, don't answer the phone.

ETHAN

I'm done, Norah will kill me.

Brady gets out a key from his drawer and hands it to Ethan. He then texts Ethan the address.

BRODY

Go, go stay there, answer your phone only if I call, now go.

Ethan leaves. His gait is hunched over.

I/E. NORAH'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Norah drives her car, Sammy calls her.

NORAH

Thanks for calling. Uhh, So, It seems one of the news sites has a new name accusing my father.

Sammy is silent for a while.

SAMMY

(O.S.)

Norah, do you think this time it's for real?

NORAH

I'm not sure. Sammy, I'm on my way to the mountains--

SAMMY

(O.S.)

What? Why?

NORAH

I need to think. I'll check in to a quite hotel I know, and you know, calculate my steps.

SAMMY

(O.S.)

How do you feel about this new unfolding?

NORAH

Sammy I love my father in a crazy way. Only you will hear this...

Norah stretches her fingers on the steering wheel as she speaks.

NORAH (CONT'D)

If this was someone else I would have grilled him a long time ago, however, for now I'm still giving my father a chance. I believe there is reasonable doubt.

SAMMY

(O.S.)

I support you now, and I'll continue to support you if your feelings change. If you need anything, please call me.

NORAH

I appreciate this very much. I'll call you, thanks.

Norah holds the steering wheel firmly as she drives. Occasionally she shakes her head.

I/E. HOTEL - AFTERNOON

Norah arrives. Upon checking in, she goes to her room.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Norah lies in bed and texts Tia- *"Ti, I must get some sleep, I'm turning off my phone, please text me when you're available for a chat, I need you"*. Norah takes a sleeping pill and passes out on the bed.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Upon waking up, Norah sees a text message from Tia- "*Call me anytime after eight*".

Following a shower, Norah heads to the bar.

INT. HOTEL BAR - CONTINUOUS

Norah orders food and calls Tia.

NORAH
Hi Ti, can you talk?

TIA
(O.S.)
Sure honey, what's up?

NORAH
Well, ahh, I just feel I need to share my feelings, you know...

Norah is given a cocktail by the bartender, she takes a sip.

TIA
(O.S.)
Well, that's what's friends are for, shoot...

NORAH
Ti, why are you so cynical?

TIA
(O.S.)
I'm sorry, I've told you what I think about this situation and--

NORAH
Are you my friend?

TIA
(O.S.)
Sure honey, it's this one issue I'm uncomfortable about...

NORAH
Ti, if you are my friend, and I expect a positive answer, please get in your car and drive over to this hotel I checked in--

TIA

(O.S.)

What hotel? Where are you?

NORAH

You're my friend, I'm in a shallow state of mind and I need you.

TIA

(O.S.)

Norah--

Norah can't stop her tears, she talks softly. She is now served food by the barman.

NORAH

Ti, I need you desperately. I'll text you the location and if you make up your mind to come, please text me, goodbye.

Norah hangs up the phone.

Once she finishes eating, she takes her drink to the couch area, then looks at her phone. She sees a text from Tia-

"Tomorrow, I'll take a day off to come and see you, but I'm not sure you'd like what I have to say!"

NEXT DAY

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

A bad mood is affecting Norah. She lies on her back on the bed.

She opens the door as soon as she hears a knock.

Norah falls onto Tia's shoulders and cries. As Tia cradles her, she begins to cry as well. Soon after, they break up, stare at each other, and cry.

NORAH

My dear, thank you for this effort.
I never doubted your friendship--

Tia moves uncomfortably.

TIA

Norah, of course I'm--

NORAH

Ti, Please let me explain you the situation--

Tia becomes assertive and loud.

TIA

Norah, no! Let me--

Tia's approach startles Norah.

NORAH

Please Ti, You must understand why I support my father--

Tia raises her tone.

TIA

Norah, stop!

Norah opens her mouth and looks at Tia with no expression.

NORAH

What's wrong Ti? Let me--

By now Tia screams and waves her arms.

TIA

Listen to me! Your dad's a sick bastard!

Norah is awestruck.

NORAH

What the fuck? How dare--

Tia looks directly in Norah's face and continues, now in a quite, however aggressive tone.

TIA

You let me finish what I have to say, leave your father's fairy tails aside, am I clear?

NORAH

What's wrong with you?

TIA

Listen to me now, you father has done awful things to me! Can you hear? Me! Yes, to me!

Norah is wordless. She stares at Tia with a puzzled face.

TIA (CONT'D)

Yes Norah, your father is a sex maniac. A sick person. He should be in prison for the rest of his life.

NORAH

How...? What...?

Tia is agitated. She gasps and shakes.

TIA

How? I'll tell you how... at his summer home, every time you looked the other side, he... he clung to my behind and touched my hips...

NORAH

I, ahh, I... Tia, how come I--

TIA

Norah, these are the facts, here, take a look at these...

Tia searches her phone for text messages from Ethan and throws it on the bed. Norah flips through a series of nasty texts that her father has sent Tia. She closes her eyes and falls back on the bed.

It's obvious Tia is now released from a huge burden. She falls on the bed near Norah, and too cries.

Norah breathes deeply. She is in a sense of recognition of a new reality. Her expression changes from surprise to nervousness. She gets up, walks around the room and offers Tia a bottle of water.

NORAH

Come here my darling, I'm so sorry, please get up.

Norah helps Tia up. They now stand in front of each other. Norah gasps, nods softly as she wipes the tears off Tia's cheeks.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Ti... Let me be very clear. I believe you my love. I apologize for my father's actions, and I hope you can forgive me for not noticing it sooner.

Norah puts both arms on Tia's shoulders and stares at her.

NORAH (CONT'D)

And now I'm going to put my father,
shit, he isn't my father any more.
I'm going to put that man in place.

Tia firmly embraces Norah, and Norah responds by grabbing even tighter. They separate and hold hands.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Ti, my love, you can stay here for
the rest of the day, I must go and
confront the bastard.

TIA

I'll also drive back, I should've
come to you earlier with this.

NORAH

No, no, no, Ti, don't think that
way. I'm not sure I would've
behaved differently. I'm sorry, but
I must leave right now, I must get
this off my chest, give me a hug.

Tia and Norah hug each other again.

Norah leaves first.

On the way to the her car, Norah texts Sammy the address of Brody's apartment and- *"If you're free, please be at the above address in precisely three hours, I'll need your support, and come by cab..."*.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Norah arrives at her mother's tombstone with a bouquet in hand. With tears in her eyes, she carefully places the bouquet on the stone.

NORAH

Mom, I hope you'll forgive me for
what I'm about to do. There is no
other choice. I love you.

Norah doesn't stay too long at the cemetery.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

When Ethan sees Norah, he gives her a hug, which she dodges. She gasps and looks around. As she enters and exits rooms, Ethan follows her.

ETHAN
Nice place, ha?

Norah doesn't respond. She points to the couch in the living room. She has the attitude of a Pitbull.

NORAH
Dad, please sit down.

Ethan sits and smiles a weak smile. A shaky voice accompanies him as he stares at Norah.

ETHAN
What's going on honey? You're acting strange.

During the course of thinking her words, the whole course of her life passes through her mind.

She grabs a kitchen chair and stages it with its back facing Ethan. Her arms rest on the back of the chair as she sits in this manner. Her eyes are fixed on her father.

Restless, he drifts on the couch.

NORAH
Very well Dad, I'm going to try being as calm as I can.

Ethan's face becomes pale and he scratches his neck.

ETHAN
Norah, I--

Norah is still in a quite conduct.

NORAH
You'll understand in a minute. Now listen to me carefully, you'll do as I say, or--

ETHAN
What is--

NORAH
Just let me speak for now, and I'll let you respond later.

Yet again, Ethan moves uncomfortably in his place. Norah's breathing rate increases.

ETHAN
Norah--

NORAH
You listen to me now.

Ethan moves awkwardly. He has difficulty finding a comfortable position.

NORAH (CONT'D)
These are your only options right now.

ETHAN
What are you talking--

Norah's temper flares up. A smirk spreads across her face as she waves her arm in front of Ethan's face.

NORAH
Your first step will be to confess everything you've done.

ETHAN
I don't--

Despite her temper, Norah tries to remain calm. She conducts herself in a quiet yet assertive way.

NORAH
You will then ask for forgiveness from the victims.

Ethan sits back on the couch, stares at Norah, his mouth open without ability to respond.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Paying indemnity to the victims is the next step. Lastly, you will undergo treatment for your illness. Am I clear?

A blank expression appears on Ethan's face.

Norah gets up aggressively, the chair falls. Norah walks around the living room enraged.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Your silence is understandable. I find it difficult to say this...

Norah now point at her father and stares at him.

NORAH (CONT'D)
If you accept my terms, I'll support you.

(MORE)

NORAH (CONT'D)
However, judging from your behavior
for the past few weeks, you're not
going to comply with my terms...

Ethan remains silent, unable to move or speak.

Norah walks up and down the living room. Abruptly, she turns
to her father and yells.

NORAH (CONT'D)
How could you? You bastard...

ETHAN
What? How dare you talk to me this
way? I'm your father.

Ethan now gets up and tries to approach Norah, but she
retreats.

NORAH
Keep away from me until you own up
to your actions--

ETHAN
Honey--

Norah shouts.

NORAH
Don't honey me!

ETHAN
Please Norah, we're not sure this
new accuser is--

Norah responds cynically.

NORAH
Please give me more credit than
that.

ETHAN
What--

Norah shouts again.

NORAH
I know, I know! Don't give me your
shit any more.

ETHAN
Norah, I'm still your father, you
shouldn't--

NORAH

I'll consider you as my Father if
you comply to my terms and-

ETHAN

I haven't done anything to anyone,
what have you learned since
yesterday?

Norah breathes deeply, arranges her hair and stares at Ethan.

NORAH

I've learned you're an ill person
who needs cure.

ETHAN

Norah, I... I'm your father and I
demand you respect me.

NORAH

How dare you expect respect?

Norah shouts directly at her father face.

NORAH (CONT'D)

All along, you have lied to me.

Ethan also tries to shout, however his voice cracks.

ETHAN

I, I've done nothing... ahh, Norah,
you must believe me.

NORAH

I don't believe a word you say.

ETHAN

But why... why Norah?

By now Norah is full of contempt for her father.

NORAH

I'll give you one last chance--

ETHAN

Who are you to give me--

NORAH

(Shouts)

One last chance, do you comply to
my terms?

ETHAN
(Shouts back)
No, I don't, I have no intension--

Norah stares directly into Ethan eyes. Contempt is evident in her expression and her voice becomes quiet.

NORAH
Mr. Fields, I have no father. I'm
ashamed I supported you in the
first place.

Norah finds on her phone a screenshot of Tia's phone and texts it to her father.

ETHAN
You sick bastard, you sent these to
my best friend... you...you.

Norah grimaces in disgust and leaves.

It's over for Ethan and he knows it.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Norah sees Sammy waiting near her car and runs toward him. She firmly hugs him. His empathy is evident in his hug.

NORAH
Thanks for coming here. I truly
needed this hug, now please drive
me home, I'll update you on the
way.

Norah gets in the passengers seat, Sammy drives them away.

A FEW MONTHS LATER

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

As part of a civil lawsuit, Norah represents five of Ethan's victims.

Norah stares directly at her father who is only a few feet away. He tilts his head downward.

In anticipation of the JURY verdict, the JUDGE examines the CHIEF JURER.

CHIEF JUROR
Guilty!

Norah smiles broadly. She gives a thumbs up to the victims.

JUDGE

What are the verdicts on the retribution.

CHIEF JUROR

A penalty of 150,000\$ to each of the victims.

The five victims, among them miss Wright, surround Norah in a big and shared hug.

EXT. OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE - LATER

In front of reporters, Norah stands with the five victims to one side, and Sammy and Tia to the other. She beams.

NORAH

I'm sorry, no questions.

All attention is on Norah and she loves it.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Although I lost my father, I gained my dignity back. While I'm not apologetic for supporting him, I was not as skeptical as I should have been.

Norah eyes shine as she looks around.

NORAH (CONT'D)

We loved one another, and nothing in our relationship would have led me to think he can behave inappropriately towards women. His actions were well disguised.

Norah nods while she explores the crowd.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Nevertheless, a more important lesson was learned today. Senior officials, and low ranked too, for that matter, in all spheres of society should understand, once and for all, that co-workers aren't for their private amusement, neither sexually nor in any other sick way.

Norah now hugs sammy and Tia and smiles at them.

NORAH (CONT'D)

I owe a special thank you to my friends who supported me in this awkward situation. As a result of my infinite love for my father, I was totally blind. The true intention of their actions eluded me.

Norah shakes her head as she looks all directions.

NORAH (CONT'D)

Let's end the dark era, ladies. In all aspects of society, we are equal. I am Norah Fields. Don't mess with me. Thank you.

Norah walks to her car with her head up and her dignity along side with her.

A FEW DAYS LATER.

INT. NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Norah and Sammy tour a new apartment for lease with a REAL ESTATE AGENT. The two look at each other, smile, and say simultaneously.

NORAH & SAMMY

We'll take it!

FADE OUT

