

QUID PRO QUO

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FADE IN:

INT. SUPERMARKET, 1977 -- DAY

YOUNG MRS. MCPEARSON, late twenties and her six-year-old YOUNG RHONDA are food shopping.

Young Mrs. McPearson, with a threatening look on her face, pushes Young Rhonda's shoulder.

YOUNG MRS. MCPEARSON
Remember! Make sure that nobody
sees you.

Conflicted, Young Rhonda trails behind her mother.

She stops by a shelf and picks up a product.

She looks around.

She puts the product in her pocket.

After short hesitation, she put it back on the shelf.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- A FEW MINUTES LATER

Young Rhonda helps her mother loading the groceries into the a station wagon.

Young Rhonda is apprehensive.

YOUNG RHONDA
Maa... I didn't... I din't do it...
I couldn't...

The mother, in angry and threatening voice.

YOUNG MRS. MCPEARSON
Your father will not be happy about
this!

EXT. MOBILE HOME PARK -- DUSK

A pickup truck, South Carolina license plates, stops in front a mobile home. A sign on the pickup truck reads:

McPearson Home improvements 800 727-6637

MR. MCPEARSON, 40's, exits the van.

He's apparently intoxicated.

He stumbles into Mobile Home.

INT. MOBILE HOME

Young Mrs. McPearson greets her husband at the door.
She whispers in his ear.

MR. MCPEARSON
(Iratelly)
What?

Mr. McPearson, angry, rushes toward Young Rhonda.
He grabs her arm.

MR. MCPEARSON (CONT'D)
(To his daughter)
You will do exactly as we say! Do
you understand?

Young Rhonda tries to escape his grip.
She is crying.
The father's anger builds up.

YOUNG RHONDA
Leave me alone! This is not for me!
I will never do it!

MR. MCPEARSON
Yes, you will!

YOUNG RHONDA
No! I don't want to be a thief like
you!

This puts the father over the edge.
He undoes his belt.
Young Rhonda takes advantage of this moment.
She runs away from her raging father.

MR. MCPEARSON
How dare you calling me a thief? I
am going to teach you a lesson
you'll never forget.

Young Mrs. McPearson shields the child from her father's
rage.

EXT. SILICON VALLEY, CA VALLEY-VIEW SUITE HOTEL -- DAY --
2000

RHONDA Medford, Beautiful woman in her early thirties,
pulls her red 1967 convertible Ford Mustang to the hotel's
parking lot.

The radio is playing a quiet romantic song.

Rhonda, in casual but stylish clothing carries a shopping
bag and a newspaper to her room.

INT. HOTEL ROOM -- DAY

Rhonda enters her room.

Puts the groceries away than then poses in front of a large
mirror.

She likes what she sees.

Rhonda sits comfortably on the bed with the newspaper.

Turns on the TV and flips through the channels.

Stops at "Unsolved Mysteries".

Rhonda scans through the classified section and circles
several ads.

Picks up the phone and dials.

Dial tone

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT

Short series of rings

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(Answering machine)

Hello there, if you don't already
know it... you have reached
JENNIFER. If this is good, I'd like
to hear from you again... Please
leave a message after the tone...

Beep

RHONDA (O.S.)

Hi Jennifer, my name is Rhonda. I
am responding to you ad in today's
paper. Please call me at 233-0086,
room number 337.

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- FEW DAYS LATER

Jennifer, 40's, with an open friendly face looks out the window.

She sees Rhonda parking her Mustang in front of the building.

Ring

Jennifer answers the door.

Rhonda stands there with her luggage beside her.

JENNIFER

Hi Rhonda, come in. Let me help you
with your stuff.

Jennifer picks up a piece of luggage.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Come.

Rhonda picks up two pieces of luggage and follows Jennifer.

The two enter Rhonda's room.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Call me if you need anything.

RHONDA

Thanks Jennifer.

INT. RHONDA'S ROOM -- LATER

Rhonda unpacks, and then organizes her room.

When finished, she stands in a corner and inspects the room.

She straightens a few pictures and rearranges her
knickknacks.

She stretches in front of the window and sighs deeply.

She likes her room.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

Rhonda and Jennifer sit comfortably on a couch. A bottle of
wine, assorted cheeses and a fruit platter are on the table.

Jennifer pours wine into two glasses. She hands one to
Rhonda.

JENNIFER

Here...

Jennifer holds up her glass. Rhonda follows.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
To my new roommate... and a new
friendship.

They click glasses.

RHONDA
Friends...

The two sip wine and munch on the snacks.

Jennifer shows interest in Rhonda's situation.

JENNIFER
Any luck finding a job?

RHONDA
Umm, not yet... I'm still working
on it... I have an interview on
Monday.

JENNIFER
I wish you luck. You'll do just
fine -- I'm sure.

EXT. COMPUTEK PARKING LOT -- MORNING

Lawns and trees surround th

The gardening around the building is meticulous.

The parking lot is nearly full.

Rhonda parks her Mustang in a visitor space.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE

ROBERT BURNS, forties, is an attractive man who is the CEO
of Computek.

He is dressed casually but expensively.

A collection of automobile and aircraft models are neatly
placed in a glass cabinet.

Several photographs on his desk show him riding a fancy
motorcycle, behind the wheel of a sport car and at the
controls of a glider.

Robert looks out his office window.

He notices the red Mustang pulling into the parking lot.

He watches Rhonda until she is out of sight.

INT. COMPUTEK LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS

Rhonda, formally dressed, approaches the receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST
May I help you?

Rhonda smiles and replies with a friendly voice.

RHONDA
Hi, my name is Rhonda Medford...
I'm here for the secretarial job.

RECEPTIONIST
Please, have a seat; someone will
be with you shortly.

The receptionists hands Rhonda a clipboard with several forms.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
Here -- While waiting, you can work
on these.

Rhonda fills out the forms.

PETER, 40's, approaches Rhonda. Rhonda gets up.

PETER
Ms. Medford? I'm Peter. I'm office
manager.

RHONDA
Nice to meet, Peter.

INT. PETERS'S OFFICE

Peter flips through Rhonda's application file.

PETER
Let's see what we have here.

A short pause

PETER (CONT'D)
You've got a lot to offer; when can
you start?

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE

Robert watches Rohnda as she leaves the building.

INT. COMPUTEK OFFICE -- MORNING

The office space is divided into cubicles.

Peter shows Rhonda to her cubical.

It is chaotic.

PETER
(Apologetic)
Sorry for the chaos. We didn't have
time to clean it. I'll get you some
help.

RHONDA
That's OK. I'll do it myself.

HOURS LATER

Rhonda is at her desk. Her cubical is meticulously
organized.

Peter arrives.

PETER
Wow, what a difference... Listen...
Every Friday at 5 we have a BBQ
gathering... Drinks... Schmooze ...
You know!

RHONDA
It's Friday today. Is that an
invitation?

EXT. COMPUTEK BACK LAWN -- AFTERNOON

Dozens of employees are gathered around several smokey
grills.

Hors d'oeuvres are lined up on the folding tables.

Large coolers with drinks are positioned next to the tables.

Robert observes Rhonda and Peter, engaged in a
conversation, each holding a glass.

He approaches the two.

ROBERT
So Peter -- are you going to
introduce me to...

PETER
(To Rhonda)
Oh -- I'm sorry. Rhonda, This is
Robert Burns, he is our CEO.
(To Robert)
This is Rhonda... our new secretary.

ROBERT
You can call me Robert -- we go by
first names here.

Rhonda and Robert examine each other then exchange a
friendly handshake.

RHONDA
I'm pleased to meet you.

ROBERT
Welcome to Computek; I hope you'll
enjoy working for us. I have an
open door policy, so if this man...

Robert smiles and points at Peter.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Or anybody else gives you hard
time; please let me know.

RHONDA
Thank you; you're very kind.

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Rhonda and Jennifer, in casual clothing, relax in the
living room.

JENNIFER
So, how is your new job?

RHONDA
Great! Nice people.

JENNIFER
(Provocative)
Men?

RHONDA
(Smiles)
Yeah...

JENNIFER
Doing anything special tonight?

RHONDA
Not really, I was thinking of
taking it easy.

JENNIFER
I'm going out. Would like to join
me?

RHONDA
Cool...

INT. RHONDA'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Rhonda changes clothes. In front of the mirror, she tries on several outfits.

Content with her choice, she puts on make-up.

EXT. CAT'S MEOW -- NIGHT

A big neon sign flashes: Cats Meow.

The club's parking lot is crowded.

A small crowd lines up in front of the club's entrance.

Two bouncers at the door check ID's and stamp the patrons' hands.

INT. SAME -- CONTINUOUS

The club consists of three connected room with a single bar, dancing floor and a small stage.

The comfortable armchairs and love seats are spread around cocktail tables.

The place is busy. Waiters/waitresses cruise between the bar and the tables.

A small band and a singer entertain the crowd.

The dancing floor is filled with dancers.

Rhonda and Jennifer are at a table drinking and having fun.

Rhonda notices Robert sitting at the bar.

She almost chokes on her drink.

RHONDA
(Startled)
Oh, no!...

JENNIFER
(Concerned)
Are you OK? What?

RHONDA
See that man? There, by the bar...

Jennifer turns around and looks.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
Next to the woman in red...

JENNIFER
What about him?

RHONDA
That's Robert, my boss.

JENNIFER
Do you want to ask him to join us?

RHONDA
I'm not sure.

Jennifer gestures, suggesting that Rhonda get up.

JENNIFER
What's to lose? Come on, do
something. He's gorgeous.

Rhonda gets up, hesitates for a moment, than walks toward
the bar.

RHONDA
Hang on -- I'll be right back.

Rhonda walks through the crowd.

She stands next to robert.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
Robert?

Robert is surprised.

ROBERT
Hi Rhonda. What a surprise!

RHONDA
I didn't think you'd remember me.

ROBERT
(flattering)
You must be kidding... how could I
forget?

RHONDA
I'm here with a friend, would you
like to join us?

Robert conceals his disappointment.

He'd rather be alone with her.

ROBERT
Sure.

Rhonda and Robert join Jennifer.

RHONDA
Jennifer, I would like you to meet
Robert -- Robert this is my
roommate Jennifer.

Jennifer and Robert exchange a warm handshake.

The three sit down.

Robert signals to a waiter.

ROBERT
So Rhonda, do you come here
frequently?

RHONDA
Actually, this is my first time.
How about you?

ROBERT
I am a regular here. I like the
Cat's Meow, it's fun.

A WAITER approaches the table.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Another round for the ladies.

WAITER
... and what can I get for you, Sir?

ROBERT
Whisky Sour please -- on the rocks.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
(To Rhonda)
Do you dance?

RHONDA
Sometimes...

ROBERT
Would you dance with me?

RHONDA
(Hesitates)
No -- thanks -- May be some other
time.

ROBERT
(Persistent)
Why? What's the matter?

RHONDA
Nothing, I'm just not in mood for
dancing tonight.

Robert is disappointed.

ROBERT
(To Jennifer)
How about you, Jennifer?

JENNIFER
OK.

Robert and Jennifer take the dance floor. Rhonda watches the two dancing. She examines each of Robert's moves. She seems to be somewhat jealous.

EXT. CATSS MEOW -- CONTINUOUS

Robert walks Rhonda and Jennifer to Rhonda's car. Slightly drunk, they're giggling and laughing much about nothing.

ROBERT
(To Rhonda)
I've enjoyed your company; can we
do this again?

RHONDA
I am sure we'll have more
opportunities. Good night Robert.

JENNIFER
Good night Robert.

ROBERT
Good night.

Robert and Rhonda exchange a benign hug and a good night kiss. Robert moves to Jennifer and kisses her good night, too.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTEK OFFICE -- LATE AFTERNOON

It's late. Most the office personnel left already. Rhonda is at her desk still working. Peter, on his way out, stops at Rhonda's desk.

PETER
It's late -- aren't you leaving?

RHONDA
I'm gonna stay a little longer --
Got a little behind with my work.

Peter jokes.

PETER
We have no medals for overtime,
dear.

RHONDA
(Smiles)
I know, Peter. Thanks!

Rhonda is alone in the office. We see her working on her computer.

Minutes later Robert arrives.

ROBERT
Hi, Rhonda.

RHONDA
(Surprised)
Oh. hello, Robert.

ROBERT
Moonlighting?

RHONDA
I hear you give medals for overtime.

ROBERT
Medals?
(Gets his thoughts
together)
Not really...

Robert seizes the moment.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
No medals -- Perhaps dinners. I was
just thinking -- would you join me
for dinner?

Rhonda hesitates.

RHONDA
I'm not sure that's a good idea.

ROBERT
(Persistent)
Why not?

RHONDA
You know -- I work for you -- What
if we are seen together?

ROBERT
Is it a crime?

RHONDA
I guess it isn't.

ROBERT
So?

Rhonda softens.

RHONDA
OK, but under one condition.

ROBERT
Which is?

RHONDA
It has to be Dutch treat.

CUT TO:

INT. TUMBLEWEED RESTAURANT -- LATER

The MAÎTRE D', a man with a Spanish accent, greets Robert.

MAÎTRE D'
Buenas tardes Señor Robert.

ROBERT
Good evening, Enrique. May we have
a quiet corner?

MAÎTRE D'
For you Señor Robert, the best
table in the house -- follow me,
please.

Robert and Rhonda sit at the table while the Maître d'
lights a candle.

There is a moment of silence. Robert initiates the
conversation.

ROBERT
So, what do you do for fun?

RHONDA
A little bit of this; a little bit
of that -- you know -- (Beat)
I like to read -- go to the movies
-- nature -- walks on the beach --
stuff like that.

The Maître d' returns with a bottle of wine. He pours some
wine into Robert's glass. Robert tastes the wine and shakes
his head in an approving manner. The Maître d' fills both
glasses.

Rhonda and Robert hold up their glass.

ROBERT
Cheers!

RHONDA
Cheers!

The two click glasses.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
Tell me about your interests...

Robert was anticipating the question. It's time to impress Rhonda.

ROBERT
I like excitement. Riding
motorcycles, fancy sport cars but
my real passion is flying.

RHONDA
(Enthusiastic)
Wow -- I always wanted to fly.

Food is served.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- MORNING

Robert and Rhonda are riding Robert's Harley. The speeding Harley travels the spectacular mountain road.

EXT. SKY SAILORS AIRPORT -- CONTINUOUS

Robert parks his Harley in front of a office.

As they get off the motorcycle, Rhonda notices a pair of colorful parachutes.

RHONDA
Hey, Robert -- look -- parachutes.

Both stand and watch the jumpers float to the ground until they land.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
How beautiful!

ROBERT
Would you try it some time?

RHONDA
(Timid)
Maybe -- is it dangerous?

ROBERT
Not if the chute opens --
parachutes defy gravity.

Rhonda smiles.

Next Robert and Rhonda are in a slick glider, connected via cable to a tow plane. Robert closes the canopy and gives a thumb up signal to the flight line person.

The tow plane and the glider accelerate down the runway and takeoff.

INT. GLIDER -- CONTINUOUS

The glider soars quietly in the smooth air. The scenery is breathtaking.

RHONDA
Oh my god! This is awesome.

ROBERT
Are you ready for real excitement?

RHONDA
Is it scary?

ROBERT
It could be.

RHONDA
Go for it.

ROBERT
Here we go...

Robert begins a series of aerobatic maneuvers.

SERIES OF SHOTS

View from the glider cockpit.

View from another aircraft.

View from the ground.

EXT. SKY SAILORS AIRPORT -- CONTINUOUS

The glider buzzes the airport then circles to land.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Rhonda, very happy, enters the apartment. Jennifer notices her euphoric roommate.

JENNIFER
Hey Rhonda. What's going on?

RHONDA
What a great day...

JENNIFER
Who is the lucky guy... or perhaps
gal?

RHONDA
Moi? Gals? (Beat)
I spent the day with Robert.

JENNIFER
You must be nuts!

RHONDA
Oh, no -- it's not what you think...

JENNIFER
I'm never wrong. You're in love and
it shows. (Beat)
You better be careful.

RHONDA
Don't worry; Robert is nice guy.

JENNIFER
Nice, shmise; you better watch
yourself.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTEK CONFERENCE ROOM -- A FEW MONTHS LATER

Present are Robert, Peter and BRANDON, the Sales Director.
Brandon, in his late 40's, is the grumpy type.

ROBERT
(To Peter)
I'm thinking of transferring Rhonda
to sales. How do you guys feel
about it?

PETER
I hate to loose her but it's time
for her to move on.

ROBERT
Brandon?

BRANDON
I've gone through her credentials
several times -- I am telling you
she just doesn't have it.

PETER

Rhonda's a bright woman. She can do any job.

BRANDON

Bright? Maybe, but has no experience.

PETER

Stop this shit already. What's your problem?

BRANDON

If you like her so much, why don't you keep her?

PETER

I'd love to...

ROBERT

Enough of this.

CUT TO:

INT. RHONDA'S OFFICE -- DAY

Rhonda's new office is tastefully decorated. A plaque on her table reads: Rhonda Medford - Account Manager.

Rhonda is on the phone when Brandon comes in. She uses her index finger to suggest one minute.

RHONDA

(On the phone)

Thank you very much Mr. Gillman; please let me know if there is anything else we can do for you.

Rhonda gets off the phone.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

I just got off with Palnet Communication in New York.

BRANDON

What's the deal?

RHONDA

They insist on a three months trial.

BRANDON

I hope you didn't do it.

RHONDA

Actually I did.

BRANDON
I don't like it!

RHONDA
It was either that or no deal.
Besides, they agreed to pay for the
months upon signing a contract.

BRANDON
Next time you do that, ask me first!

Brandon leaves angrily.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

Robert enters the office. He notices that Rhonda is upset.

ROBERT
What's the matter? You look upset.

RHONDA
Nothin' -- I don't want to talk
about it.

ROBERT
Is there anything I can do?

RHONDA
It's OK. Thanks.

ROBERT
By the way, your office looks great.

RHONDA
Thank you!

ROBERT
I actually stopped by to ask for
dinner tonight.

Rhonda thinks for a moment.

RHONDA
This gets serious.

ROBERT
I'll pick you up at eight. Dress in
something nice.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

Rhonda wears a stunning outfit; she models for Jennifer.

RHONDA
So, what do you think?

JENNIFER
You look terrific!

RHONDA
Thank you.

BELL RING

Jennifer opens the door. Robert, formally dressed, stands there.

JENNIFER
Come on in, Robert.

ROBERT
Hi Jennifer, how are you tonight?

Robert notices Rhonda.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
(To Rhonda)
Wow, You look fabulous.

CUT TO:

EXT. CALIFORNIA FREEWAY -- EVENING

Robert's Mercedes cruises on the freeway.

INT. MERCEDES

The car's lights illuminate a road sign pointing to San Francisco and Half Moon Bay.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIFTWOOD RESTAURANT, HALF MOON BAY -- NIGHT

The restaurant overlooks the scenic bluffs and the beach. Robert stops his car in front of the restaurant. Robert and Rhonda exit the car. A Valet Parking attendant drives the Mercedes away.

INT. SAME -- CONTINUOUS

The Driftwood is a traditional restaurant. Robert and Rhonda enjoy their meal. A band comprising of several musicians plays romantic tunes.

ROBERT
(Hesitates)
Rhonda...

RHONDA

Yes.

ROBERT

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about you.

RHONDA

You embarrass me.

ROBERT

No, no, no -- I don't know how to say it -- I think that -- I think that I'm falling in love with you.

RHONDA

I like you too Robert, but I think this is getting out of hand. It wouldn't work.

ROBERT

We can make it work.

RHONDA

I don't know what to say.

ROBERT

Don't say any thing... I just wanted to tell you how I feel about you.

RHONDA

Maybe we should take it easy.

Robert gets up; facing Rhonda he extends a hand.

ROBERT

Dance?

RHONDA

Sure, I'd love to.

The two glide on the dance floor getting closer as time goes by.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The only light in the room penetrates from the window. Robert and Rhonda dance to the sounds of a stereo set.

A light breeze blows through the transparent curtain.

Robert begins to undo Rhonda dress.

RHONDA

Robert...

ROBERT

Sh -- Sh -- don't say a word...

RHONDA

I...

ROBERT

I want you.

Robert kisses Rhonda. She hesitates then submits. Their lips lock in a passionate kiss.

We see them in bed making love, passionately.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE -- DAY

ROBERT

What happened between Rhonda and you yesterday?
She was very upset after you left her office.

Brandon becomes defensive.

BRANDON

(Defensive)

All what I want is for her to follow company policies.

ROBERT

... and that's upset both of you ?

BRANDON

She does things on her own and ignores me as if I don't exist.

ROBERT

Can you be more specific?

BRANDON

She gives everything away...

ROBERT

What do you mean?

BRANDON

Freebee's Robert; she offers free trials of our software.

ROBERT

Does it hurt the business?

BRANDON
Not really, but she should discuss
it with me first.

ROBERT
You should encourage creative
strategy not block it. Maybe you
should talk with your group more
often.

BRANDON
It is just her. Everyone else
follows company policy.

ROBERT
You know what, Brandon?

BRANDON
What?

ROBERT
You are a crybaby. Grow up already!

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Rhonda comes home. Jennifer is waiting for her. She opens a
bottle of wine and fills two glasses and gives one to
Rhonda.

JENNIFER
Congratulations, I'm very impressed
with your promotion.

RHONDA
Thanks, I feel lucky.

JENNIFER
You did good.

RHONDA
I'm thinking of moving out. Could
you spare some time to help me find
a place?

There is a sad look on Jennifer's eyes.

JENNIFER
Must you? You've been a great
roommate.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX -- DAY

Rhonda, Jennifer and a REAL ESTATE AGENT arrive at a gated condominium community.

The one to two-story buildings are surrounded by lush landscape.

INT. CONDO -- CONTINUOUS

The real estate agent shows Rhonda and Jennifer the property.

REAL ESTATE AGENT
This is the best complex in the
area -- It has everything --
swimming pool, golf, tennis -- you
name it.

RHONDA
How about the people?

REAL ESTATE AGENT
Mixed. Mostly middle class and
higher.

JENNIFER
It's nice, Rhonda. I like it here.

RHONDA
May be you want to consider moving
too.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
(To real estate
agent)
Any problems?

REAL ESTATE AGENT
It is a condo -- you know!

RHONDA
Not a problem. I've lived in one
before.

INT. RHONDA'S CONDO -- MORNING A FEW DAYS LATER

Rhonda is busy unpacking. When she is finished, Rhonda sits at her laptop computer. She is browsing the Web. On the desk, a glass of wine and snacks.

An instant message screen pops on her screen.

INSTANT MESSAGE EXCHANGE

ROBERT

Hi, Hon.

RHONDA

Hello, Robert.

ROBERT

Congratulations. How's your new place?

RHONDA

Thanks, it's great.

ROBERT

I've got a surprise for you. How quickly can you get glamorous?

RHONDA

I am beat! Robert.

ROBERT

You can't miss this...

RHONDA

Miss what?

ROBERT

Can't tell -- you'll have to wait.

RHONDA

OK.

ROBERT

I'll pick you up in two hours -- and make sure you look gorgeous, no casuals.

INSTANT MESSAGE END

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN JOSE AIRPORT -- AFTERNOON

Robert stops his car next to a Learjet. The crew greets the couple. The door closes. The aircraft taxis to the runway and takes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. WESTWOOD THEATRE COMPLEX -- EVENING

It is a movie premier night in Westwood. Actors, celebrities and other dignitaries arrive at the complex.

Robert and Rhonda arrive in a limousine.

RHONDA
Wow, How did you get passes? This
is great!

ROBERT
I've got lots of friends in
Hollywood.

The entry to the theatre is as busy as a beehive. Press
photographers descend upon the guests.

At the entrance, Robert and Rhonda shake hands with the
celebrities.

A fast photographer takes their picture.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTEK OFFICE -- MORNING

A group of employees lean over a tabloid magazine. They are
looking at a photo of Robert and Rhonda.

HEADLINE - Successful Silicon Valley executive with an
unknown girlfriend at a Westwood movie premier.

The attention is diverted to Rhonda who enters the office.
There is a moment of silence. Everyone stares at Rhonda.

RHONDA
What's the matter?

PETER
Oh -- Nothing.

Rhonda sees the magazine and tries to grab it.

RHONDA
Let me see it.

Without pleasure, Peter hands her the magazine. Rhonda
blushes.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTEK OFFICE -- FEW DAYS LATER

SERIES OF SHOTS

Brandon:

Undetected, peeks into Rhonda's office.

Rhonda:

At her desk, she surfs the net.

Phone:

Rings several times. Rhonda does not answer.

Remote office:

A company executive listens to the dial tone.

AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM (O.S.)
You have reached the headquarters
of Computek... If you know your
party extension, you may dial it at
any time...

The executive makes a selection.

RHONDA (O.S.)
(Recorded message)
This is Rhonda Medford. I am either
on the phone or helping another
customer. Your call is very
important to us. Please leave a
short message after the tone and I
will get back to you shortly.

The executive hangs up.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE -- LATER

Brandon is at the door. He grumbles.

BRANDON
May I see you?

ROBERT
Don't tell me that you are bitching
about Rhonda again?

BRANDON
This is different this time.

ROBERT
For your own sake, I hope you have
a valid complaint.

BRANDON
I've received several complaints
that she ignores customers' calls.

ROBERT
Did you talk to her?

BRANDON
No, I wanted to check with you
first.

ROBERT
(Loses his cool)
Listen Brandon; she works for you.
Talk to her, I'm sure you can
handle the situation.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISOLATED BEACH -- NIGHT

It is a clear full moon night. Rhonda and Robert walk on
the beach. You can hear the sound of the breakers. After a
short while they sit down.

ROBERT
You are so pretty...

RHONDA
You are flattering me.

ROBERT
No, I mean it!

RHONDA
Thank you!

ROBERT
I want you...

RHONDA
If you want me, come and get me.

Rhonda gets up and starts to run. With her clothes on,
Rhonda runs into the water. Robert follows her.

The two fall into each other arms and kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. RHONDA'S CONDO -- HOURS LATER

Rhonda and Robert are making love in bed.

LATER

Rhonda and Robert lay in bed.

RHONDA
It's getting damn serious...

ROBERT
What is?

Rhonda gets annoyed.

RHONDA
Are you kiddin... or playing dumb?

ROBERT
Why spoil something good with talk?

Disgusted, Rhonda gets up and starts to put her clothes on.

RHONDA
Oh --I see -- this is all about
fucking! I can't believe you take
all this so casual.
(Starts weeping)
For you it's only a game.

ROBERT
What's the matter with you? You've
it all wrong.

Robert gets up. He tries to hold Rhonda but she pushes him
away.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
I am sorry -- I didn't mean to
upset you. Can we talk about it?

RHONDA
(Sarcastic))
Oh yeah, now you want to talk about
it. (Beat)
Do you ever think about commitment?
You are over forty years old,
Robert!

ROBERT
I do, but...

RHONDA
But what? Am I not good enough for
you?

ROBERT
I didn't say that.

RHONDA
Is this what you do with all your
women? You impress them with your
shit, fuck'm and dump'm?

ROBERT
Cool down Rhonda. You're obviously
very upset.

Rhonda tosses Robert's clothes on the bed.

RHONDA
(Angry)
Get outahere! Right now!

Robert gets dressed and leaves. He is very upset.

CUT TO:

INT. RHONDA'S CONDO -- DAY

Rhonda is at her computer. The doorbell rings. Rhonda completes her task before answering the door.

Rhonda is surprised to see Jennifer.

RHONDA
Oh, what a surprise. You could have called...

JENNIFER
I was in the neighborhood -- I thought I'd say hello and see how you are -- I haven't heard from you or seen you in a while.

Rhonda gets friendlier.

RHONDA
Don't stand out like this. Come in.

The two women hug and kiss each other then sit comfortably on the couch.

JENNIFER
So, how have you been? What's new and exciting?

Rhonda's expression becomes tense.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
What's the matter? You look like shit.

RHONDA
I dumped Robert.

JENNIFER
Are you nuts or what?

RHONDA
It wasn't meant to be. All he wants is sex. I need more than that.

JENNIFER
Are you sure about it?
(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
In your place, I would give it
another thought...

RHONDA
But you're not...

An instant message chime sounds on Rhonda's computer.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
Excuse me for a sec; I'll be right
back.

Rhonda walks to her computer. The instant message is from Robert. She ignores it and rejoins Jennifer.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
It's him.

JENNIFER
Do you want to talk about it?

RHONDA
There is nothing to talk about.
It's all over.

JENNIFER
You can always call me if you want
to talk. I've got to run now.

Jennifer leaves. Rhonda returns to her computer. There is an email notification on the screen. She open her inbox. The message is from Robert. Conflicted she reads the email.

MAIL MESSAGE: I want to talk to you. Please don't turn me down. Love, Robert

CUT TO:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK -- AFTERNOON

The park is busy with various activities, a playground, a jogging track and a skateboard ramp.

We see Robert and Rhonda walking in the park. The conversation is cold.

ROBERT
Thanks for coming.

RHONDA
What's on your mind?

ROBERT
I like you very much...

RHONDA
Liking is not good enough... I want
more than that!

ROBERT
I do love you, Rhonda...

RHONDA
... but you want to enjoy both
worlds.

ROBERT
I'm just not ready to commit...I
need more time.

RHONDA
More time for what? This is not
going to work.

ROBERT
You are intractable, Rhonda.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTEK OFFICE -- DAY

From a corner, office personnel stare at Rhonda as she
walks into her office.

MINUTES LATER

Brandon enters Rhonda's office.

INT. RHONDA'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

BRANDON
I am very sorry -- Rhonda...

Brandon hands an envelope to Rhonda.

RHONDA
You? Sorry? Stop pretending!

Rhonda opens the envelope. The letter reads:

"The company management has decided to terminate your
employment, effective immediately. We are extending a paid
leave for two weeks to you."

Rhonda is very upset.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
Bastards!

BRANDON

Blame no one but yourself. You dug
your own hole.

RHONDA

Boy, you must be happy. You never
liked me.

Rhonda storms into Robert's office where his personal
secretary tries to stop her but without success.

SECRETARY

You can't go in there...

RHONDA

Says who?

Without stopping and with the secretary right behind her,
Rhonda opens the door and bursts into the office.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Robert gets up.

ROBERT

(To his secretary)
It's OK. I'll talk to her in
private.

RHONDA

(Angrily)
What's going on? I stop fucking you
-- and the next thing --BOOM! -- I
am canned.

ROBERT

I've got nothing to do with this.

RHONDA

(Contemptuous)
Yeah, you just work here! All of a
sudden Brandon runs the show.

ROBERT

It's not just him.

RHONDA

Who else? You're bullshitting me.

ROBERT

I don't want to discuss it. (Beat)
I feel sorry for you. I am sure
you'll find another job soon.

RHONDA

After being fired? You are kidding

me.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE -- DAY

Rhonda and Jennifer arrive at a government building. A plaque near the entrance reads - State of California Department of Labor - unemployment office.

INT. UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

The office floor is crowded with dozens of applicants. Men and women from all walks of life, are reading booklets; others are filing applications or waiting on line. The atmosphere is somber.

We see Rhonda accompanied by Jennifer, standing on line.

RHONDA

Thanks for coming with me. You're a good friend.

JENNIFER

You're welcome. (Beat)
You know Rhonda? I suggest you check if your rights were violated.

RHONDA

What do you mean? In what way?

JENNIFER

You know, maybe sexual harassment.

RHONDA

That's not possible! I had a romantic relationship with Robert.

JENNIFER

...and see what happened to you!

CUT TO:

INT. LAW FIRM OFFICE -- DAY

THOMAS MURPHY, Late thirties, is a charismatic law partner in the Law Office of Patenkin and Murphy.

Rhonda arrives at Murphy's office.

MURPHY

Come on in. Please, have a seat.

Murphy leads Rhonda to a chair.

RHONDA

Thanks.

MURPHY

I hear you got yourself into a real mess.

RHONDA

That's a nice way to put it.

MURPHY

Sexual harassment is a serious offense. I need as much information as I can get from you.

RHONDA

I feel conflicted. My relationship with Robert was of a romantic nature.

MURPHY

That doesn't necessarily preclude sexual harassment.

RHONDA

Can we talk about your fees before moving forward? After all a law firm is not a charity.

MURPHY

Sure. After reviewing the facts, I'll either take the case on contingency or only charge you for a consultation.

Rhonda seems to be relieved somewhat.

RHONDA

Fair enough.

CUT TO:

INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE -- DAY

Assistant District Attorney GEOFFREY HOLLINGSWORTH, in his late 50's, is a stringent lawyer.

Rhonda and Murphy are in Hollingsworth's office. Hollingsworth goes through his files.

HOLLINGSWORTH

What have we got here? (Beat)
Oh, I see. You filed a harassment complaint with Department of Human Resources.

Hollingsworth's raises his eyes and looks at Rhonda and Murphy.

HOLLINGSWORTH (CONT'D)

(To Rhonda)

Prior to filing this complaint, did you report the incident to your supervisor?

RHONDA

(Sarcastic)

My supervisor?

MURPHY

For the record, Mr. Hollingsworth, the offender in this case is the company's CEO Mr. Robert Burns.

HOLLINGSWORTH

(To Rhonda)

What was the nature of your relationship with Mr. Burns?

RHONDA

Friends. You may call it lovers.

HOLLINGSWORTH

Did he ever make sexual demands of you or made a connection between your relationship and your employment?

RHONDA

I am not sure what you mean by that.

HOLLINGSWORTH

You are not helping me Ms. Medford. You have to give me something compelling to work with -- or else...

Murphy hands a folder to Hollingsworth.

MURPHY

Here -- I've compiled the allegations.

HOLLINGSWORTH

Thank you Mr. Murphy, this will facilitate our investigation of the matter. (Beat)
If our office investigation reveals evidence of criminal conduct in an unlawful harassment, the people will take the matter to the court.

INT. COMPUTEK OFFICE -- DAY

Robert's secretary sorts the mail. She discovers a certified letter from the District Attorney addressed to Robert.

The secretary enters Robert's office.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

The secretary hands the envelope to Robert.

SECRETARY

This may be important. It was delivered with a return receipt request.

The Secretary waits for Robert to open the envelope.

Robert opens the envelope. He is shocked.

THE LETTER READS: "The County of Santa Clara is investigating allegations of unlawful tangible employment action taken by you and Computek, inc. against a former employee, Ms. Rhonda Bedford. Your cooperation in this investigation will be appreciated."

ROBERT

(Upset)

Please leave.

SECRETARY

What's the matter? You look like a ghost.

ROBERT

Just leave.

As the secretary leaves.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Will you please get SAM SINCLAIR on the phone?

The phone rings. Robert picks up.

SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. SINCLAIR'S OFFICE

Sam Sinclair, a 70 year-old seasoned attorney is at his desk.

Sinclair

Sinclair answers the call.

SINCLAIR
Sinclair here.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE

Robert

ROBERT
Hi Sam, This is Robert Burns; I
need to see you right away. It's
very important.

INT. SINCLAIR'S OFFICE

Sinclair

SINCLAIR
Is four O'clock good for you?

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE

Robert

ROBERT
Four is fine.

INT. SINCLAIR'S OFFICE

Sinclair

SINCLAIR
I'll be there at four.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE

Robert

ROBERT
No, no -- I will come to your
office.

Robert hangs up.

Distraught, Robert leaves the office. He stops for a moment
at his secretary's desk.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
(To his secretary)
I'm going out for the day.

CUT TO:

INT. SINCLAIR'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Sinclair greets Robert at the door. After a firm handshake, Sinclair put his arm around Robert's shoulder.

SINCLAIR
You look troubled, young man. I
hope that this is nothing serious.

ROBERT
Unfortunately, I think it is...

Hands Sinclair the letter as both sit down.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
... and thank you for seeing me on
such a short notice.

SINCLAIR
It is always my pleasure -- Hmmm,
let's see what you have...

Sinclair glances at the letter.

SINCLAIR (CONT'D)
We need to talk about this -- I
hope you don't mind answering a few
questions.

ROBERT
That's why I'm here.

SINCLAIR
Did you have a sexual relationship
with this lady?

Robert is taken by the directness.

ROBERT
I...
(Hesitates)
Yes, I did. We were lovers.

SINCLAIR
Not that it helps, but it is nice
-- I still remember the feeling
myself. (Beat)
(Raises a eyebrow)
Did you fire her?

Robert tries to decline his responsibility.

ROBERT
Not exactly, but I gave my consent.

SINCLAIR

It will be difficult to convince the jury that you had nothing to do with it. (Beat)
I want to hear more. Who fired her and for what reason?

ROBERT

Brandon, her supervisor, fired her. She failed to perform her duties.

SINCLAIR

Such as?

ROBERT

She was spending more time on the Internet and playing computer games than doing productive work. In addition we had growing number of complaints that she ignored customers' calls.

SINCLAIR

These are serious allegations. Are they documented?

ROBERT

I honestly don't know.

SINCLAIR

That's no-good -- We must have every piece of documentation regarding Ms. Medford employment.

ROBERT

So, what's your opinion?

SINCLAIR

I am not sure. We will have to find out the game plan of her attorney. Something tells me that she is in for the money, not revenge.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIKE'S CAFÉ -- EVENING

Rhonda and Jennifer meet in the parking lot. They hug each other.

RHONDA

I'm glad you could come.

JENNIFER
It's my pleasure. I haven't seen
you for so long. (Beat)
Come; let's have a bite.

Jennifer grabs Rhonda in her arm. They enter the cafe.

INT. SAME -- CONTINUOUS

JENNIFER
It has been a while -- what's going
on?

RHONDA
Looking for a new job. Unemployment
won't last forever -- besides,
bills have to be paid.

JENNIFER
I am sorry you're having a hard
time.

RHONDA
I'll make it!

JENNIFER
I know -- I want you to know that
if push comes to shove, you can
always come back and stay with me.

RHONDA
Thanks. I hope it won't be
necessary.

JENNIFER
Anything new on the legal front?

RHONDA
Not really, the wheels of justice
spin slowly. Besides, I feel bad
about the whole thing.

JENNIFER
What do you mean?

RHONDA
I do care about Robert -- I'm so
confused.

Rhonda's cell phone rings.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
(To Jennifer)
Excuse me.

Rhonda takes the call.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Hello.

Rhonda listens.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Oh, Hi Tom.

Rhonda continues to listen. Her expression becomes serious.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

What? I'll meet you there in an hour.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

(To Jennifer)

Sorry, it was Murphy, my attorney.

JENNIFER

Everything OK?

RHONDA

Not really. I'm losing the legal battle.

CUT TO:

INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE -- DAY

Hollingsworth sees Rhonda and Murphy in his office.

HOLLINGSWORTH

(Apologetic)

I wish I had better news for you.
My letter to you explains the
State's opinion...

Rhonda is losing her cool. She interrupts Hollingsworth.

RHONDA

Are you saying that the State will
let him get away with it? Is that
what you're trying to tell me?

HOLLINGSWORTH

All that I am saying is that our
investigation found no wrongdoing
by either Computek or by Mr. Burns.

RHONDA

(Angry)

Isn't obvious what happened here?

HOLLINGSWORTH

I am afraid not. (Beat)

You were romantically involved with Mr. Burns. At the same time, there were complaints about your job performance.

RHONDA

As you well know, the complaints existed all along; but I was fired only after I terminated my relationship with Mr. Burns.

HOLLINGSWORTH

I am very sorry Ms. Medford but I find that the evidence does not warrant taking this case to a criminal court. (Beat)
It just does not meet the criteria set forth by the law.

RHONDA

I can't believe it! This is a man's world!

On their way out, Hollingsworth addresses Rhonda.

HOLLINGSWORTH

Ms. Medford, I am sure that Mr. Murphy explained to you your other legal options.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- MORNING

The court is not in session. Attorneys enter and leave after conferring with the court's clerk. Rhonda and Murphy sit on a bench waiting. Rhonda is anxious.

RHONDA

I am nervous.

MURPHY

Calm down, nothing happens today.

RHONDA

You don't understand; it's about facing Robert.

Robert and Sinclair arrive. Rhonda and Robert exchange a cold look then turn away.

The clerk gets up and announces:

CLERK

Medford v. Burns and Computek.

Murphy and Sinclair follow the clerk. The three walk out an exit door in the back.

INT. JUDGE PETERSON'S CHAMBERS -- CONTINUOUS

Judge GAIL PETERSON, in her mid-fifties is at her desk. The judge is a friendly person.

JUDGE PETERSON
Come in gentlemen; please sit down.

The Judge glances through her files, then raises her eyes in a probing look.

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)
Gentlemen, I wonder if you had any success in reaching a settlement?

SINCLAIR
No, your honor.

JUDGE PETERSON
(To Murphy)
What will satisfy your client?

MURPHY
\$50,000 in punitive and \$2,000,000 in damages, your honor.

JUDGE PETERSON
Are your clients present for a possible settlement negotiation?

MURPHY
Yes, your honor.

SINCLAIR
Yes, your honor.

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)
(To Murphy)
What is the basis for this harassment suit?

MURPHY
Quid Pro Quo, your honor.

JUDGE PETERSON
Don't you think that this is stretching it to the extent of the law?

MURPHY
Not at all.

JUDGE PETERSON
(To Sinclair)
What about your client Mr.
(MORE)

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)
Sinclair? Is the defendant aware of
the extent of the consequences of
loosing the case?

SINCLAIR
With all things considered, my
client decided to resolve this
matter in a court of law.

JUDGE PETERSON
I strongly recommend that the sides
reach a settlement. It is
reasonable to believe that a jury
may go either way in this case.
(Beat)
I suggest you confer with your
clients prior to setting up a court
date. I will see you in a half an
hour.

Both attorneys leave the judge's chambers.

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Both attorneys join their clients.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Rhonda and Murphy

MURPHY
The judge asked us to negotiate a
possible settlement. It is my
suggestion that we go to trial.

RHONDA
Does that preclude any settlement
at a later time?

MURPHY
Absolutely not.

Robert and Sinclair

SINCLAIR
They are suing for more than
2,000,000 dollars.

Robert is shocked.

ROBERT
What? 2,000,000 Dollars? How can
that be?

SINCLAIR

Asking high is a common practice.

ROBERT

If you were in my place, what would you do?

SINCLAIR

That's a tough decision. We have a good case but you never know which way the jury will go. (Beat)
By settling the case we will keep the case out of the public eye.

ROBERT

It's a squeeze play. Let's take it to court.

CUT TO:

INT. MURPHY'S OFFICE

Murphy prepares Rhonda for trial.

MURPHY

Trying a case is not just about being right. We'll have to use winning strategies. We have to make the jurors like you, identify with you and feel as if you are someone in his or her own family.

RHONDA

How do we do that?

MURPHY

Mr. Burns from now on is THE DEFENDANT. You are not the PLAINTIFF; you're either MS. MEDFORD or my CLIENT.

RHONDA

Sounds easy enough.

MURPHY

I would like you always to look at the jury -- and keep one thing in mind; they are looking at you. (Beat)
The law requires us to prove three things:
a. That you lost tangible economic benefits.
b. That it resulted from sexual harassment.
... and c...

CUT TO:

INT. SINCLAIR'S OFFICE

Sinclair and Robert preparing for trial.

SINCLAIR

...that the claimant was subjected to unwelcome sexual advances.

ROBERT

How can you prove that? She was an active participant.

SINCLAIR

This is very tricky. There is no requirement that these requests be express demands for sexual favors.

ROBERT

What does it mean?

SINCLAIR

Sometimes and innocent invitation for drinks or a romantic dinner may qualify.

CUT TO:

EXT. RHONDA'S CONDO -- DAY

Rhonda returns home. The CONDO OWNER is waiting at the door.

CONDO OWNER

Sorry to bother you Rhonda, but you haven't paid your rent for four months. I must ask you to either pay now or leave.

RHONDA

I'm having rough time right now. I haven't worked for months.

CONDO OWNER

I tried to work with you... but four months? Sorry!

The Condo owner hands Rhonda a letter.

CONDO OWNER (CONT'D)

Here, please read and sign.

Rhonda reads the letter.

RHONDA
You're not serious about the
eviction, are you?

CONDO OWNER
I am very sorry...

The Condo Owner leaves. Troubled, Rhonda enters her condo.

We see Rhonda at her desk. A large pile of bills covers her desk. She looks at the bills and talks to herself.

RHONDA
Bills, bills and more bills.

She stares at the pile then holds her head between her hands. She is crying quietly.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Rhonda is moving back to Jennifer's place. Jennifer helps her to carry her belongings.

JENNIFER
Feel free to stay as long as you
want.

Rhonda bursts in tears. Jennifer comforts her and offers a pack of tissues.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Here -- take these.

Rhonda wipes her tears with a tissue.

RHONDA
I'm so sorry -- I don't know how to
thank you.

JENNIFER
You don't have to thank me; that's
what friends do.

RHONDA
I feel so bad.

JENNIFER
About what?

RHONDA
The whole thing with Robert...
Maybe I was too hasty in breaking
off the relationship.

JENNIFER
Do you still love him?

RHONDA
I'm not sure... maybe... I do!

CUT TO:

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE -- DAY

Robert confides in Peter. His expression is serious.

ROBERT
You know Peter; I don't have too many people around here to which I can freely talk. Can you please keep this confidential?

PETER
I've been with you since the beginning at Computek -- You can count on me.

ROBERT
Rhonda is suing the company and myself for sexual harassment.

PETER
(Puzzled)
But -- I don't understand -- the two of you were an item -- what does sexual harassment have to do with it?

ROBERT
Unfortunately, that's how the legal system works... if someone claims that your sister is a prostitute, it becomes your burden to prove that you have no sister.

PETER
I get it!

ROBERT
To add to the confusion, I think that it was a mistake to allow Brandon to fire her.

PETER
Between us -- I think that Brandon felt threatened by her...

ROBERT
I wish there was a way to reverse
the situation.

PETER
At this point you have no control
over it. Try to concentrate on
winning the case.

ROBERT
Thanks for listening; I appreciate
your input.

Interphone ring.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Yes.

SECRETARY (O.S.)
Mr. JACK MONROE is here.

ROBERT
Send him in please.

Peter leaves. Robert gets up to greet Monroe.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Please come in -- Have a seat.

Jack Monroe, a private investigator in his mid-forties,
exchanges a firm handshake with Robert.

Monroe is an ex-cop, athletically built. His appearance
reflects professionalism.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Mr. Sinclair highly recommended you.

MONROE
I have known Sinclair for many
years. We weren't always on the
same side but we have developed a
respectful relationship.

ROBERT
I need you to look into an
ex-employee's background. I want to
know everything about her. Who are
her parents -- what schools she
went to -- boy friends -- lovers --
ex's -- police records -- I mean
everything.

Robert slides a file to Monroe.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Here -- this is all we have. (Beat)
One more thing, spare no effort.
Use every investigative method -- I
mean legal and otherwise.

CUT TO:

INT. MONROE'S INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE -- DAY

KATHY SULLIVAN, mid thirties, is Monroe's investigative associate. She sits by her computer with Rhonda's file on her desk.

She logs into a people search engine. After entering her password she types at the name prompt "Medford, Rhonda".

A list of ten individuals appears on the screen but only three meet the age profile.

Monroe enters the office. He stands behind Sullivan.

MONROE
Hi Kathy, any progress?

SULLIVAN
Yes, I have three possible matches.

CU COMPUTER SCREEN

Rhonda L. Medford Age: 31

Rhonda W. Medford Age: 31

Rhonda Medford Age: 31

Sullivan selects all three records one at the time and sends the results to the printers. She gets up, picks up the printouts, and returns to her desk.

MONROE
Let's see if any of them went to
the USCA.

SULLIVAN
College records are much trickier.

MONROE
How about criminal records?

SULLIVAN
Piece of cake.

Logging on eCriminalSearch.com

CU COMPUTER SCREEN

Sullivan enters the name - Rhonda Medford State - unknown
Age - 31

Computer prompts

Searching...

Search results...

Name: Rhonda Medford Alias: Lisa McPearson Date of Birth:
July 25, 1970 Race: White Gender: female Birth State:
South Carolina

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

Here we go.

Sullivan reads aloud.

SULLIVAN (V.O.)

Address 1: 4 Skylane Dr., Aiken, SC
29806

Address 2: 200 Maplewood Lane,
Brooklyn, NY 10250

Conviction State: NY Conviction
County: KINGS

Offence: Petty theft - Shoplifting.

SULLIVAN

What do you think?

MONROE

It's a good start... but let's not
rush to judge. We have to ascertain
that we have the correct Rhonda
Medford.

SULLIVAN

Where do we go from here?

Monroe take a moment to think.

MONROE

I stay Kathy. You go, literally.
Get your luggage ready.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT HOUSE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK -- DAY

A Yellow Cab stops in front of the apartment building.
Sullivan pays the fare, tips the driver and exits the taxi.

We see Sullivan checking the interphone list adjacent to
the door. She rings the SUPERINTENDENT bell.

SUPERINTENDENT (O.S.)
May I help you?

SULLIVAN
Hi, my name is Kathy Sullivan. I am
looking for a missing friend.

SUPERINTENDENT (O.S.)
We rent apartments here -- go away
lady! Go to the police, they deal
with missing persons.

SULLIVAN
Please, this is very important to
me.

SUPERINTENDENT (O.S.)
OK -- the magic word did it again.

Door buzzer sounds. Sullivan enters the building.

INT. SUPERINTENDENT APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

The Superintendent, man in his late thirties, greets
Sullivan.

SUPERINTENDENT
Miss?

Trying to recall her name.

SULLIVAN
Sullivan, It is Ms. Kathy Sullivan.

SUPERINTENDENT
Oh -- OK. I'm Roger. Everyone calls
me Rog.

SULLIVAN
Thanks Rog. I need your help.

SUPERINTENDENT
So you said that you're looking for
a friend?

SULLIVAN
I am trying to locate my college
roommate.

SUPERINTENDENT
I don't get it -- why do you come
here?

SULLIVAN
Because her last known address was
in this building.

SUPERINTENDENT
What's your friend's name?

SULLIVAN
Her name is Rhonda Medford. She is
in her 30's.

Sullivan hands a picture to the Superintendent.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
This may refresh your memory.

The Superintendent changes his attitude.

SUPERINTENDENT
Wait a minute! -- Why should I give
you any information? I don't know
you lady! You could be a cop or
maybe even with the mob.

SULLIVAN
Let me tell you why -- that's why.

Sullivan slips a Hundred Dollar bill to the Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT
That's different. What do you want
to know?

SULLIVAN
Is Rhonda and the woman in the
picture the same person?

SUPERINTENDENT
That's her.

SULLIVAN
Did you meet any of her friends?

SUPERINTENDENT
She was a private person. I hardly
noticed her.

SULLIVAN
How about a job?

SUPERINTENDENT
I think she worked in Macy's, I
mean in Manhattan...

CUT TO:

INT. MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE -- DAY

Sullivan walks through the store. She uses the escalators
to get to the personnel office.

INT. PERSONNEL OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Sullivan approaches the counter. A STORE RECRUITER, female 22, is at her computer. She ignores Sullivan.

SULLIVAN

Excuse me!

STORE RECRUITER

I'll be right with you.

After a delay, the recruiter approaches the counter and hands Sullivan a job application.

STORE RECRUITER (CONT'D)

Here fill these out. Someone will be right with you.

Sullivan hands a business card to the Recruiter.

SULLIVAN

Kathy Sullivan, Private Investigator. I am here to investigate a former employee.

STORE RECRUITER

Let me get my SUPERVISOR. Have a seat please.

SULLIVAN

Thank you!

A FEW MINUTES LATER

The Store Recruiter escorts Sullivan to the Supervisor's office.

STORE RECRUITER

Follow me, please.

INT. SUPERVISOR OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

The supervisor, a man in his forties, is at his desk. We see Sullivan entering the office.

SUPERVISOR

Come in; have a seat.

SULLIVAN

Thank you! I hope this won't take long.

Sullivan sits down.

SUPERVISOR

How can I help you?

SULLIVAN

I am doing a background check of one of your ex-employees.

SUPERVISOR

This is a big store you know.

SULLIVAN

This is important. I'd appreciate if you would check your records.

SUPERVISOR

Let me see what I can do. What name am I looking for?

SULLIVAN

The name is Rhonda Medford -- she's about 32 years old.

Follow me please.

Sullivan follows the Supervisor to the personnel office where the Supervisor searches Rhonda's employment record.

SUPERVISOR

I am afraid that there is nothing here. Ms. Medford's record is clean, not a single complaint...

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- MORNING

Rhonda and her attorney Murphy take their seats. Shortly thereafter Robert and his attorney Sinclair take their seats on the opposite side.

The jurors, 4 women and 4 men, follow the BAILIFF to the Jury benches.

The Bailiff takes his stand.

BAILIFF

(Standing)

Hear ye, Hear ye...The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, Judge Gail Peterson presiding is now in session. All rise...

Judge Peterson enters and takes her seat.

CLERK

Item number 2, Civil 02-545. Rhonda Medford versus Robert Burns and Comptek, Inc.

Judge Peterson instructs the Jury.

JUDGE PETERSON

Good morning to you.
Members of the Jury. You were
summoned to hear the case of Rhonda
Medford versus Robert Burns and
Computek, Inc.

Continues after a short pause.

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)

At the end of these proceedings,
you will be asked to make a
decision based only on the evidence
that is brought in front of you.
The attorneys' statements that you
will hear shortly are not evidence
they are merely a theory.

Murphy begins his opening statement.

MURPHY

(Sitting)

Good morning ladies and Gentlemen.

Gets up and approaches the Jury Box.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 makes
it illegal to discriminate on the
basis of race, color, religion,
age, national origin, and sex.
Title VII of the Act prohibits
employers from, among other things,
discriminating on the basis of sex
with respect to compensation,
terms, conditions, or privileges of
employment.

Murphy walks in front of the jury. He looks into each juror
eyes as he talks.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

As the evidence will show, my
client Ms. Rhonda Medford was
involved in a romantic relationship
with the defendant, the Chief
Executive of Computek, Inc.
Shortly after Ms. Medford ended her
relationship with the defendant,
her employment was terminated
leaving her without a source of
income.

(MORE)

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Such an act, also known as Quid Pro Quo, is consistent with sexual harassment under the Civil Rights Act. Thank you!

Sinclair gets up.

SINCLAIR

(Facing the Jury)

Members of the jury, we agree with the plaintiff on one fact. My client Mr. Burns and the plaintiff had a romantic relationship. We intend to show that the reasons that led to plaintiff's dismissal were related to her negligence in performing her duties, only.

From his desk, Murphy calls his first witness.

MURPHY

Your honor, the defense would like to call the first witness, Ms. Rhonda Medford.

Robert's eyes follow Rhonda as she takes the stand and is sworn in.

COURT OFFICER

Would you please state your full name and address?

RHONDA

Rhonda Lisa Medford...

CUT TO:

EXT. AUGUSTA GEORGIA AIRPORT -- EVENING

A commuter airliner stops in front of the terminal. We see Sullivan and other passengers enters the rural terminal.

INT. SAME -- CONTINUOUS

Sullivan is at the car rental counter.

EXT. SAME -- CONTINUOUS

Sullivan drives away in a rented car.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIKEN COUNTY OFFICES -- DAY

Sullivan enters the building.

INT. SAME -- CONTINUOUS

Sullivan meets with a County CLERK'S ASSISTANT. She hands her a business card and introduces herself.

SULLIVAN
Kathy Sullivan, private
investigator.

CLERK'S ASSISTANT
How can I help you today Ms.
Sullivan?

SULLIVAN
I'm trying to verify the birth
records of one Rhonda Medford.

The clerk's assistant conducts a search on her computer.

CLERK'S ASSISTANT
This may take a minute or two...

SULLIVAN
That's OK. Take your time.

CLERK'S ASSISTANT
Are you looking for a dead person?

SULLIVAN
No. I am looking for a live, very
much alive, 31 years old woman.

CLERK'S ASSISTANT
I am sorry; every Rhonda Medford
born in Aiken County is dead.

SULLIVAN
Would you please try Lisa McPearson?

CLERK'S ASSISTANT
Wait...

The Clerk's Assistant starts a new search.

CLERK'S ASSISTANT (CONT'D)
Just a minute... I've got
something... Lisa McPearson born
July 25, 1970.

SULLIVAN
May I have a copy of the record?

CLERK'S ASSISTANT
It's being printed...

The Clerk's Assistant goes to the printer. She picks up the printout and hands it to Sullivan.

SULLIVAN
Thank you. You've been very helpful.

CUT TO:

INT. NORTH AUGUSTA HOTEL ROOM -- EVENING

Sullivan is searching the Aiken County phone book. She notices a listing for MCPEARSON, CHARLES and MARY.

Sullivan dials the McPearson number.

Ring...

AUTOMATED RESPONSE (O.S.)
This is a restricted access number.
Please record your name after the
tone.

SULLIVAN
Kathy Sullivan.

Sullivan listens.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
I am sorry to bother you. I am
looking for the parents of Lisa
McPearson. I thought you could
possibly help.

After a short delay.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Please don't hang up!

We hear a busy tone. Sullivan hangs up.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- DAY

The court is in session. Rhonda is on the witness stand.

MURPHY
Can you tell the court how you
first came to know the defendant?

RHONDA
(Facing the jurors)
I first met him at a company BBQ
gathering.

MURPHY

Were you an employee of Computek at that time?

RHONDA

Yes, I was.

MURPHY

What was your position at that time?

RHONDA

I was a secretary.

MURPHY

Were you the secretary for the defendant?

RHONDA

No, I wasn't.

MURPHY

When was the next time you met the defendant?

RHONDA

I saw him in the office several times but met him in person much later.

SINCLAIR

Objection! Irresponsive.

JUDGE PETERSON

Rephrase your answer please.

RHONDA

I met him about one month later.

MURPHY

Do you remember where you met him?

RHONDA

Yes, I do.

MURPHY

Can you describe the circumstances?

RHONDA

I met him in a nightclub, the Cat's Meow.

MURPHY

Were you alone with the defendant?

RHONDA

No, I was with my friend, Jennifer.

MURPHY

During this occasion, did the defendant make any advances toward you?

RHONDA

I am not sure what you mean.

MURPHY

Did he flirt with you or ask you to dance?

SINCLAIR

Objection! Leading.

JUDGE PETERSON

Overruled. You may answer the question.

RHONDA

He asked me to dance.

MURPHY

Did you dance with him?

RHONDA

No.

MURPHY

Did he ask your friend to dance with him?

SINCLAIR

Objection! Irrelevant.

JUDGE PETERSON

Overruled.

Sinclair is unhappy with the judge ruling.

SINCLAIR

May we approach?

The lawyers approach the bench.

SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

This line of questioning is immaterial.

JUDGE PETERSON

Mr. Sinclair, I already made a ruling. This line of questioning is consistent with the charges.

SINCLAIR

The defense attempts to imply that my client was pursuing the plaintiff.

JUDGE PETERSON

You don't seem to understand Mr. Sinclair, do you?

SINCLAIR

Understand what? Your honor...

JUDGE PETERSON

Sexual advances must not be explicit. They may be implied by the circumstances and actions such as inviting a claimant out for drinks, etc.

Under the circumstances, I find that asking the plaintiff for a dance falls into this category. My decision stands!

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE -- NORTH CAROLINA -- MORNING

The convenience store is located on Route 25 north of Augusta, adjacent to a lavish neighborhood and nearby a mobile home community. Sullivan parks her car in front of the store.

INT. SAME -- CONTINUOUS

There are few customers in the store. Among them is a YOUNG WOMAN. Sullivan approaches the STORE OWNER.

SULLIVAN

Good morning sir. Do you mind if I ask you a question or two?

STORE OWNER

Depends on the question, young lady.

SULLIVAN

I am looking for my college roommate. She grew up here.

STORE OWNER

Oh yea? What's her name?

SULLIVAN

Her name is Lisa McPearson.

The Young Woman in the store becomes curious. She listens to the conversation.

STORE OWNER

I know Lisa. Unfortunately she never came back after college. There is nothing else I can tell you.

SULLIVAN

How about family? Parents? Siblings?

STORE OWNER

Her parents live in a new house, passed the mobile home down the road -- but you really don't want to go there...

SULLIVAN

Why not?

STORE OWNER

You just don't...

INT. COFFEE SHOP -- LATER

Sullivan is seated. The Young Woman works here. She hands Sullivan the menu.

YOUNG WOMAN

Can I get you something to drink?

(Whispers)

I saw you in the convenience store. I can't really talk openly here...

The Young Woman slips a note to Sullivan.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

Call me later. I am off at five.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM, NORTH AUGUSTA HOTEL -- EVENING

A knock on the door is heard.

Sullivan gets up and opens the door.

SULLIVAN

Come in. Have a seat. (Beat)
My name is Kathy; I'm a private investigator. Thanks for stepping forward.

YOUNG WOMAN

My name is Robin.

SULLIVAN

I gather that you know Lisa...

YOUNG WOMAN
(Bitterly)
Oh, do I know her!

SULLIVAN
You don't seem to like her.

YOUNG WOMAN
The bitch stole my boyfriend -- she
is a horrible person.

SULLIVAN
What do you mean?

YOUNG WOMAN
We grew up together.

SULLIVAN
Does that make her horrible?

YOUNG WOMAN
You don't understand...

SULLIVAN
Understand what?

YOUNG WOMAN
We are Irish Travelers; do you
know what that means?

SULLIVAN
Oh, I see.

YOUNG WOMAN
Is she in some trouble?

SULLIVAN
You bet she is!

CUT TO:

INT. COURTHOUSE CORRIDOR -- AFTERNOON

We see Monroe, Robert and Sinclair leave the courtroom.
Monroe's cell phone rings.

MONROE
Hi Kathy; what's new?

Monroe listens.

MONROE (CONT'D)
Are you sure?

Monroe listens.

MONROE (CONT'D)
Keep working on it. See what else
you can find.

Monroe turns toward Robert and Sinclair.

MONROE (CONT'D)
I've just received important
information about Rhonda.

ROBERT
What is it?

MONROE
Rhonda is a Traveler.

ROBERT
I don't understand how this is
important. Anybody can be a
traveler.

SINCLAIR
Travelers are Con Artists.

ROBERT
Oh, I get it...

SINCLAIR
I am afraid that this fact alone
does not help us unless we find
evidence that is relevant to the
case.

MONROE
I am thinking of something...

MONROE (CONT'D)
(To Robert)
Do you have Rhonda's email address?

ROBERT
Yes, I do.

Robert writes Rhonda's email address on a business card and
hands it to Monroe.

CUT TO:

INT. MONROE INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE -- DAY

A young man, with the appearance of a geek, enters Monroe's
office. He is a COMPUTER HACKER in his late teens.

HACKER
Hi, did you say you have something
for me?

MONROE
I've got a job for you! The pay is good.

HACKER
Don't keep me in suspense! What is it?

MONROE
How good are you in Internet spying?

The hacker is excited.

HACKER
Cool man! I do it all the time. All I need is an email address.

MONROE
Here.

Monroe hands a note with an email address to the Hacker.

HACKER
What do you need?

MONROE
Everything, folders, files, deleted files etc. Whatever you can get.

HACKER
It may take awhile.

MONROE
We are pressed for time.

HACKER
I can set up the trap but can't make'em nibble.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- DAY

The Court is in session. Rhonda is on the witness stand.

MURPHY
Was there a point in time where the defendant asked you for a date?

RHONDA
Yes.

MURPHY
Can you describe the circumstances?

RHONDA

Yes. I was working late one evening and Robert, I mean Mr. Burns, came into my office...

MURPHY

...and

RHONDA

He asked me out to dinner.

MURPHY

Did you indeed, have dinner with him?

RHONDA

Yes, I did.

MURPHY

Did you see Robert again?

RHONDA

Yes.

MURPHY

Who initiated your meetings? Strike that! Did you ever ask the defendant out?

RHONDA

No.

MURPHY

Would it be fair to say that the defendant initiated all your meetings?

SINCLAIR

Objection! Suggestive.

JUDGE PETERSON

Overruled!

RHONDA

Yes, he did.

MURPHY

Was there a time when you and defendant had sexual relations?

RHONDA

Yes.

MURPHY

Can you tell us how did your relationship with the defendant end?

RHONDA
When I realized that the defendant
was not serious and that his only
interest was sex, I decided to end
our relationship.

MURPHY
... and what happened after you
stopped seeing the defendant?

RHONDA
I was fired.

MURPHY
No further questions.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Rhonda and Jennifer chat in the living room. Rhonda looks
worn out.

JENNIFER
You look like hell, Rhonda -- this
trial is getting to you.

RHONDA
I can't wait until it's over.

JENNIFER
I was called to testify tomorrow --
I'm nervous -- never been to a
court before.

RHONDA
You'll be OK.
(Yawns)
Excuse me -- I'm gonna check my
e-mail then go to bed.

JENNIFER
Sounds like a plan. Don't get
hooked up.

INT. RHONDA'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Rhonda is at her laptop computer. One after the other she
deletes unwanted e-mail. One message draws her attention.

Rhonda clicks the mouse to load the message.

A warning prompt appears on the screen.

*This e-mail may contain an image or a program. Do you know
the sender? Do you wish to continue? YES NO*

Rhonda hesitates for a moment, and then clicks YES. The e-mail message appears on the screen.

From: Mrs. Miriam Mobutu Seseseke Subject: Investment consultant needed.

RHONDA
Hey Jennifer, come in -- have a look.

Jennifer rejoins Rhonda. Both read the e-mail.

I am Mrs. Sese-seko widow of late President Mobutu Sese-seko of Zaire, now known as Democratic Republic of Congo...

JENNIFER
This is bullshit -- it's known as the Nigerian scam...

Jennifer leaves. Rhonda goes to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- DAY

Sinclair cross-examines Rhonda.

SINCLAIR
Prior to your employment, did you have any knowledge of my client?

RHONDA
No.

SINCLAIR
Is Rhonda Medford your birth name?

RHONDA
No, it is not.

There is a small commotion in the courtroom.

Murphy is surprised. He gives Rhonda an upset look.

Sinclair continues.

SINCLAIR
Would you tell the court what your birth name is?

RHONDA
Lisa McPearson, sir.

SINCLAIR
Is it your habit to lie?

MURPHY
Objection! Suggestive.

JUDGE PETERSON
Sustained. Mr. Sinclair you are warned, this line of questioning is unacceptable.

Sinclair pulls a document from his folder.

SINCLAIR
This is the plaintiff's job application with Computek, Inc. I would like to mark it as defense exhibit number 1.

The document is passed to the judge, Murphy, the Clerk and back to Sinclair.

Sinclair walks to the witness stand and hands Rhonda her application.

SINCLAIR (CONT'D)
I would like you to review this document.

Rhonda examines the document.

SINCLAIR (CONT'D)
Do you recognize it?

RHONDA
I do.

SINCLAIR
Is it your job application with Computek?

RHONDA
Yes, it is.

SINCLAIR
Is it signed by you?

RHONDA
Yes.

SINCLAIR
Do you understand that by signing this application, you affirm that your statements are true and correct?

RHONDA
Yes, but I didn't think it was important...

SINCLAIR

I presume you answered YES to my question, Ms. Medford.

RHONDA

I guess I did.

SINCLAIR

Do not guess. It's either a YES or a NO.

RHONDA

Yes.

SINCLAIR

Would you please read Items 1 and 1a?

RHONDA

One, Applicant's Name: Rhonda Medford. One A, Aliases or other name used: Blank

SINCLAIR

Is it fair to say that the truth is not expressed in this statement?

MURPHY

Objection! Omission does not constitute misrepresentation.

JUDGE PETERSON

Sustained!

SINCLAIR

In your application you indicated that you graduated from the University of South Carolina Aiken.

MURPHY

Objection!

JUDGE PETERSON

Overruled. You may answer the question.

RHONDA

I did.

SINCLAIR

So how do you explain that there is no record for either a Rhonda Medford or a Lisa McPearson?

RHONDA

I was poor. I audited the classes.

SINCLAIR
So you did not graduate?

RHONDA
No, I didn't.

SINCLAIR
Is it true that Mr. Burns and you
were lovers?

RHONDA
Not from the begin...

SINCLAIR
Is it a YES or a NO?

RHONDA
Yes but...

SINCLAIR
No further questions.

Redirect by Murphy.

MURPHY
When you first met the defendant,
did you consider him as your lover?

RHONDA
No.

MURPHY
So why did you continue to see him?

RHONDA
He treated me nicely. Besides, I
was afraid I would be demoted or
let go if I stopped.

MURPHY
Thank you. No further questions.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAVELER'S COMMUNITY -- NORTH CAROLINA -- DAY

Sullivan drives along Route 25 north of Augusta. She passes
a Mobile Home site. Gradually, the scenery changes to
lavish homes.

EXT. MCPEARSON'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The McPearsons live in a beautiful new house. Sullivan
parks her car on the street. She leaves the car and walks
toward the door.

INT. SAME -- CONTINUOUS

The doorbell rings. We see MRS. MCPEARSON, now in her early sixties, looking through a door viewer.

Mrs. McPearson opens the door.

MRS. MCPEARSON
Who are you? What do you want?

SULLIVAN
My name is Kathy Sullivan...

MRS. MCPEARSON
Are you the one who called earlier?

Mrs. McPearson begins to close the door. Sullivan blocks the door.

SULLIVAN
It's me. Please don't close the door.

Mrs. McPearson hesitates; her face reflects a painful expression.

MRS. MCPEARSON
It's been years since I last heard from my daughter. She had abandoned us many years ago.

SULLIVAN
I'm sorry to hear it. May I come in?

Mrs. McPearson checks if anybody is watching. Then lets Sullivan in.

MRS. MCPEARSON
OK, but only for a few minutes. My husband would be very angry if he finds out.

SULLIVAN
Thanks. Now -- about Lisa -- she's involved in a lawsuit. Do you think that she could be involved in a crime?

MRS. MCPEARSON
My Lisa? It's not possible! She left us because of our life style. She could not accept that we continue our Travelers tradition. I don't want to be rude, but you must leave now.

SULLIVAN
Thanks, Mrs. McPearson. You've been
very helpful.

CUT TO:

INT. MONROE INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE -- MORNING

Monroe welcomes Sullivan who just returned from North
Carolina.

MONROE
Good to see you, Kathy. Your
investigation gave a new dimension
to the case.

The phone rings. Monroe picks-up.

MONROE (CONT'D)
Monroe here.

Monroe signals to Sullivan to pick up a phone.

Sullivan picks up the phone and listens.

CUT TO:

INT. HACKER'S COMPUTER ROOM

The Hacker talks on the phone while his fingers moves
rapidly across the keyboard.

HACKER
I think we've got something. Don't
go away.

An e-mail prompt appears on the screen. Subject: Packet
From: RhondaMed@connect.com

HACKER (CONT'D)
Oh yes! It is a packet sent from
Rhonda's machine. (Beat) I will
need a day or two to process the
information.

CUT TO:

INT. MONROE INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

SULLIVAN
What is this all about?

MONROE
I hired a computer hacker to
download information from Rhonda's
computer.

SULLIVAN

How does it work?

MONROE

Our guy concealed a program in an e-mail message. The program copies the entire hard disk content and e-mails it to him every time that the computer is online.

SULLIVAN

(Protests)

That's illegal. This stuff can't be admissible.

MONROE

As of now, this is only a fishing expedition. We don't even know if there is anything there. Besides, I am sure that the lawyer will find a way to bring it to court -- That's why they are paid the big bucks.

CUT TO:

INT. JUDGE PETERSON'S CHAMBERS -- DAY

The Judge, clerk and the attorneys gather in the judge's chambers. Sinclair and Murphy are seen arguing.

The judge put this argument to an end.

JUDGE PETERSON

Mr. Sinclair!

SINCLAIR

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE PETERSON

Please proceed with your petition.

SINCLAIR

The defense requests that Ms. Medford's laptop computer be entered as evidence...

Murphy interrupts.

MURPHY

What? I don't see the point.

SINCLAIR

...and that a computer forensic expert will be appointed by the court to analyze the data.

JUDGE PETERSON
How is it relevant to this case Mr. Sinclair?

SINCLAIR
The plaintiff and my clients used the computer for communication. E-mail exchanges may either substantiate or refute statements made in this court.

JUDGE PETERSON
Any objections? Mr. Murphy.

MURPHY
If such motion is granted, the plaintiff would like to reserve the same.

The judge thinks for a moment.

JUDGE PETERSON
Petition is granted; Let's go to work.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- DAY

Plaintiff's witnesses. Jennifer is at the stand; she is nervous.

MURPHY
How did you get to know Ms. Medford?

JENNIFER
Rhonda was my roommate.

MURPHY
Did the two of you become friends?

JENNIFER
Yes, we did.

MURPHY
Did you go out together?

JENNIFER
Yes.

MURPHY
Do you know the defendant?

JENNIFER
Yes, I do.

MURPHY

Under what circumstances did you meet him?

JENNIFER

I met him at the Cat's Meow.

MURPHY

Cat's Meow?

JENNIFER

Yes; It is a club.

MURPHY

Can you tell us what happened?

JENNIFER

I was there with Rhonda. We had a few drinks before Rhonda noticed Mr. Burns at the bar.

MURPHY

What happened next? Did Ms. Medford approach him?

JENNIFER

No, She was too shy.

MURPHY

And?

JENNIFER

I encouraged her to invite him to our table.

MURPHY

After the defendant joined the two of you, did he make a pass at you or Rhonda?

SINCLAIR

Objection! Calls for speculation.

JUDGE PETERSON

Overruled.

MURPHY

You may answer the question.

JENNIFER

Mr. Burns asked Rhonda to dance with him. When she turned him down he asked me to dance with him.

MURPHY

Did Rhonda ever tell you about problems at work?

JENNIFER

Problems? No. She just mentioned that this character Brandon didn't like her.

Sinclair is cross-examining Jennifer.

SINCLAIR

Are you a close friend with the Plaintiff?

JENNIFER

Yes, I am.

SINCLAIR

Did the two of you talk about her relationship with Mr. Burns?

JENNIFER

Yes, we did.

SINCLAIR

From what you know, was the relationship romantic?

JENNIFER

Yes, it was.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Jennifer is in the kitchen putting dishes away. The door opens and Rhonda enters the apartment.

JENNIFER

Hi Rhonda.

Rhonda enters the kitchen.

RHONDA

Here let me give you a hand...

JENNIFER

That's OK -- I'm almost done.

RHONDA

Thanks for your testimony.

JENNIFER

I did poorly.

RHONDA
You did the right thing -- you told
the truth.

JENNIFER
Thank you!

Rhonda seems to be weary.

RHONDA
I've had it with this trial!

JENNIFER
Hang in there, it is a matter of
days now.

RHONDA
I know -- It is the defense's turn
now. By the way, what's your
impression of the jury?

JENNIFER
It is hard to say. It appears that
they are listening carefully.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- DAY

The court is in session. Robert is on the witness stand.

ROBERT
... I cared about Ms. Medford.

SINCLAIR
Did you fire her?

The jurors focus on Robert and Sinclair.

ROBERT
No, I did not.

SINCLAIR
Can you tell the court who fired
the Ms. Medford.

ROBERT
She was fired by Mr. Brooks, her
supervisor.

SINCLAIR
Can you be specific about the
circumstances that led to Ms.
Medford dismissal?

ROBERT
She spent more time surfing the Net
and playing computer games than
working. (Beat)
In addition, complaints from
customers about unanswered phone
calls were piling up.

Cross-examination by Murphy.

MURPHY
You indicated that Ms. Medford
neglected her duties, is this
statement correct?

ROBERT
It is.

MURPHY
Was my client warned that she may
lose her job?

ROBERT
She was warned verbally.

MURPHY
By whom?

ROBERT
By Mr. Brooks.

MURPHY
Would it be fair to say that her
employment was not terminated until
your relationship had ended?

SINCLAIR
Objection! Suggestive.

JUDGE PETERSON
Sustained. Rephrase.

MURPHY
How much time after your
relationship ended, was Ms. Medford
fired?

ROBERT
I'm not sure, maybe a week or two.

MURPHY
How about a day or two?

ROBERT
I believe it's possible.

MURPHY

Did you give your consent to her dismissal?

ROBERT

I did.

MURPHY

Did you protect Ms. Medford as long as she was seeing you?

SINCLAIR

Objection! Speculative.

JUDGE PETERSON

Overruled! Answer the question.

ROBERT

Not exactly...

MURPHY

I'm expecting a YES or a NO.

ROBERT

Yes.

MURPHY

No further questions.

Brandon is on the witness stand.

SINCLAIR

Mr. Brooks, were you Ms. Medford's supervisor?

BRANDON

I was.

SINCLAIR

Would you tell the court the reasons for her dismissal?

BRANDON

She spent more time playing with her computer than working...

SINCLAIR

Is that all?

BRANDON

No. She was doing her own things.

SINCLAIR

Can you be specific?

BRANDON
She was cutting deals with
customers without my approval.

SINCLAIR
Anything else?

BRANDON
For quite a while she was ignoring
customers calls; leaving them
unanswered.

Cross-examination by Murphy.

MURPHY
You never liked Ms. Medford, did
you?

SINCLAIR
Objection! The witness relationship
with the plaintiff is immaterial.

JUDGE PETERSON
Mr. Murphy, what's the point?

MURPHY
I am trying to establish a time
line.

JUDGE PETERSON
(To Murphy)
I'm giving you a limited latitude
with this.
(To Brandon)
You may answer the question.

BRANDON
I didn't.

MURPHY
For how long was my client
allegedly doing the things you
mentioned earlier?

BRANDON
For a while...

MURPHY
Was it days? weeks? months?

BRANDON
I'd say months

MURPHY
But you did not fire her, did you?

BRANDON

No.

MURPHY

Did you give her a warning?

BRANDON

Well -- I've talked to Mr. Burns about it. I hoped that he...

MURPHY

So you never warned her?

BRANDON

No, not directly.

MURPHY

Was there a time when you learned that the defendant and my client were no longer seeing each other?

BRANDON

Yes, there was.

MURPHY

Is it true that you fired her shortly thereafter?

BRANDON

Yes.

MURPHY

... and is it true that the defendant gave his consent?

BRANDON

It is.

CUT TO:

INT. SINCLAIR'S OFFICE -- EVENING

Present are Sinclair, Robert and Monroe.

SINCLAIR

(To Robert)

I invited Mr. Monroe to discuss the latest developments in your case. Mr. Monroe...

MONROE

(To Robert)

This may come as a surprise to you... it appears that you may have been subjected to a scam.

ROBERT
You are confusing me.

MONROE
I would like you to review these...

Monroe hands a few computer printouts to Robert.

MONROE (CONT'D)
...they were downloaded from Ms.
Medford's computer by an associate .

ROBERT
Isn't that illegal?

MONROE
Correct me if I'm wrong. You said
you wanted information the legal
way or otherwise.

ROBERT
That's true.

Robert reads the printouts.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
I don't get it. Under the present
circumstances, what is so special
about her reading articles about
sexual harassment and about me?

MONROE
It's the time frame, Mr. Burns --
All these documents date up to six
months prior to Ms. Medford's
employment.

Robert reacts as if he was hit by a ton of bricks.

ROBERT
The bitch set me up!

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- DAY

Court is in session. The COMPUTER EXPERT testifies.

SINCLAIR
What is your specialty?

COMPUTER EXPERT
I am a forensic computer specialist.

SINCLAIR
Did you examine the plaintiff's
computer?

COMPUTER EXPERT
I did.

SINCLAIR
Did you find anything unusual?

MURPHY
Objection! Calls for speculation.

JUDGE PETERSON
Sustained.

SINCLAIR
Did your inspection reveal any
recent file deletion?

Rhonda's expression becomes serious.

MURPHY
Objection!

JUDGE PETERSON
Approach the bench.

The attorneys approach the bench.

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)
(To Sinclair)
Mr. Sinclair, may I ask where are
you going with this?

SINCLAIR
Files that contain evidence
relevant to this case were recently
deleted.

MURPHY
This is ridiculous!

JUDGE PETERSON
I will allow it with a warning.

The attorneys return to their respective desks.

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)
(To the witness)
You may answer.

COMPUTER EXPERT
I found a half a dozen deleted
documents.

SINCLAIR
Were you able to retrieve any of
these documents?

COMPUTER EXPERT
Yes, I recovered all of them.

SINCLAIR
Can you tell the court the nature
of these documents?

COMPUTER EXPERT
Most are Internet files.

SINCLAIR
In your opinion, are any of these
documents connected to this suit?

MURPHY
Objection!

JUDGE PETERSON
Sustained!

SINCLAIR
Did you discover any references to
sexual harassment?

COMPUTER EXPERT
Yes, I did.

SINCLAIR
Did you find any references to my
client?

COMPUTER EXPERT
Yes.

SINCLAIR
Could you ascertain the dates on
these files?

COMPUTER EXPERT
Yes. These files were originally
saved between January 21, 2000 and
July 15, 2000.

SINCLAIR
Thank you, no further questions.

JUDGE PETERSON
Please approach the bench.

The attorneys approach the bench.

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)

(To Sinclair)

I don't see how this is relevant.

SINCLAIR

This is all about timing. The plaintiff's testimony will clear it up.

JUDGE PETERSON

Are you implying that you will call the plaintiff as a defense witness?

SINCLAIR

I deem it necessary.

Murphy's cross-examination.

MURPHY

Is deletion of Internet files
common by computer users?

COMPUTER EXPERT

It is.

MURPHY

Would it be a criminal activity to
delete files from one's own
computer?

COMPUTER EXPERT

It would if the intent is criminal!

MURPHY

Is it true that the computer's
clock may not indicate the correct
date and time.

COMPUTER EXPERT

It is correct most of the time.

MURPHY

Can you tell us when it is not?

COMPUTER EXPERT

Yes, if it wasn't set correctly
from the beginning or tampered at a
later time.

MURPHY

Looking at this computer, could you
tell beyond any doubt that the
dates in your testimony are
accurate?

COMPUTER EXPERT

No.

Sinclair is behind his desk. He addresses the court.

SINCLAIR

The defense calls Ms. Rhonda
Medford.

There is a courtroom commotion.

The judge uses her mallet.

JUDGE PETERSON

Silence.

Everyone stares at Rhonda as she takes the stand.

SINCLAIR

Ms. Medford, or perhaps Ms. McPearson, are you familiar with the term Irish Travelers?

MURPHY

Objection!

JUDGE PETERSON

Mr. Sinclair, what's the meaning of this?

SINCLAIR

The defense intends to show a connection in this case.

JUDGE PETERSON

(To Sinclair)

I will allow you with some latitude.

(To Rhonda)

Please answer the question.

RHONDA

Irish Travelers are the descendants of Irish horse and mule traders.

SINCLAIR

If you know, did the Travelers assimilate into the American society?

RHONDA

Most did.

SINCLAIR

... and those who didn't?

RHONDA

The live in small communities in various states.

SINCLAIR

Do the travelers specialize in one trade or another?

RHONDA

Not really, but they have a reputation of being con artists.

SINCLAIR

Ms. Medford, are you an Irish Traveler?

Rhonda burst into tears.

There is a commotion in courtroom.

JUDGE PETERSON
Silence! Court is adjourned until
10 O'clock tomorrow morning.

CUT TO:

INT. MURPHY'S OFFICE -- EVENING

Rhonda is in tears. Murphy offers her box or tissues.

MURPHY
Here; take these -- Calm down.

RHONDA
I am so sorry. I screwed up.

MURPHY
Mr. Sinclair is a tough lawyer.
He'll do anything to discredit you.

Rhonda calms down somewhat. She wipes her eyes.

RHONDA
I don't know for how much longer I
can sustain the pressure.

MURPHY
Whatever he is trying to prove, his
client is guilty of sexual
harassment. (Beat)
I hope we have no more surprises
here.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- MORNING

The court is in session. Sinclair continues to question
Rhonda.

SINCLAIR
Did you ever delete files related
to this suit from your computer?

RHONDA
I do occasionally delete files.

SINCLAIR
Ms. Medford, you're not answering
my question.

RHONDA
I have no recollection of specific
files.

SINCLAIR

What if I told you that we found
deleted files related to this case
on your computer?

RHONDA

This is not possible.

SINCLAIR

(Relentless)

You've testified earlier that you
had no knowledge of my client prior
to your employment. Is that true?

RHONDA

It's true.

SINCLAIR

The analysis of your computer
reveals that about six months prior
to your employment with Computek,
you did a comprehensive research
about sexual harassment.
Furthermore, at the same time you
collected information about my
client.

Sinclair gets behind his desk. He turns on a data video
projector. The data is projected onto a large screen.

SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

I would like to show you several of
files recovered from your computer.

We see a WEB browser projection. The title: *Everything you
should know about sexual harassment.*

SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

Ms. Medford, can you see the
projection?

RHONDA

Yes, I can.

SINCLAIR

Would you please tell us what's the
subject of this page?

RHONDA

Yes, it's about sexual harassment.

SINCLAIR

How about this one?

Sinclair moves to the next file. It is a WEB document too.
The title: *Computer Company Executive - The New Playboy.*

RHONDA
This one is about Mr. Burns.

SINCLAIR
Have you ever seen these before?

RHONDA
I'm not sure.

Sinclair moves to the next two files.

SINCLAIR
... and how about these?

Rhonda becomes uncomfortable and irritated.

RHONDA
I don't remember. Besides, I don't
understand what's so special about
it under the circumstances.

SINCLAIR
Let me show you the next frame.

The folders' index appears on the screen. Sinclair is using
a laser pointer to direct Rhonda.

SINCLAIR (CONT'D)
The first four documents, in order,
are the one you've just reviewed.
(Beat) Would you please read to us,
from to bottom, the dates that
these documents were last accessed?

Rhonda is trying to avoid the reading.

RHONDA
I am not sure where to find it.

Sinclair points directly to the dates.

SINCLAIR
Let me help you; here it is -- on
the last column.

RHONDA
Let's see. January 21, 2000...
January 30, 2000, March 15, 2000
and April 1, 2000.

SINCLAIR
Didn't your employment with
Comptek begin on June of 2000?

RHONDA
I believe so. I'm not sure what
you're trying to prove?

Sinclair looses it.

SINCLAIR
Your employment with Computek was
not coincidental! Was it? (Beat)
You've planned it all, didn't you?

MURPHY
Objection!

JUDGE PETERSON
Overruled! Answer the question.

There is a commotion in the courtroom. Rhonda bursts in
tears. She is out of control.

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)
BAILIFF, please help the witness
out of the courtroom.

Murphy holds Rhonda's arm as she is walked out of the
courtroom.

CUT TO:

INT. JUDGE PETERSON'S CHAMBERS

JUDGE PETERSON
Gentlemen, It has been an
exhausting day.
(To Murphy)
Given the circumstance, how do you
want proceed? would you consider
dropping the charges?

MURPHY
Regardless of the drama in court
today, I maintain that my client's
rights were violated. (Beat)
At this junction, I say: let the
jury decide.

SINCLAIR
I have no objection.

JUDGE PETERSON
We will move to summation tomorrow.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Jennifer enters her apartment. She hears loud crying from Rhonda's room.

Jennifer approaches the door. It is closed. She knocks on the door.

JENNIFER
Open up Rhonda, what happened?

RHONDA (O.S.)
(In a weeping voice)
I screwed up...

JENNIFER
Screwed up what? Come on; open the door. (Beat)
Let's talk about it.

The door opens. Rhonda comes out. Her eyes are blood-shot and streaks of make up run down on her face. She looks awful.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
You look like hell. What happened to you?

RHONDA
It's all over.

JENNIFER
What is?

RHONDA
I lied to everybody.

JENNIFER
Lied about what?

RHONDA
The whole thing with Robert... I set it up...

JENNIFER
What?

RHONDA
I planned it all.

JENNIFER
Why?

RHONDA
I grew up as a con artist.
(MORE)

RHONDA (CONT'D)
It's my family; they are Irish
Travelers. I've hated them all my
life.

JENNIFER
You could have walked away.

RHONDA
I did -- I just couldn't help it --
I wanted this one to be the last --
but now the jury knows -- everybody
knows...

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM

Plaintiff's summation.

MURPHY
Members of the jury...

Murphy gets up and walks toward the jury box.

MURPHY (CONT'D)
The defense elected to smear my
client rather than making its case.
The facts are quite clear!
The firing of my client immediately
after she ended her relationship
with the defendant proves that he
favored her as long as he could
have sex with her.
According to the law, acquiescence
or even voluntary participation in
sexual activity does not imply that
the advances were welcomed.
My client is a victim of sexual
harassment. I call upon you to find
the defendant guilty as charged.

Murphy returns to his desk.

Sinclair, confident that he made his case, stays at his desk.

SINCLAIR
Members of the jury, in a very
short time you will be asked to
carry a verdict in this case.
Based on the truth that unfolded in
front of you, I am asking you to
acquit my client from the appalling
charges.

(MORE)

SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

It is quite obvious that my client was the target of a plot, which was planned and carried out by a con artist. I call upon you to return a NOT GUILTY verdict.
Thank you!

Judge Peterson charges the jury.

JUDGE PETERSON

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you are about to deliberate and decide the verdict in the case of Rhonda Medford versus Robert Burns and Computek, Inc.

I hereby charge you to obey the law, as I will explain it. Your decision must be based solely on the evidence brought in front of you and the applicable laws. In this case, it is alleged that the defendant, as a result of termination of sexual relationship, denied the plaintiff economical benefits.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits this form of discrimination, also known as Quid Quo Pro.

To find the defendant guilty, the following conditions must be met:

- a. The harassment was based on sex.
- b. The claimant was subjected to unwelcome sexual advances.
- c. A tangible economic benefit of the job was conditional on the claimant's submission to the unwelcome sexual advances.

Should you find the defendant not guilty, the case will be over. Otherwise, you will be instructed to decide on monetary compensation.

CUT TO:

INT. JURY ROOM

The jury, three women and three men, meet to deliberate.
The FOREWOMAN is in her fifties.

FOREWOMAN

Let's take a STRAW VOTE to find out where we stand. Any objections?

MALE JUROR 1

I think that it is an excellent idea.

FEMALE JUROR 1

Let's do it.

FOREWOMAN

All in favor of a GUILTY verdict raise your hand.

Three members of the jury raise their hands instantly.

FOREWOMAN (CONT'D)

All in favor of a NOT GUILTY verdict raise your hand.

The count is three.

FEMALE JUROR 1

(Cynically)

That's a good start -- We'll never get out of here...

FOREWOMAN

OK, let's talk it over.

FEMALE JUROR 2

It's quite obvious that Rhonda set Robert up. She's a liar and a cheat!

FEMALE JUROR 1

So she lied a little on her application -- big deal -- we all do...

MALE JUROR 1

How about her computer files?

FEMALE JUROR 1

Let's not make too much of it -- even the computer expert could not ascertain the correctness of the dates.

MALE JUROR 2

This not about Rhonda alone -- what about Robert? Did he use his position to take advantage of her? My opinion is that the conditions for sexual harassment have been met.

MALE JUROR 3

I have difficulties accepting that the sex was unwanted in this case.

FEMALE JUROR 1
(Humorously)
Its seems to me that both enjoyed
it.

MALE JUROR 1
Can we be serious about this?

FOREWOMAN
Let's examine the facts. Did Robert
violate Rhonda's rights under the
Civil Rights Act of 1964. (Beat)
Can we agree that the harassment
was based on sex?

MALE JUROR 1
There was no harassment.

MALE JUROR 2
She was fired immediately after
dumping him -- if that isn't
harassment, what is?

MALE JUROR 1
I say that Rhonda and Robert were
two consenting adults.

FEMALE JUROR 1
We heard that Robert initiated all
the interactions.
Rhonda's voluntary participation in
the sexual activity does not imply
wanted sex.

MALE JUROR 2
We have to judge Robert for his
actions.

FOREWOMAN
Let's begin with the substantiated
fact. We know that Rhonda was fired
shortly after she terminated her
relationship with Robert.
It seems that we cannot agree on
the question of harassment, which
is linked to the issue of unwelcome
sexual advances. I suggest we take
it back to the judge for further
clarification.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM

The court is in session. The courtroom is moderately filled
with curious observers.

The jury enters the courtroom. The Forewoman is standing up.

FOREWOMAN

The jury requires a clarification about HARASSMENT and UNWANTED ADVANCES.

JUDGE PETERSON

Unwelcomed sexual advances as defined by the law, requires the presence of sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. However there is no requirement that these requests be express demands for sexual favors. The advances may be implied by the circumstances and actions. For example: inviting a claimant out for drinks or offering the claimant sexually explicit magazines. (Beat)
Acquiescence or even voluntary participation in sexual activity does not mean that the advances were welcomed.

The jury exits the courtroom.

CUT TO:

INT. JURY ROOM

FOREWOMAN

The judge's statement puts it right there.

FEMALE JUROR 2

But she set him up for it.

MALE JUROR 2

Robert should have known better. By firing her shortly after she left him, he proved that his only interest in her was sexual.

FEMALE JUROR 2

But according to the evidence, the defendant did not demand sexual favors or else...

MALE JUROR 2

There is no such requirement. Action talks for itself...

FOREWOMAN
Let's take a vote!

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM -- LATER

The jurors return and take their seats.

JUDGE PETERSON
Members of the Jury, have you
reached a verdict?

FOREWOMAN
We have, your honor.

The Bailiff picks up the verdict note and brings it to Judge Peterson. After the Judge reads the verdict, the bailiff returns the note to the Forewoman for reading.

JUDGE PETERSON
Would you please read the verdict?

The Forewoman, standing, reads the verdict.

FOREWOMAN
This jury finds the Defendant
guilty of sexual harassment as
charged.

There is a commotion in the courtroom. Robert and Sinclair are in a state of disbelief.

JUDGE PETERSON
Court is adjourned. We will
continue tomorrow at ten.

INT. COURTHOUSE CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

We see Robert and Sinclair walking together.

ROBERT
I am shocked. It's not possible.

SULLIVAN
We'll have to see what happens
tomorrow.

ROBERT
Aren't you going to appeal?

SINCLAIR
Of course, I will.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Rhonda arrives at the apartment; she looks very unhappy.
Jennifer is there, waiting for her.

JENNIFER
Hi, How did it go?

RHONDA
The jury found Robert guilty.

JENNIFER
That's a reason for celebration!
Why are you so upset?

RHONDA
It's all wrong. I feel like shit.

JENNIFER
Aren't you happy that this is over?

RHONDA
No, I feel guilty -- I don't want
the money anymore. I will donate
any judgment to a charity. I so am
ashamed of myself!

JENNIFER
Get some sleep. You'll feel better
in the morning.

CUT TO:

INT. SANTA CLARA COURTROOM

The court clock shows 10 O'clock.

JUDGE PETERSON
Mr. Murphy, please present your
case.

Rhonda stops Murphy from answering.

RHONDA
I want to talk to you.

MURPHY
Not now.

RHONDA
It's important.

MURPHY
What is it?

JUDGE PETERSON

Mr. Murphy?

MURPHY

I am sorry your honor, I need a minute or two.

RHONDA

(To Murphy)

I decided to donate the judgment to a charity.

MURPHY

Are you out of your mind?

MURPHY (CONT'D)

(To the Judge)

May we approach?

JUDGE PETERSON

Please do.

Murphy and Sinclair approach the bench.

MURPHY

My client just informed me that she wants to donate any judgment to a charity.

SINCLAIR

(Cynically)

This is an interesting turn.

JUDGE PETERSON

I can't allow the jury to hear it. Their judgment must be without prejudice.

The attorneys return to their desks.

We see Sinclair whispering in Roberts ear. Robert reacts with a shy smile.

JUDGE PETERSON (CONT'D)

Mr. Murphy, proceed please.

Murphy reads his statement from his desk.

MURPHY

The plaintiff seeks a judgment of \$50,000.00 in punitive damages and \$2,000,000.00 for damage and suffering.

Sinclair gets up and walks toward the jury box.

SINCLAIR

I would like to ask you, before you come to any conclusion, to consider the circumstances in this lawsuit. I maintain that the plaintiff in this case willfully and maliciously brought on herself this unfortunate so-called sexual harassment claim. Therefore I call upon you to deny the request for punitive, damage and suffering judgment. Thank you!

The jurors leave the courtroom.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

The jurors return.

JUDGE PETERSON

Have you reached a judgment?

FOREWOMAN

Yes your honor; we did.

The Bailiff hands the verdict to the Judge Peterson and returns it to the Forewoman.

JUDGE PETERSON

Would you please read it?

FOREWOMAN

Considering the circumstances, we find that the Defendant, Mr. Robert Burns, will pay a sum of one Dollar punitive damages and one Dollar for damages and suffering to the Plaintiff, Ms. Rhonda Medford.

The courtroom is like a beehive. Robert, happy with the verdict is shaking hands with Sinclair.

Murphy can't hide his disappointment. Rhonda appears to be relieved.

Judge Peterson dismisses the court.

The Jurors leave the courtroom.

JUDGE PETERSON

This court is adjourned!

BAILIFF

All rise!

Judge Peterson leaves the courtroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. USED CARS DEALERSHIP -- A FEW MONTHS LATER

We see a YOUNG MAN browsing the lot. Rhonda, now a used cars salesperson approaches the man.

RHONDA
May I help you?

YOUNG MAN
I am looking for a sport car.

RHONDA
Anything in particular?

YOUNG MAN
Something classic, like a Triumph Spitfire, MGB or TR-6 in good shape but inexpensive.

RHONDA
How much money are you willing to spend?

Rhonda notices that the Young Man keeps staring at a car behind her. He does not pay attention to what she tells him.

She turns around and notices another person who is tampering with a car on the lot.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
(As she walks to
the other car)
Is this man with you?

The young man whistles loudly and runs away.

Rhonda rushes toward the other car and yells:

RHONDA (CONT'D)
Hey...

The other man takes off before Rhonda gets to the car.

Rhonda returns to the office. To her surprise, she meets Jennifer.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
Hi Jennifer. What a pleasant surprise.

JENNIFER
What happened on the lot?

RHONDA
I chased two car thieves.

JENNIFER
(Somewhat
embarrassed)
I don't know how to say it?

RHONDA
Say what?

JENNIFER
Can you join me for lunch?

RHONDA
Now?

JENNIFER
Now!

RHONDA
What's up? Let me talk to my boss,
hang on.

Rhonda enters the office. A few minutes later she joins
Jennifer.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR -- CONTINUOUS

The two women share a pizza pie.

JENNIFER
Robert called earlier.

RHONDA
Robert who?

JENNIFER
Burns.

RHONDA
... and why is that my business?

JENNIFER
He wants to talk to you.

RHONDA
After all that happened? Why would
he do that?

JENNIFER
He wants you to call him.

RHONDA
How could I? I'm so ashamed.

JENNIFER
Go for it. You've nothing to lose
-- see what he wants.

CUT TO:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK -- DUSK

The last scene fades as we see Rhonda and Robert walking at sunset on a public park's path.

ROBERT
What are you doing these days?

RHONDA
I'm in the used cars business.

ROBERT
Doing what?

RHONDA
selling.

ROBERT
Do you like it?

RHONDA
I do.

Robert changes subject.

ROBERT
I don't know how to say this, but I
think a lot about what happened
with us.

RHONDA
Me, I'm just trying to forget.

ROBERT
I care about you, Rhonda, I always
have.

RHONDA
I'm so embarrassed. I betrayed your
trust and tryied to use you to get
rich.

ROBERT
But why?

RHONDA
I was brought to be a cheat and a
thief. I wanted that to be my last
con.

ROBERT

I read about the Irish Travelers
after the trial. Growing up must
have been horrendous for you.

RHONDA

It was pretty bad.

(Rhonda changes the
subject)

I don't know how you can ever
forgive me.

ROBERT

I'll try -- I wasn't any angel
either. I should have never allowed
Brandon to fire you. You have been
an asset to the company.

The two walk away from the camera. Their voices and the
view slowly fade as distance grows.

RHONDA

You've guts, Robert. I could never
do that.

ROBERT

I'm following my heart not my mind.
Nuts is the word, not guts...

RHONDA

I admire your courage, Robert.

ROBERT

I was wondering if we could give it
another shot?

Rhonda reaches and grasps Robert's hand.

RHONDA

You may not believe it, but I still
love you.

ROBERT

I love you too.

FADE OUT: