

ANNA

DRAMA

8.

WAITRESS

Thanks, guys.

OSCAR

Thanks.

Anna's looking at her water, feeling the urge to simply run.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

You okay?

ANNA

Yeah.

INT. FOUR BARREL COFFEE - MISSION DISTRICT - DAY

Artisan. Waxed cement floor. Rough-hewn wood walls. A line.

Anna and her hipster brother, JEREMY (28), take their cups.

Start →

ANNA

Oscar wants me to move in.

JEREMY

Good.

ANNA

I don't know. I like my apartment.

He stops for "organic and locally grown" stevia.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

He'd say.

JEREMY

It comes automatically from my phone. But, fad.

A sidelong look. Anna's lack of tech savy galls him.

EXT. FOUR BARREL COFFEE - DAY

Jeremy and Anna come out and cross the street.

JEREMY

Can I say something no one else will?

ANNA

That's why I'm here.

A muscular man in sunglasses follows them. JEREMY'S BODYGUARD is always ten feet behind him outdoors. And never mentioned.

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ANNA

9.

JEREMY
You won't like it.

ANNA
Horrrify me.

JEREMY
Success for women is a sexual liability.
You limit the pool of men who want you,
and, more profoundly, the pool of men you
want. ~~Half of all new doctors are female.
What's their chief complaint on residency
completion? The lousy job market? No. The
Bozo economics of health care? No. Their
chief complaint is their male colleagues
won't date them. The guys all want young
nurses. Why? Because they're doctors now.
Wanna see a pissed-off female physician?
Suggest she date a male nurse.~~

ANNA
How do you get away with being such an ass?

JEREMY
Everyone I know works for me. That, and,
sexually, I view myself as a gourmet food
truck: I'll serve you but you can't sit.

ANNA
What's your point?

JEREMY
If Oscar Castro Vargas isn't worthy of
cohabitation, just who will be?

It's very good question.

ANNA
His daughter hates me.

JEREMY
What do you expect? Her nannies are all
angry grad students in postcolonial
studies. You move in, you fire them.
(then)
Everybody wins.

ANNA
I don't want to move in! I like things as
they are! I go over. We have great sex. I
leave before we fall asleep...so I never
wake up and find my shoes in the toilet.

Jeremy remembers the incident, chuckles admiringly.

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ANNA

10.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It's good! We're kind. We're sooo kind to each other. I can't be that kind every day. I'd act out. Every instinct I have says...move in and it'll end badly.

He stops outside a huge and expensively converted WAREHOUSE.

The Bodyguard keeps his distance.

JEREMY

Don't trust your instincts.

ANNA

What?

JEREMY

Seriously?

INT. "OPEN" - JEREMY'S CORPORATION - DAY

A high-tech dream. Feels like the future. Feels like money.

ANNA

I'm not that stunted!

Jeremy leads Anna thru a quiet sea of SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS, all with top secret clearances, thick glasses, fedoras.

Their numbers dwarf those of the magazine.

JEREMY

This is your MO -- you find some insane reason it won't work and cling to it like grim death. Remember how you let Tunney's DVR convince you he was gay.

INT. JEREMY'S HUGE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Immaculate. He goes to a desk; she goes to one of the sofas.

JEREMY

You dumped Cole because he put super unleaded in a rental car--

ANNA

--while I was supporting him--

JEREMY

--and poor Scott Ploughman--

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ANNA

11.

ANNA

--he dumped me--

JEREMY

--you complained about his penis!

ANNA

It veered right! Like it was distracted!
Which is ironic, cause he's a womanizer.

JEREMY

That's not irony.

Anna lets it go, tired of the argument. She notices all his windows have round devices wired to them.

ANNA

What are those round things?

JEREMY

They make the panes vibrate so no one can bounce a laser off them. To eavesdrop.

ANNA

Oh, is the NSA mining our financial data?
What do you hear about the whistleblower?

JEREMY

Only that he's missing. I doubt a program like that exists. It's political suicide. We sure didn't design it.

She nods, stands.

ANNA

You're only making my point. I look for things wrong with people, when they get close. I can be really critical. And I hate all the drama that creates.

(a beat)

So, what do I do?

JEREMY

Just listen to that small voice deep in your heart...and do the opposite.

ANNA

(going)

Thanks, this was almost helpful.

JEREMY

(after her)

Don't quote me!

← End

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