

FADE IN:

4. INT. OFFICE STAIRWAY – DAY.

Louise and Elizabeth are walking down the stairs. Mark and Daniel stop at the top.

LOUISE

Are you enjoying being back with us?

ELIZABETH

I wish it was on easier terms.

LOUISE

I can't imagine it is ever easy trying to manage these guys.

ELIZABETH

I love journalism, I really do but some of the things we write about just disgusts me. You know the other day, this girl Harper was asked to go on a date with this young actor barely out of school, just so they could get him drunk and write a bad story about him.

LOUISE

Nothing is better than a good scandal.

ELIZABETH

Tell me about it. At least working here I can create the scandal instead of write about it.

They both stop at the bottom of the stairs and look back up at Mark and Daniel.

ELIZABETH

What are they doing?

LOUISE

Arguing about the tone of a scene.

Elizabeth sighs.

ELIZABETH

Writers.

Camera moves to show Mark and Daniel at the top of the stairs.

DANIEL

It's a funny scene. It's humour.

MARK

It's crass.

DANIEL

In what way?

MARK

Taking a moment for Andrew to ogle at some young girl. We will have all the feminist after us.

DANIEL

Men do ogle at women.

MARK

Yeah but we have to be subtle about it. Having the camera follow a young girl around is not subtle.

DANIEL

In your book you mention how women look all the time.

Mark begins walking down the stairs.

MARK

That's to show how he's darkening inside. Or it was angst, I'm not quite sure which yet.

Daniel follows him.

MARK

Seriously, just find a better way of showing it, have him speak to her and his jaw lock as she smiles and turns away. You can visually show something without throwing it into the audiences faces.

DANIEL

I will look into it.

MARK

Listen, this thing with Liz probably won't last all day, want me to come in and sit with you?

DANIEL

No, it's all good. With Louise out of the room I'm just going to crack on with some editing.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE CORRIDOR.

They reach Mark's office and stop.

MARK

Alright. Remember subtlety.

Annie leaves the office and scoffs.

ANNIE

Ha, you subtle, do you know he once stood up in assembly to ask a girl to prom who he had never even spoken to. That's his level of subtlety.

MARK

How many times have I fired you now?

Annie smiles cheekily.

ANNIE

Not enough clearly.

Mark and Daniel shake their heads and walk into their offices.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

5. INT. ELIZABETH'S OFFICE – DAY.

Elizabeth is in her office, arguing with someone.

ELIZABETH (INTO. PHONE)

Listen that editorial was wrong on so many levels.

Mark walks up to the door and knocks. Elizabeth waves him in.

ELIZABETH (CONT.)

You bet we will fight it. I will find every piece of work David has ever directed and I tell you now their won't be one piece of

evidence for what your implying... I'm warning you now, you even attempt to publish that and I will have five papers ready to write a counter story that will bury yours in the mud it belongs in... Thank you for your call.

Mark looks shocked at Elizabeth as she hangs up.

MARK

Now that's the sort of tough love we've been missing. What were they after?

ELIZABETH

It's some small time magazine trying to write some story about David's wife when she was an actress.

MARK

David forcing people to give her roles.

Elizabeth nods.

MARK

That appears at least once a month.

ELIZABETH

It's a good measure of how we are faring. If they are bringing that back up, then you or Andrew haven't messed up in a while.

Mark laughs.

MARK

See I told you, you should come back here.

ELIZABETH

I came back for David.

MARK

I must have helped a bit surely?

ELIZABETH

Yeah shouting at me in my office was really the way to do it.

MARK

I really haven't apologised enough for that.

Elizabeth smiles at Mark.

MARK

Come on then, what's this big plan of yours?

Elizabeth sits down. Mark perches himself on her desk. She raises her eyebrows at him.

ELIZABETH

I need you to do a panel show.

MARK

You're joking? That's the one thing we have been trying to avoid.

ELIZABETH

That you guys have been trying to avoid... This isn't some show where the presenter gets to push you into saying something stupid or one where you get free reign. This one is organised for the exact purpose of bringing awareness about Incels.

MARK

I've been after one of them for a while.

ELIZABETH

I know you have and I spent the last week trying to convince the producers to let you on but they have said no every time.

MARK

So what changed today?

Elizabeth smiled coyly.

ELIZABETH

One of the panellist had to pull out when a paper found out that they had once been an instigator on one of the forums.

Mark smiles.

MARK

You evil evil person.

ELIZABETH

Now, for once you are going to listen to me. I'm not your girlfriend anymore and I'm certainly not your employee.

MARK

Not so sure about the second thing but the first I'm very clear on.

ELIZABETH

I've written you ques. What to say when the time calls for it. The show is there to create awareness, that only by creating awareness can these kids get the support they need.

MARK

Because so often the media only covers what these guys do and never the reason why they do it. That with discussion and thought we might not only be able to stop these acts being committed but we might also be able to help the demographic that has the highest suicide rates of any other.

Elizabeth looks shocked with a sense of her old love in her eyes.

ELIZABETH
Yeah something like that.

MARK
This isn't my first rodeo.

ELIZABETH
It's going to be the first where you don't go off on a tangent.

...

MARK
I'm not sure.

ELIZABETH
I don't want to go twelve rounds with you on decisions either this time Mark. Let's agree that we stick to our fields.

Mark looks down sadly, any flirtation from them over.

MARK
Yeah sure. Make the call.

FADE OUT: