"Madhouse" Pilot

By

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Characters (in order of appearance):

JEREMY RILEY, 25: Has aspergers. Warm and extremely intelligent. Is afraid of embarrassment and failure.

RIVER MATTHEWS, 26: Smooth, cunning, often cold, and ambitious. Values personal freedom above all.

DRIVER, 35.

CATHERINE GOLDMAN, 25: A blunt, outspoken idealist. Hates the idea of working for a corporate firm but needs the money.

UNCLE ABE, 48: Everyone’s loud-mouth uncle.

KENNY, 26.

SAMANTHA HUGHES, 49: Loyal, serious and cunning. Does whatever it takes to win a case.

BAILEY WINTERS, 66: Brilliant, filter-less, temperamental and arrogant. Founder of Riley, Scott and Williams.

MOLLY BAUER, 33: Bubbly, easy-going and caring, genuinely devoted to Bailey.

PAUL RILEY, 60: Prideful and uncompromising, obsessed with his own image and legacy.

RECEPTIONIST, 31.

JESSICA, 27: Jaded, snarky and intelligent.

MASON COBURN, 57: Blunt, unfiltered, prideful, and tough-as-nails.

ACT 1: INT. JEREMY’S BEDROOM - DAY

An alarm, set for 7:30, goes off. JEREMY bolts upright in bed and turns off the alarm. He gets out of bed and moves to a set of drawers in a shelf by the window with labels of different locations (Home, work, etc.) and pulls a pair of latex gloves out of the one marked "home". We see a short montage of him brushing teeth, getting dressed, etc. all while wearing the gloves. Finally, he puts the gloves back in the "home" drawer and takes a pair of plain but stylish leather gloves out of the "work" drawer, and exits his room.
INT. RILEY APARTMENT - DAY

Jeremy descends a spiral staircase into the center of what can be seen through large glass windows is a massive, penthouse apartment. All of the lights are off, and Jeremy approaches a table in the center of the room. He picks a post-it off the center which reads: “Jeremy, father left early, I’m sleeping in. Do everyone proud - Mother”. Jeremy tries to bite a nail, but stops as soon the glove touches his lips. Deflated, Jeremy opens a walk-in closet, pulls out a briefcase marked “Jeremy” with a post-it and heads out the apartment door.

INT. RIVER’S TOWN CAR - DAY

River looks at his gold wrist watch: 8:00. The camera follows his gaze outside to see bumper-to-bumper Manhattan traffic.

    RIVER
    (To Driver)
    I told you we had to leave early.

    DRIVER
    You did.

There is a pause. RIVER looks bored.

    RIVER
    First time working in NYC?

    DRIVER
    Yep.

    RIVER
    How has it been?

    DRIVER
    Fine.

    RIVER
    Where are you from?

    DRIVER
    Away.

    RIVER
    Do you give one word answers for fun or because your mother dropped you on your head when you were little? (Pause)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

DRIVER
She may have done it once or twice.

RIVER
You get used to it.

RIVER waits a moment, then moves to get out of the car.

RIVER (CONT’D)
This is taking to long.

DRIVER
Hey! I’m not supposed to let you out of the car. What if you get hurt?

RIVER
I feel like walking.

River exits the car. The camera shifts to an exterior shot. The DRIVER shouts through the passenger-side window.

DRIVER
Your mom said to only let you out at work or at home. What if she finds out?

RIVER
Then I’ll get scolded, and you’ll get fired. So for both our sakes, please keep this between the two of us.

DRIVER
Just remember to look both ways!

INT. CATHERINE’S APARTMENT - DAY

CATHERINE sluggishly gets out of bed. The apartment is tiny and in complete disarray. A laptop on a small desk across from the bed has a big analogue clock on-screen: 8:15. Catherine sees it, swears, jumps out of bed and trips on a pile of clothes on the way to her closet. She opens it, and pulls back 2 or three sweaters to reveal a single, pristine suit. She takes a moment to cradle it like a child, and then rushes to change. CUT TO-
INT. CORNER STORE - DAY

Catherine rushes into the corner store. The man behind the counter recognizes her immediately.

UNCLE ABE
Hey, Catherine. Shouldn’t you be-

CATHERINE
(Out of breath)
Yeah, I’m late. Small coffee to go.

UNCLE ABE
(Pouring it from the pot)
One hot sun ray, coming through. There you go. On the house.

CATHERINE
You don’t have to do that.

UNCLE ABE
Hey, my niece’s first day at her big-shot law firm, it’s the least I can do. Don’t miss your train.

CATHERINE
(Running out the door)
I’ll pay you back!

UNCLE ABE
Don’t bother! Just don’t turn into one of those corporate blood-suckers while you’re working for them!

CATHERINE
I won’t!

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

JEREMY walks down a Manhattan street, doing the best he can to avoid touching any passerby, including using his briefcase as a buffer, exaggerated dodges, etc. An alleyway opens up to his right, and he looks down to find three thug-like guys sitting on dumpsters. One of the thugs notices Jeremy staring and points him out to the others. The thugs all give Jeremy the evil eye, and Jeremy gasps, snaps back to walking like a man in a music box, and moves on.

RIVER walks down the opposite end of the same alley. The thugs jump down from the dumpsters as River approaches, looking menacing. RIVER is all smiles.

(CONTINUED)
RIVER
Kenny.
KENNY
River.

RIVER tries to hug KENNY, KENNY only shakes his hand.

RIVER
It’s been a while.

KENNY
Don’t I know it. I’d hug ya, but I wouldn’t want to ruin your fancy clothes.

RIVER
It’s my first day at a real job.

KENNY
Oh, the rich boy is done sneaking off to play with the thugs? Thieving and con-artistry aren’t noble enough jobs for you?

RIVER
No, they just don’t pay well enough anymore.

KENNY
Ain’t it the truth. So what brings you here?

RIVER
I’m looking for something to use to celebrate my first day on the job.

KENNY smiles and pulls a small Ziploc bag of pot out of his jacket pocket.

RIVER (CONT’D)
The usual price?

KENNY
Think of it as a parting gift. Just promise to bail us out of jail when you become a big-shot lawyer.

RIVER
First hour is on the house.

RIVER and KENNY laugh, and RIVER exits in the same direction as JEREMY.
EXT. OUTSIDE RSW OFFICE - DAY

Jeremy approaches the outside of the RSW office, stopping in front of the main doors. He looks up at the nameplate: "Riley, Scott, and Winters"

JEREMY
(To himself)
Hello, my name is Jeremy, Jeremy Riley. Yes my dad is the Paul Riley. It’s nice to meet you too. No. Hi, my name is Jeremy. Oh just Jeremy is fine. No. Hey, names Jeremy, but my friends call me J-Riles. No. No no no...

Jeremy enters the RSW building while talking to himself as RIVER walks into view and enters the RSW building behind him. CATHERINE, out of breath, rushes in after them.

INT. RSW OFFICE - DAY

SAMANTHA HUGHES paces back and forth trying to get someone on her cellphone. We hear BAILEY WINTERS through a voice-over as the telephone conversation begins.

BAILEY
For the last time I am not buying life insurance from you suit-wearing harlots, do you understand me?!?

SAMANTHA
Bailey, Bailey it’s Samantha.

BAILEY
Samantha? I told you I’m out of the office.

SAMANTHA
Oh, you retired?

BAILEY
No, I told you I’m on my honeymoon and you, being my beloved pupil in all things related to the law were going to cover for me until I get back.

SAMANTHA
Well, it’s been three weeks since that conversation without so much

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SAMANTHA (cont’d)
as an email from you. So unless you
are planning on retiring to
honeymoon get your ass back to the
office because I’m done covering
for you.

BAILEY
Samantha! As a man in love like no
man ever was I beseech you-

SAMANTHA
She’s your third wife, Bailey. I’m
done doing you special favors. Get
to New York if you want to still be
the head of this law firm tomorrow.

SAMANTHA hangs up the phone, looking tired but satisfied.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

BAILEY hangs up his cellphone and turns to his wife, MOLLY
BAUER, who lies in bed wearing nothing but lingerie.

BAILEY
Snookums, that was the office. It
seems I have to head into work.

MOLLY
That’s a shame, honey pot. I know
how eager you were to film us
together.

BAILEY moves over to a tripod set by the bed and dismantles
the camera, putting it on a side table.

BAILEY
Something to look forward to in the
future. I’ll have someone set up
your flight back to New York. Call
if you need anything.

MOLLY
I will, you busy grizzly you.

BAILEY walks over and kisses MOLLY. Cut to-
INT. RSW OFFICE - DAY

SAMANTHA flips through personnel files for the three associates. We hear a voice over from her as the next scene unfolds:

INT. RSW COMMON ROOM - DAY

An elevator door opens, and a crowd including the three associates emerges into the new associate reception. River finds a group of associates and seamlessly joins their conversation.

SAMANTHA V.O.
RIVER MATTHEWS, 25. Top of his class at Harvard Law. Accusations of cheating on the bar exam never proven. Son of one of the firm’s wealthiest clients. Wonder why he’s here and not his own private yacht.

Catherine walks to a buffet table and starts serving herself while making conversation with others on the food line.

SAMANTHA V.O.
CATHERINE GOLDMAN, 26. Top of her class at Cornell, but not without accumulating several hundred thousand dollars in student loans. Father deceased, mother missing. Good, we don’t want lawyers who need hand-holding.

Jeremy stands in a corner, fidgeting and smiling silently at anyone that passes. He makes a few attempts at conversation but the passerby ignore him.

SAMANTHA V.O.
Jeremy Riley, top of his class at Yale and son of THE Paul Riley, named partner of Riley, Scott and Winters. Diagnosed with mild Asperger’s syndrome as a child. But Paul would never hire someone incapable of doing the job; he’s too obsessed with his reputation to do otherwise.

Catherine joins the group of associates speaking with River. Jeremy creeps towards the punch bowl. Everyone turns at the sound of clapping. PAUL RILEY, whom everyone in the room recognizes, continues to clap until he has everyone’s attention.

(CONTINUED)
PAUL
Good morning, and welcome to Riley, Scott and Winters. For those of you who haven’t heard of me, I’m Paul Riley, and along with Bailey Winters and Clarence Scott, I run this firm. This year we hired the 15 best associates we could find fresh out of law school, ten of whom will be fired before the year is out. You will be fired because we can’t afford to hire many lawyers fresh out of law school with zero trial experience. You will be fired because you weren’t good enough and we only allow for perfection. And some of you will quit because this job breaks people. This is not school. This is the place where people looking to change the world pay us by the hour to do it for them. We are the locksmiths of this country, the ones who decide what doors open when, and which remain shut forever. I have your assignments here. When you here your name report to the partner and department that follows. River Matthews, Catherine Goldman and Jeremy Riley report to Samantha Hughes at Special Cases.

PAUL continues to read out names and assignments as the three associates head for the same elevator. They look at each other for a moment, sizing each other up, before getting on. END ACT 1

ACT 2: INT. RSW ELEVATOR - DAY

The three associates enter the elevator. At any point where JEREMY is not talking, he stands fixed, staring at the door.

RIVER
Hi, I’m RIVER.

CATHERINE
CATHERINE. And you are...

JEREMY ignores CATHERINE’S outstretched hand for a moment, then turns to shake rigidly.

(CONTINUED)
JEREMY
My name is JEREMY RILEY. It’s nice to meet you. (To River) And you.

RIVER
Riley? Are you related to Paul Ri-

The elevator opens.

INT. RSW SPECIAL CASES - DAY
JEREMY immediately steps into a lobby, avoiding the question. He is followed by CATHERINE and RIVER. They are called to by a receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST
Excuse me, are you three the new associates?

RIVER
That would be us.

RECEPTIONIST
Just head straight down the hall to the last office on your right. SAMANTHA’S expecting you.

JEREMY nods and begins walking immediately.

RIVER AND CATHERINE
Thank you.

RIVER and CATHERINE speed-walk to catch JEREMY.

RIVER
So, back to my question, are you related to the PAUL -

They arrive at the office, JEREMY immediately begins knocking on the office door. RIVER and CATHERINE can see SAMANTHA motion for them to enter through the glass. Catherine nudges JEREMY out of the way and opens the door.

INT. SAMANTHA’S OFFICE - DAY
The associates enter the office, standing in a straight line.

SAMANTHA
Good morning. My name is SAMANTHA HUGHES, head of the Special Cases
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA (cont’d)
department at RSF. Let me first say
that I know all the associates are
competing to keep their jobs, but
the first person to jeopardize a
case trying to one-up a coworker
will be out the door before you can
yell "objection!" Is that clear?

The associates nod their heads. SAMANTHA hands each
associate a case file as she speaks.

SAMANTHA CONT’D
Good. Let’s get started. Today
we’re preparing for a strategy
meeting with a client being sued
for copyright infringement.

CATHERINE
Are they guilty?

There is a pause. SAMANTHA looks at CATHERINE as though this
is the dumbest question in the world.

SAMANTHA
Why? Are you going to drop the case
and send the client to detention if
they are?

CATHERINE
N-no I was just...curious.

SAMANTHA
The client is being sued over
copyright infringement. We’ll be
meeting with the client, MASON
COBURN, at four. You have until two
to familiarize yourselves with the
case and bring me whatever courses
of action you believe will lead to
victory. You’ll be working in the
library.

SAMANTHA points across the hall to the library.

SAMANTHA
Any...other questions?

JEREMY tentatively raises his hand. RIVER stifles a chuckle
while SAMANTHA tries not to look surprised.
SAMANTHA CONT’D
Yes...JEREMY?

JEREMY
I’m sorry to have to ask but...what exactly does the Special Case department do?

Everyone is surprised by the question.

SAMANTHA
(To RIVER and CATHERINE)
You two, can you explain it to him?

They nod.

SAMANTHA CONT’D
Good. Then I’ll see you in several-

SAMANTHA stops as she sees BAILEY, shirtless and wheeling two suitcases walk down the hall to her office. He starts knocking on the glass.

BAILEY
SAMANTHA! I’m here. Reporting for duty drill sergeant!

SAMANTHA
Excuse me, wait here.

SAMANTHA exits. from inside the office we can see her pull BAILEY aside.

INT. RSW SPECIAL CASES - DAY
SAMANTHA follows as BAILEY leads her around the corner to his office. People poke their heads out as the two pass by.

SAMANTHA
What are you doing, BAILEY? Where’s your shirt?

BAILEY
Right inside my office, SAMANTHA, if you’ll follow me.

They arrive at his office and BAILEY opens the door in mock politeness. He follows her inside, suitcases and all.
INT. BAILEY’S OFFICE - DAY

BAILEY wheels the suitcases to the side and begins stripping down and changing into a spare suit from a closet while SAMANTHA closes the office blinds.

BAILEY
There’s no reason you have to stand if you don’t want to, SAMANTHA.

SAMANTHA
Why did you come into the office shirtless?

BAILEY
Your call sounded urgent. It must have been, since you interrupted a sacred event between newlyweds-

SAMANTHA
You were on a honeymoon for three weeks! I would have broken up with my x-husband a lot sooner if I had to spend that much time with him. And that doesn’t explain why you came back without a shirt-

BAILEY
I left the INSTANT you called. Didn’t even bother to change what I was wearing; just threw my laundry into a couple of suitcases and hopped my private jet to New York to show you my supreme dedication to this law firm.

SAMANTHA
I didn’t call to tell you that you had to be back in the office, just that I’m done covering for you when you decide to play hooky, or miss a meeting, or lose a case file. I’m. Done.

BAILEY, fully dressed, sits behind his desk.

BAILEY
SAMANTHA!

SAMANTHA
(Exasperated)
What?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BAILEY
I’ve never felt this way about any woman before.

SAMANTHA
Please. She’s your third wife.

BAILEY
And the first I’ve married for love. Surely you can understand the crazy decisions that can make one do?

SAMANTHA
I don’t care. You’re not my problem anymore.

BAILEY
Fine. But send one of those new interns in to take my laundry to the cleaners.

SAMANTHA
They’re associates, and they don’t work for you.

BAILEY
They work for the Special Case department which does work for me, it’s my firm. Send one of the infants over. I’ve got work to do.

SAMANTHA exits.

INT. SAMANTHA’S OFFICE – DAY

JEREMY stares straight ahead as the others speak to him.

RIVER
Do you really not know what the Special Case department is?

JEREMY
Afraid not.

CATHERINE
Why?

JEREMY
I got this job through a connection....but they didn’t tell me in what department I’d be working.

(Continued)
RIVER
Would that connection happen to be
Paul Riley?

JEREMY nods violently, embarrassed.

RIVER (CONT’D)
I see. Well the SC department
handles the unique or "sensitive"
cases of the firm. Cases that are
abnormal because the client needs
something special... like no
publicity or a little extra
hand-holding, or if the client is a
little bonkers. Basically a case
where there’s some kind of unusual
X-factor that requires
outside-the-box lawyering.

CATHERINE
You forgot the insanely rich. The
ones who travel primarily by
private jet and demand their own
separate department called "Special
Cases" just to fit their absurd
egos because they can afford it.

RIVER
You say that like it’s a bad thing.

CATHERINE
It is a- never mind.

RIVER
This is a corporate firm. What were
you expecting?

CATHERINE
Forget it.

JEREMY
So...basically the wealthy and the
weird.

RIVER
Yep. (Under his breath) You’ll fit
right in.

SAMANTHA bursts back through the door.

SAMANTHA
One of you needs to go to the
corner office at the opposite end

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SAMANTHA (cont’d)
of the hall and take BAILEY
WINTERS’ laundry to be cleaned. The
rest can get to work.

CATHARINE
Which one do you want to-

SAMANTHA
I don’t care, as long as somebody
does it. We’ve got a lot to do
before four...

SAMANTHA buries her head in paperwork. The associates
hesitate, before exiting.

INT. SPECIAL CASES – DAY
The associates step into the hall, befuddled.

CATHARINE
Now what?

RIVER
Flip a coin?

JEREMY
A coin only has two sides. There
are three-

RIVER
Thank you, I realized.
Rock-paper-scissors?

CATHARINE
Sure.

JEREMY
Okay.

RIVER
On shoot: Rock, paper, scissors, shoot!

They throw out their hands. JEREMY wins, causing him to jump
and grin in excitement.

JEREMY
I won! Yay, I never win this game.

RIVER looks at CATHARINE. Brief stare down.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:  

RIVER  
Rock, Paper, Scissors, shoot!  

CUT TO-  

INT. BAILEY’S OFFICE - DAY  

There’s a knock on BAILEY’S door.  

BAILEY  
Come in.  

RIVER enters, trying to hide his frustration.  

RIVER  
I’m here for the laundry.  

BAILEY  
(Without looking up)  
It’s in two bags in those suitcases.  

As RIVER unpacks and finds the bags of laundry:  

BAILEY CONT’D  
Hey, I’m doing you a favor. You’ll be able to go home on your first day and say you met BAILEY WINTERS, legal legend. Just don’t forget to tip the cleaner.  

RIVER  
(Snapping)  
I’m not a butler.  

RIVER freezes, BAILEY looks up from his work slowly.  

BAILEY  
No, you’re a servant in my castle. But unlike medieval times, nowadays even a servant can rise to become a king. So rejoice, as I will not forget this noble quest to the cleaners on my behalf.  

RIVER remains still, not sure whether to reply or leave.  

BAILEY  
You’re still here.  

RIVER exits.
INT. SPECIAL CASES LIBRARY - DAY

CATHERINE and JEREMY sit on opposite sides of a table in the library, flipping through the case file.

CATHERINE
We represent "Coburn Film Distributes", a porn manufacturer accused of copyright infringement by-

JEREMY
The Virginia Candy Company. Oh I love them! "Virginia Delight" candy bars are my favorite-

He notices CATHERINE staring.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
Sorry.

CATHERINE
The Virginia Candy Company is accusing Coburn of copyright infringement because Coburn made a series of porn parodies based on the names of popular Virginia candy. Why?

JEREMY
Copyright infringement is a serious crime-

CATHERINE
No I mean why would anyone make porn themed around c-never mind. The videos have been on sale for two years. Virginia hasn’t sued until now because they had no idea the videos existed.

JEREMY
(Shoving the case file away)
YAAAAH!

CATHERINE
What’s wrong?

CATHERINE turns the page in her case file, to reveal photos and descriptions of the porn videos within.

(CONTINUED)
JEREMY
Nothing, I just had to clear my throat.

CATHERINE
It’s just porn.

JEREMY
...Yes, yes it is just porn.
Nothing to be afraid of.

JEREMY attempts to re-open the file, find the page he was on, and immediately slams it shut.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
If you need me I’ll just be in the bathroom-

CATHERINE
What is the problem? Never seen porn before?

JEREMY
...

CATHERINE
Seriously?

JEREMY
It just seemed so icky-

CATHERINE
All I need to hear. How about you keep your file closed, and I read everything you need to know out loud?

JEREMY
Would you? That means so much.

CATHERINE
No problem...

INT. DRY CLEANERS

RIVER stands on line at a dry cleaners, holding the two bags of laundry in one hand and reading the case file in the other. People look over his shoulder and look away, disgusted.

(CONTINUED)
RIVER
Sorry, it’s just for work. I mean-

At that moment RIVER reaches the front of the line.

JESSICA
Do you work in the porn industry?

RIVER
No, my law firm just represents them.

RIVER empties out the dry-cleaning bags only to discover MOLLY’S clothing had been mixed in with BAILEY’S — polka dot boxers and lingerie galore.

JESSICA
And, apparently, you do their laundry to.

RIVER
My boss can be demanding.

JESSICA
Does he act in any of the movies?

RIVER
He’s a lawyer.

JESSICA
So he must be a great actor.

RIVER
Ah, you’ve met other lawyers.

JESSICA
Too many. (Beat) So am I taking care of all this (indicating the laundry)?

RIVER
Yes, all of it. Better safe than sorry.

JESSICA
Alright, tell your boss to come back in a week to pick them up.

RIVER
Sure. Do you mind if I ask-

(CONTINUED)
JESSICA
I’m JESSICA.

RIVER
RIVER.

JESSICA
Well, RIVER, I hope you enjoy your...work.

RIVER
So far it’s leaving me unsatisfied.

JESSICA, ignoring him, carries the laundry to the back. RIVER exits, muttering:

RIVER
Well, today can only get better, right?

INT. SPECIAL CASES LIBRARY - DAY

RIVER enters the library while CATHERINE watches something on a computer with headphones and JEREMY has his buried in a sea of books. River sits opposite CATHERINE, who takes a moment before noticing he’s there.

CATHERINE
(To River)
Hey, how was your trip to the cleaners?

RIVER
Fun. Who doesn’t enjoy explaining to strangers why they’re looking at a file of porn in the middle of the day?

CATHERINE
Mmhmm.

RIVER
What are you watching so intently?

RIVER moves around the table to the computer. We can only see the back of the computer screen and their faces. As soon as RIVER puts one of the headphones in his ear, we can hear the sound of people screaming in fake sexual ecstasy.

RIVER
Huh, it’s different than what I’d imagined from the photos.

(CONTINUED)
CATHERINE
It's a play on the "Infinitely Edible" chewing gum."Infinitely Bed-able Chewing Fun".

RIVER
(sarcastic)
Clever.

CATHERINE
This is the third one I've watched and so far except for the title of the videos there's no connection between the Virginia Candy Company and Coburn's porn parodies.

RIVER
Really? Are you sure that the whip cream and chocolate syrup he's eating off her weren't manufactured by-

CATHERINE
All edible props were bought from different companies.

RIVER
The case file said Virginia makes a candy called "Cutie Pie". Did you check to make sure they don't have any copyright-infringing pet names for each other?

CATHERINE
Yes, professor, I have done my research. I called the company and had them fax over copies of all their scripts. Have a look-see.

RIVER
I was joking, Catherine.

They take off the headphones and pause the video.

CATHERINE
Anyway, there's no connection between the Coburn videos and Virginia; no logo appearing in the background, no reference to the candy in what I've been listening to. Coburn has done absolutely nothing but exercise their first amendment rights. They're innocent.
RIVER
Not necessarily. There was a case where a porn magazine did a parody of L.L. Bean’s "Back to School Catalog" called: "L.L. Bearn’s Back to School Sex Catalog" where they took clothes that looked similar to L.L. Bean’s and put them on models that could only be described as "barely legal".

CATHERINE
Where did you learn this stuff?

RIVER
Personal research. Anyway, L.L. Bean sued the porn magazine and the court ruled against L.L. Bean but-

CATHERINE
Exactly. Free speech.

RIVER
But, the court found in favor of the porn magazine only because it was clearly making fun of L.L. Bean. A parody has to be mocking something for it to be a parody. This (indicating the computer) isn’t making fun of anything, it’s just using brand recognition and puns to sell videos. Virginia has a case.

JEREMY
(Jumping out of his chair.)
EUREKA! Oh, sorry for shouting. But I think I’ve found a solution.

JEREMY lets a grin erupt on his face and hops up and down several times in glee.

RIVER
Well, Jeremy, would you care to share what you’ve found?

JEREMY
There’s a loophole. Companies can’t wait more than a few years to prosecute someone on copyright infringement. It’s a rule called "Laches". These Virginia Sweats videos have been on the market for (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
JEREMY (cont’d)
over 2 years. We can have the whole
case dismissed on a technicality!

CATHERINE
But Virginia Sweets will just argue
that they didn’t prosecute because
they didn’t know the videos
existed.

JEREMY
Aw, who’s gonna believe that?

RIVER and CATHERINE both raise their hands.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
The point is that with this
strategy we can get the case
dismissed. No one has to go to
court, isn’t that great?

CATHERINE
I mean, if it works, I guess. But
this case is really about free
speech. We should be ready, eager
even, to take it to court.

JEREMY
Absolutely not. Who wants a trial?
With juries and talking in front of
people and sweating...

CATHERINE
Jeremy, are you afraid of going to
trial?

RIVER
I’m sure Jeremy is just pointing
out the value of getting through
this with the smallest amount of
bad press possible. Both sides
probably don’t want this to go to
court.

CATHERINE
We should still be prepared for-

RIVER
So let’s be prepared.

RIVER sits down and pulls a laptop out of his briefcase.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIVER (CONT’D)
Keep researching and have our memos ready by 2 O’clock. Samantha will pick what she likes, alright?

CATHERINE
Fine.

CATHERINE sits down to work. RIVER gives a wink to JEREMY. JEREMY smiles and buries himself back in the books. RIVER sighs and we can see him googling "famous porn parodies" online.

RIVER
(Under his breath)
It won’t be hard to outdo these two...

End of ACT 2.

ACT 3: INT. SAMANTHA’S OFFICE - DAY

SAMANTHA doesn’t look up from her work as we hear a knock.

SAMANTHA
Come in!

PAUL enters. SAMANTHA stands when she sees him.

SAMANTHA CONT’D
PAUL! Hi, I wasn’t expecting you-

PAUL
May I-

SAMANTHA
Of course.

PAUL and SAMANTHA sit.

PAUL
How are things with the Coburn case?

SAMANTHA
Good. I was just about to check in on the associates. I gave them till two to come up with strategies I’ve been planning out for weeks, just to test what they can do.

(CONTINUED)
PAUL
A sound way to break them into the job. But I want BAILEY to sit in on the meeting.

SAMANTHA
BAILEY? He hasn’t been researching this case at all. Why-

PAUL
MASON COBURN is one of the wealthiest clients we’ve had for a while, and he expects the best.

SAMANTHA
With all due respect, he’s already getting the best.

PAUL
No one doubts your skill, SAMANTHA, but BAILEY has name recognition that few others have. BAILEY can sit silently and do nothing but twiddle his thumbs the entire meeting, but he will sit in on the meeting.

SAMANTHA
I don’t-

PAUL
You think BAILEY’S a liability.

SAMANTHA
Any lawyer who hasn’t been briefed is a liability.

There is a pause. PAUL looks as though he’s thinking about whether or not to speak.

PAUL
BAILEY was your mentor, wasn’t he?

SAMANTHA
...Yes, he hired me right out of law school.

PAUL
Taught you everything you know.

SAMANTHA
A long time ago.

(CONTINUED)
PAUL
I can’t imagine you’d want your mentor to be fired from his own law firm for improper conduct, like coming into work shirtless or sending associates to do his laundry?

There is a pause. SAMANTHA tries to hide her shock.

SAMANTHA
Please, you know what Bailey’s like. No one would fire someone with that much "name recognition" over a few little stunts.

PAUL
Maybe not, but the little stunts add up. If you don’t want to see the name "WINTER’S" stripped from the firm, I suggest you let BAILEY help you out.

SAMANTHA
...Alright.

PAUL
Thank you, SAMANTHA, you’re a loyal friend.

SAMANTHA
And a vicious enemy.

PAUL
I’m sure.

PAUL gets up to leave.

PAUL CONT’D
One last question: Where has BAILEY been the last three weeks?

SAMANTHA
(Not missing a beat)
Oversees meeting with clients.

PAUL
Good. It would be horrible for the firm’s image if stories spread about named partners playing hooky for weeks in the Bahamas. Be sure you squash any rumors that come up.

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
I will.

PAUL exits. When he’s out of sight, SAMANTHA leans back in a sigh of relief. CUT TO-

INT. RSW SPECIAL CASE LIBRARY - DAY

SAMANTHA enters to find the associates on computers, taking notes, and/or buried in books. She coughs to get their attention. The associates quickly stand.

SAMANTHA
Two O’clock. What do you have for me?

RIVER nudges JEREMY, who reluctantly steps forward and reads directly from his notes.

JEREMY
There’s a technicality called the "Laches" rule which states that a company cannot wait more than 2 years to sue another company for copyright infringement. The films in question have been in circulation for more than two years. The case is therefore dismissed.

JEREMY smiles brightly, then steps back in line.

SAMANTHA
Thank you...but what if Virginia argues they didn’t sue Coburn because they had no idea the videos existed.

JEREMY steps forward again, flipping to another page in his notes. RIVER cuts him off.

RIVER
In that case it’ll depend on the judges decision. It could go either way.

SAMANTHA
Fine, anything else?

CATHERINE moves as if to speak, but RIVER cuts her off and continues speaking.

(Continued)
RIVER
Personally I think Virgina’s claim of copyright violation is ridiculous. Only an idiot would mix up Coburn’s pornography with the actual candy. Virginia’s just a bunch of greedy incompetents trying to squeeze cash out of Coburn in a settlement.

SAMANTHA
Interesting. CATHERINE, anything to add?

CATHERINE
It’s a free speech issue. Coburn Film Distributors is just continuing a long American tradition of porn parodies like "Pulp Friction" and "Forrest Hump".

SAMANTHA
What a wonderful tradition. Thank you all, I’ll take these each into consideration. Meet outside my office at 3:45.

SAMANTHA starts to exit.

SAMANTHA CONT’D
By the way, BAILEY WINTERS will be attending the meeting. It’s pointless to tell you not to be nervous, so just try not to embarrass yourselves or the firm. Most of your ideas were good. Stand by them.

SAMANTHA exits.

CATHERINE
BAILEY? Wasn’t he the guy that came into work shirtless.

JEREMY
He’s one of the most famous lawyers-

CATHERINE
That doesn’t mean he can’t be crazy-

(CONTINUED)
RIVER
Guys!

They pause to look at RIVER.

RIVER (CONT’D)
Why did she only say that "most" of our ideas were good?

JEREMY
(Matter-of-factually)
Because you didn’t have one. I found a rule, Catherine found the constitution, and you called the Virginia Candy Company "greedy incompetents" like it was a defense.

CATHERINE
JEREMY-

JEREMY
Oh! You didn’t want us to answer that. I’m so sorry.

RIVER
Forget it. How could anyone compete with the son of the great PAUL RILEY in his own law firm?

CATHERINE
RIVER, that’s way out of line.

RIVER
Is it? Do you think someone who acts like - that - will be able to argue in a courtroom? Do you think someone like you, all goody-goody and constitution waving will be able to defend evil, corporate giants and give it their all? NO!

SAMANTHA
What’s with your goddamn attitude, RIVER? We’re supposed to be a team, not a vanity exercise. If you want to spend all your time talking about how great you are, go chase ambulances-

JEREMY
PLEASE DON’T RAISE YOUR VOICES IN A LIBRARY!

(CONTINUED)
JEREMY immediately covers his mouth with both hands, looking shocked. He slinks back to his books and returns to note-taking.

SAMANTHA
The meeting’s in a few hours. Let’s just try to be ready, okay?

RIVER
Of course.

RIVER and CATHERINE move their books/notes to the far opposite ends of the table and get back to work.

INT. BAILEY’S OFFICE – DAY
We hear a knock from inside BAILEY’S office.

BAILEY
Door’s open!

SAMANTHA enters.

SAMANTHA
BAILEY, PAUL asked me to have you sit in on the COBURN meeting at four.

BAILEY
Who?

SAMANTHA
I – we have a meeting with MASON COBURN this afternoon.

BAILEY
Is that a client?

SAMANTHA
Jesus.

BAILEY
PAUL asked me to sit in on this meeting?

SAMANTHA
Yep. I told him you didn’t know anything about the case–

BAILEY
PAUL wants to rename the firm: "Riley, Riley and Riley" and thinks

(MORE)
CONTINUED:

BAILEY (cont’d)
I’m too old to still be doing this job. Why would he put me in a room with a lucrative client?

SAMANTHA
He thinks your name recognition will fill the client with confidence.

BAILEY
Well that part is true. Alright, when’s the meeting?

SAMANTHA
Four.

BAILEY
Not much time then. Give me the basics.

SAMANTHA
The client is MASON COBURN, founder of Coburn Film-

The voices fade out, and the camera zooms in on a clock in the office. We watch as the time rapidly changes to 3:40. The camera then zooms back out to SAMANTHA and BAILEY.

SAMANTHA
Got it?

BAILEY
Porn company good. Candy company bad. Technicality and First Amendment. Let’s go.

SAMANTHA
Are you sure you’re up to this?

BAILEY
Of course not, but I’m a master of improvisation. See you in the conference room.

He exits. SAMANTHA looks nervously at the ceiling.

SAMANTHA
Please let the old BAILEY show up to the meeting today.

She exits.
INT. SPECIAL CASES - DAY

The associates are gathered outside Samantha’s office. RIVER and CATHERINE face opposite directions. JEREMY fidgets in the center. SAMANTHA approaches from around the corner, nods for them to follow, and the four depart for the conference room.

INT. SPECIAL CASES CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Bailey leans on the conference table with both hands, surveying the seats as though they were filled. The associates, lead by SAMANTHA, enter.

   BAILEY
   Showtime.

   SAMANTHA
   BAILEY, can I talk to you aside for a moment?

   BAILEY
   Of course.

They step aside to whisper as the associates get seated, each laying out their own notes on the table.

   SAMANTHA
   I think it’s best if you let me do the talking.

   BAILEY
   Well it’s your case. If you think that’s the best strategy-

   SAMANTHA
   I do.

   BAILEY
   I’m a master of improvisation.

   SAMANTHA
   Still, this is my case, I’d like to see it through with as little outside influence as-

The door opens. The RECEPTIONIST holds the door open as MASON COBURN, founder of Coburn Film Distributors, enters. MASON immediately moves to shake BAILEY’S hand.

(CONTINUED)
MASON
BAILEY! How are you, it’s good to see you again so soon. We had some good nights together

BAILEY
We sure did. Take a seat. You’ve met SAMANTHA?

BAILEY looks nervously at SAMANTHA, mouths "I have no idea" and sits down, smiling. SAMANTHA and MASON sit on either side of BAILEY.

SAMANTHA
We’ve only spoken on the phone. How do you know BAILEY, Mr. COBURN?

MASON
We met a couple of months ago in the Bahamas. BAILEY told me he was a lawyer, but I didn’t know where until that PAUL fella called me up on the phone and told me he was one of your firm’s big shots.

SAMANTHA
You met in the Bahamas?

MASON
Yeah, I was visiting my little cousin who’s a teacher down there. You met her BAILEY, remember MOLLY?

BAILEY
MOLLY? Yes. Of course, your...cousin.

MASON
You might not remember her, you were pretty drunk when I first introduced you. So, let’s get to it. My company’s being sued. What do I do.

BAILEY
Simple. Tell him, SAMANTHA

SAMANTHA
We’ve got two main strategies, MR. COBURN. The first is to dismiss the case on a technicality. There’s a rule stating that companies can’t prosecute copyright claims too long... (MORE)
SAMANTHA (cont’d)
after the product in question is on the market. They waited 2 years to bring this lawsuit. We can argue they took too long to do it, get the whole thing dismissed without a trial.

MASON
Sounds perfect. What’s plan B?

SAMANTHA
Plan B is to claim that your movies are protected under the first amendment as lawful parodies of the Virginia Candy Company. No one could confuse Coburn Film Distributors for candy makers.

MASON
I like it. Where would this nation be without free speech? So what’s next?

SAMANTHA
We set up a time for a hearing with a judge who will decide whether or not to dismiss the case and go from there.

MASON
Alright. You have my number, and I’d like to get out of this paid-for-by-the-hour meeting as soon as possible.

MASON stands, followed by all of the lawyers.

MASON CONT’D
Thank you all for your work. BAILEY, it was good to see you.

BAILEY
You too, Max.

MASON
What?

BAILEY
(Coughs)
Excuse me, there was something caught in my throat. I said "you too, Mark".

(CONTINUED)
BAILEY
Mason, of course, I was just joking with you. What’s family for.

MASON
Family?

Samantha
Mr. Coburn, why don’t we discuss scheduling on the way out-

BAILEY
That night, Marty, it’s kind of fuzzy. What I do remember is that the morning after I was in love. Molly, she’s something special.

MASON
What in the hell are you talking about?

BAILEY
I went back to the Bahamas after that trip, Matthew. I made four trips in the next two months. I asked Molly to marry me. She said yes. We’ve been married for three weeks.

MASON
This is a joke, right? Some kind of sick lawyer humor?

BAILEY
I’m sorry I don’t remember you that well, Mort, I was drunk a lot that week. But surely you can understand all my thoughts being drowned out by Molly.

MASON
You married my little cousin, someone not even half your age, after only a few months?

BAILEY
Really it was just a few weeks.
MASON
You dishonorable, disgusting, pig of a man.

BAILEY
Oh, come on. You’re the CEO of a porn company, are you really going to lecture me about morals?

There is a stunned silence.

MASON
My company creates works of art. And you, sir, are no friend of mind.

MASON exits in a huff, SAMANTHA quickly follows after him.

SAMANTHA
Mr. COBURN, I’m terribly sorry. If you could just-

She exits. BAILEY turns to face the associates.

BAILEY
I thought that could have gone worse.

The associates remain silent for a moment.

JEREMY
That was inappropriate, Mr. WINTERS.

BAILEY
But at least it was honest. He would’ve found out eventually anyway.

JEREMY
Not the outburst. You married a girl half your age a few weeks after meeting her? Who wouldn’t be mad?

It’s BAILEY’S turn to stare in silent shock.

BAILEY
Who have you deluded yourself into thinking you are to believe that you can speak to BAILEY WINTERS, the most powerful lawyer in New York, with so arrogant- so thoughtless! Who are you?

(Continued)
JEREMY
My name...is Jeremy Riley. It’s nice to meet you.

BAILEY
PAUL’S son. I should have known. Arrogance and contempt must run in your family. Well let me tell you, Mr. RILEY, the heart wants what the heart wants and not you, not your dad, no one, tells me how I live my life!

BAILEY storms out of the room in a huff. JEREMY collapses into a chair, face in his hands. RIVER leans against a wall in shock. SAMANTHA puts a hand on JEREMY’S shoulder.

JEREMY
Now I’m going to be fired.

SAMANTHA
I, I’m sorry JEREMY. That was insane, that was-

RIVER
You don’t deserve to get fired, JEREMY.

JEREMY
What are you talking about? I just insulted my boss’ personal life.

RIVER
You might get fired, and there’s nothing you can do about that. But you don’t deserve it, not for holding a mirror up to the old guy’s face.

RIVER and JEREMY make eye contact.

JEREMY
Thanks, RIVER.

CATHERINE looks at RIVER and nods in thanks, then stands.

CATHERINE
Come on, both of you. Let’s head back to the library. We still work here until they tell us otherwise. Let’s start research on opposing council.
CONTINUED:

RIVER
Agreed.

JEREMY
Agreed.

They exit. End ACT 3

ACT 4: INT: SAMANTHA’S OFFICE - EVENING

SAMANTHA sits behind her desk as PAUL paces angrily in front of her.

PAUL
This is too insane to even be fiction. BAILEY married the client’s 30-something cousin? Are we enacting some kind of Greek tragedy?

SAMANTHA
I had no idea BAILEY’S wife was connected to COBURN-

PAUL
So you admit to knowing BAILEY was playing hooky the past 3 weeks with his wife?

SAMANTHA
I thought you knew-

PAUL
I told you there were rumors that needed to be squashed, I had no idea they were true. My God! He couldn’t even remember MASON’S name? I had to beg, him. Beg, me, PAUL RILEY, beg a client not to leave. I have to give you some credit, he liked your arguments enough to agree to just switching his team to another department.

SAMANTHA
I told you not to let BAILEY sit in on the meeting. Why aren’t you shouting at him?

PAUL
Oh, I will, rest assured. But not today. At the next all-partners (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
PAUL (cont’d)
meeting I’ll be bringing a vote to have BAILEY fired.

SAMANTHA
I thought you wanted this to be an opportunity for BAILEY to prove his worth to the firm?

PAUL
I did. It’s not my fault the only worth BAILEY has for this firm is his reputation as a legend. All BAILEY had to do, all you had to get him to do, was keep his mouth shut while you did the talking.

Paul finally sits. There is a momentary silence.

SAMANTHA
BAILEY is arrogant, rude, unfiltered, and yes, getting old. But he’s still smart, a good litigator.

PAUL
SAMANTHA-

SAMANTHA
No. He doesn’t deserve to be fired.

A slight pause.

PAUL
SAMANTHA, BAILEY spent three weeks honeymooning with a wife he had only met a few months before. He came in to work shirtless, and blew the meeting in the most spectacular way imaginable - and all in a day.

SAMANTHA
One day. He has plenty of good ones-

PAUL
That’s not the point. What I mean is that it’s almost impossible to think someone like BAILEY could make all those mistakes in a single day.

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA

Exactly-

PAUL

So ask yourself, is it possible, just maybe, BAILEY did it intentionally? That he actually wants to get fired instead of having to retire himself?

SAMANTHA

What? No, why would he-

PAUL

I doubt BAILEY would want to have to endure losing more and more court battles as he gets older. Maybe he wants to go out in a blaze of glory...before he becomes irrelevant.

There is a long pause.

PAUL CONT’D

I’ll leave you with that. I’m sorry things happened this way. Tell the new associates that they can be reassigned if they want to. I wouldn’t blame them if they did.

PAUL exits. SAMANTHA looks at a picture on her desk. It’s of her and BAILEY in front of the RSW building, with the words "1st Day at work" across the bottom. Cut to-

INT. SPECIAL CASES LIBRARY – EVENING

The associates sit around a table, looking forlorn.

RIVER

Hey, Catherine, if I were to hypothetically offer to smoke with each of you, would you rat me out?

JEREMY

Smoking kills you.

CATHARINE

He’s not talking about cigarettes, JEREMY. And no, I won’t rat you out. But I’m not interested.

(CONTINUED)
RIVER
And I’m guessing you don’t smoke pot, JEREMY.

JEREMY
Never tried it. I’ve heard good mostly positive reviews of it, though.

RIVER
You know, it’s your first day on the job, first day watching porn, and your first day being shouted at by a named partner. I think you’ve had enough new experiences.

SAMANTHA enters. The associates begin to stand.

SAMANTHA
Don’t, please. You’re done for today after this. I just came to apologize for what happened in the conference room today. BAILEY is a brilliant lawyer, has been all his life. What happened today didn’t make sense...

SAMANTHA shakes her head, there is a brief pause.

SAMANTHA CONT’D
PAUL RILEY wanted all of you to know that you can switch to a different department if you’d like. But I’d like to ask the three of you to stay. I can promise that you’ll get more trial experience working for me than they’ll let you have in any other department, and I personally remember what it was like having a teacher that genuinely cared about your future. If you stay, I won’t coddle you and I won’t save you from your own mistakes. But I’ll give you all the experience and skills you’ll need to make other law firms beg you to work for them even if you get fired at the end of this year. What do you say?

The associates look at each other, for a moment no one speaks. Then they look at SAMANTHA.

(CONTINUED)
CATHERINE
I’ll stay.

RIVER
Me too.

JEREMY
I...I said some things to BAILEY that I-

SAMANTHA
I don’t want to hear anything but a yes or a no from you.

JEREMY
Yes. Yes yes yes yes yes.

SAMANTHA
Alright. Get some sleep. Be in at 9AM tomorrow.

The associates get up and exit, wearily. SAMANTHA leans on a chair and takes a sigh of relief.

INT. RSW ELEVATOR - EVENING

The three associates enter the elevator. RIVER hits the button for the ground floor and JEREMY quickly pushes a different button.

RIVER
What are you-

JEREMY
I have to make a stop. Don’t wait for me.

The elevator opens on the 28th floor. JEREMY exits.

CATHERINE
What was that about?

RIVER
If I had to guess, family issues.

INT. PAUL’S OFFICE - NIGHT

PAUL stares out his office’s window onto the Manhattan skyline. We can see him press his right palm to the glass.
PAUL
This, all of this, will remember me.

Someone knocks at the door.

PAUL CONT’D
Come in.

Jeremy enters and shuts the door, quietly. After several moments PAUL turns around.

JEREMY
Dad.

PAUL
I hear you had quite the first day, JEREMY. I understand completely if you want to switch out of that department.

JEREMY
Oh, no thanks. I think I’ll be quite happy there.

PAUL
Happy? Is that why I got you this job, put you through law school, to make you happy?

JEREMY
No sir. It was to protect the family reputation.

PAUL
Rome crumbled centuries ago, but people still remember the name of Cicero, even today.

There is a pause, JEREMY shuffles uncomfortably.

JEREMY
Are you heading home soon?

PAUL
(As if the question were ridiculous)
I am home.

JEREMY hesitates a moment, then leaves.
EXT. OUTSIDE RSW OFFICE - NIGHT

RIVER and CATHERINE exit the RSW building.

RIVER
See you tomorrow.

CATHERINE
Yeah, see you.

RIVER
Do you think it will seem boring by comparison?

CATHERINE
I’m sure we’ll find some way to make it interesting.

She smiles and heads off in the opposite direction of RIVER, who smirks and walks towards his parked town car. The windows are rolled down.

DRIVER
You’re late.

RIVER
The job has long hours.

DRIVER
I was beginning to think you’d gotten killed on your walk this morning.

RIVER
No, just getting some fresh air.

RIVER gets into the back seat and takes out the marijuana from the morning as well as another baggie filled with rolling papers. He begins to roll himself a joint.

RIVER (CONT’D)
You want one?

DRIVER
Not while I’m on the job.

RIVER
Fair enough.

RIVER rolls and lights up a joint, when suddenly something outside catches his eye as the car comes to a stoplight. The camera shifts to outside the car window and we can see JESSICA, in the laundromat, folding clothes.

(CONTINUED)
RIVER (CONT’D)
Hey, excuse me while I step outside for a moment.

The locks of the back doors lock suddenly.

DRIVER
You’re not getting away with walking out of the car twice in one day. Especially not stoned, alone, at night.

RIVER bangs the window in frustration and stares into the laundromat as the light turns green and the car moves.

INT. CATHERINE’S APARTMENT - DAY

CATHERINE pushes a button on the apartment’s phone before collapsing into bed. The answering machine starts to play as the camera slowly moves to the window and cuts to the next scene.

UNCLE ABE
Hey CATHERINE, it’s ABE. If you’re hearing this, it means you survived your first day of work, congratulations. Remember this is all to pay the bills, and there’s no reason to give up on your dream. The store was pretty busy today, right around 10 there was...

INT. RILEY APARTMENT - DAY

JEREMY enters the family apartment, alone, with the lights out. He walks to the table in the center and sees a post it that reads: "Dear JEREMY, how was your first day?" There is a blank post-it beneath the first. JEREMY sits, takes off his gloves, bites his nails, and writes A single sentence on the blank post-it: "The best madhouse I’ve ever been in." He then takes his gloves and heads towards his room.

INT. BAILEY’S OFFICE - NIGHT

BAILEY sits in his office, staring out into the night from his chair. His door is open, and SAMANTHA knocks on it before entering. BAILEY turns.
SAWMANHA
Hey.

BAILEY
Rough day.

SAMANTHA
Yep.

BAILEY
I’m sorry about what happened.

SAMANTHA
It’s not your fault, I shouldn’t have let PAUL push me into asking you to join-

BAILEY
You did everything that was expected of you and more. I wanted to ask you something.

SAMANTHA
Me too.

BAILEY
Ah, you first.

SAMANTHA
Do you still want to work here?

BAILEY
What? Seriously?

SAMANTHA
It just seems like something you’d do, you know? Go out in a blaze of glory rather than slowly fade while losing case after case-

BAILEY
First off, I almost never lose. Even if I lost a hundred cases from this point on I could still say that overall I won most of my cases. Second, I built this firm. I’ve earned the right to sit in it, collect checks and hold all the glory and prestige without having to lift a finger. I’m entitled to it. And if that leaves me time to settle down, have a family on the side...that’s good too.

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
If you say so.

BAILEY
I do.

SAMANTHA
What did you want to ask me?

BAILEY
When PAUL asked you to bring me into the meeting, you said no at first, right?

SAMANTHA
Yes.

BAILEY
What changed your mind?

There is a pause.

SAMANTHA
He threatened to hold a vote with the other partners to fire you.

BAILEY
Thought so. And did he imply that he knew about where I’ve been the past three weeks?

SAMANTHA
I thought he did, but he told me he had just heard rumors-

BAILEY
And PAUL told you that meeting MASON would be the chance to show my value to the firm?

SAMANTHA
Yes, but, why are you asking-

BAILEY
Because during the meeting MASON said he got a call from PAUL telling him that I worked at this firm, the firm that MASON had just happened to hire.

SAMANTHA
You don’t think-

(CONTINUED)
BAILEY
I think PAUL would love to rename
the firm "Riley, Riley, and Riley".

SAMANTHA
PAUL sends you to a meeting that he
knows you’re not prepared for; a
meeting with a huge client that you
could completely embarrass yourself
in front of-

BAILEY
Either MASON loves us and the firm
gets a great new client, or I fail
miserably, and suddenly PAUL has a
reason to get me fired.

SAMANTHA
What should we do?

BAILEY
What I taught you how to do, and
what we do best. Win.

The camera zooms out from the office, out the office window
and opening up to the Manhattan skyline. Fade to black.

END OF PILOT.