"Madhouse" Pilot

By

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Characters (in order of appearance):

JEREMY RILEY, 25: Socially awkward but extremely intelligent. Is afraid of embarrassment and failure, works to hide his awkwardness. First year associate at Riley, Scott and Winters (RSW).

RIVER MATTHEWS, 26: Smooth, cunning, often cold, and ambitious. Values personal freedom above all. First year associate at RSW.

DRIVER, 35.

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

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. An artist supported financially by her family.

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

RECEPTIONIST, 31.

JESSICA, 27: Jaded, snarky and intelligent. Runs a local dry-cleaners.

MASON COBURN, 57: Blunt, unfiltered, prideful, and tough-as-nails. Molly’s cousin. RSW client and founder of his own porn company.

HELEN RILEY, 59: Intelligent, shy towards all but her family whom she understands better than anyone. Helps to run a local nonprofit out of the house that rarely interferes with taking care of her family. One of RSW’s first clients.
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.). He puts the fuzzy red mittens he’s wearing into a draw marked "sleep" 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 us 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?

(CONTINUED)
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)

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. Nervous?

CATHERINE
Yea.

UNCLE ABE
Don’t be. Everyone has a first day. Those big shot lawyers ain’t got nothing on you.

CATHERINE
(Taking the coffee)
Thanks, Abe.

UNCLE ABE
Abe? Who’s this Abe? My name is Uncle. And free coffee’s only for family and Presidents.

CATHERINE
(Heading for the door.)
I haven’t called you "uncle" since graduating. In high school.

(CONTINUED)
UNCLE ABE
Yeah well one of these days you’re gonna start again, or I’ll cut you off.

CATHERINE
(Exiting)
No you won’t!

EXT. NEW YORK STREET – DAY
JEREMY walks down a Manhattan street, bumping into people as he buries himself in a notebook to go over conversation notes:

JEREMY
(Occasionally writing in notes)
Remember one-word answers are okay. Where’d you go to college: Yale. You? Where are you from: The city. Unless they look foreign, then I say New York. What’s your name: Jeremy, yours? If...when they ask my name, do NOT say my last name—

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.

RIVER
Kenny.

KENNY
River.

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

RIVER
It’s been a while.

(CONTINUED)
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”, then buries his face back in his notebook.
CONTINUED:

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, name’s 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. He is occasionally distracted by his wife.

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

SAMANTHA
Bailey, it’s Samantha.

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

SAMANTHA
Oh, you retired?

BAILEY V.O
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– oh nothing honey bee, it’s just the office.

SAMANTHA
Bailey it’s been three weeks since our last talk without so much as an email from you. So unless you are changing professions to permanent honeymooner get your ass back to the office because I’m done covering for you.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: 8.

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

SAMANTHA
She’s your third wife, Bailey-

BAILEY V.O.
She’s my favorite wife, Samantha- (cutesy voice) yes you are, yes you are...

SAMANTHA
Listen, I’m done doing you special favors. If you still want to be the head of this law firm, get to New York, now.

BAILEY V.O.
Hang on, let’s talk-

SAMANTHA hangs up the phone, looking tired but satisfied. She begins to flip 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. Very hungry.

(CONTINUED)
Jeremy stands in a corner, nearly biting his gloves and smiling silently at anyone that passes. He tries to start conversations with each passerby, and each time retreats back into the corner, eventually pulling out and consulting his notebook.

Samantha V.O.
Jeremy Riley, top of his class at Yale and son of THE Paul Riley, named partner of Riley, Scott and Winters. Has an "odd" personality, whatever that means.

Catherine joins the group of associates speaking with River at the other end of the buffet table. Jeremy creeps towards them. Everyone turns at the sound of clapping. Paul Riley, whom everyone in the room recognizes, continues to clap until he has everyone's attention. As his speech starts, the voice fades so that we can only hear the associates whispering:

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, we run-

River
Motivational speeches: there's no escaping them. There's probably a penguin in the North Pole that lectures explorers on the privilege of being frozen 365 days a year.

Jeremy
There are no Penguins in the North Pole. They live in the Antarctic.

River
(Sarcastic)
Really? Thank you for correcting me on that essential piece of-

Paul
Is there a problem, gentleman?

The room falls silent and everyone turns to look at River and Jeremy.

River
No, sir.

River turns to look at Jeremy, who is frozen in fear.
JEREMY
(visibly nervous)
N-no...sir.

PAUL
Good. I was just getting to the part about firing most of you. We give 20 law school grads one year each year to prove their abilities in the courtroom and in getting clients, then cut you down to the five best performers. We do this for the good of the firm, not individuals. Which is the attitude you will adopt should you wish to continue working here. Am I understood?

The crowd nods.

PAUL
Then I wish you the best among you the best of luck. (Opening a list)
When I call your name report to the department and partner 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 first River only looks at what he considers competition. At any point where JEREMY is not talking, he stands fixed, staring at the door.

CATHERINE
(To River)
Hi, I’m Catherine. And you are-

RIVER
River, nice to meet you.

CATHERINE
Thanks. Did you already know-
RIVER
(Indicating JEREMY)
Him? No. Still working on a first
impression.

CATHERINE
Hi...um...

She pauses, expecting JEREMY to turn and introduce himself.

CATHERINE CONT’D
I’m Catherine. And you are?

JEREMY
(Sounding rehearsed)
Hello. My name is Jeremy and it is
good-

The elevator opens.

INT. RSW SPECIAL CASES - DAY

JEREMY (CONT’D)
-to meet you.

JEREMY immediately steps into a lobby, followed by CATHERINE and RIVER. They are immediately called to by a receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST
Excuse me, are you three the new associates?

JEREMY
Yes, we are.

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 exchange looks, then speed-walk to catch JEREMY.

CATHERINE
(To RIVER)
He seems eager.

(CONTINUED)
I guess you could call it that.

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 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
No, I’m sorry. I was just...curious.

SAMANTHA
The client is a company being sued over copyright infringement. We’ll be meeting with their founder,

(MORE)
SAMANTHA (cont’d)
MASTON COBURN, at four. You have until two to familiarize yourselves with the case and bring me whatever strategies you come up with. 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
I have a spare inside my office. If you would be kind enough to follow me, Samantha.

She follows as BAILEY leads her to his office. 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 are you 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 anymore time with him. And that still 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. Sure the customs agents looked at me funny, but nothing could stop me from-

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
I didn’t call to tell you that you had to be back in the office, Bailey, 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?

BAILEY
I’ve never felt this way about anyone before.

SAMANTHA
Please. She’s your third wife.

BAILEY
Not her, you.

SAMANTHA
(Flustered)
Excuse me?

BAILEY
I feel as though I should kill you with my bare hands for separating a sacred ritual between two lovers - yet something about you forces me to exercise restraint. To forgive you.

SAMANTHA
I’ve known you for twenty years to your wife’s two months. You trained me and made me your second chair in almost every case we worked together-

BAILEY
That’s it! You remind me of me when I was younger.

SAMANTHA
Well, thank you Bailey. If you’ll excuse me I’ve got three new (MORE)
SAMANTHA (cont’d)
associates with the image of you,
shirtless, hopelessly ingrained
into their memory-

BAILEY
Oh, speaking of which, send one of
them in to take my laundry to the
cleaners.

SAMANTHA
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.

CATHERINE
Was that...Bailey Winters?

JEREMY
Yes. Bailey Winters. Founder and
named partner of Riley, Sco-

RIVER
We get it. Do you really not know
what the Special Case department
is?

JEREMY
Afraid not.

CATHERINE
How?...Why?

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

RIVER
Would that connection happen to be
Paul Riley?

(CONTINUED)
JEREMY nods violently, embarrassed.

JEREMY
He’s my father. He comes on a bit strong at times.

RIVER
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 TLC, 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" because "Rich despots needing extra hand-holding for their egos" wasn’t a catchy department title.

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. Sort of like me.

RIVER
(Under his breath) Exactly like you.

SAMANTHA bursts back through the door.
SAMANTHA
One of you needs to go to the corner office at the opposite end of the hall and take BAILEY WINTERS’ laundry to be cleaned. The rest can get to work.

CATHERINE
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.

CATHERINE
Now what?

RIVER
Flip a coin?

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

RIVER
Thank you—again—for correcting me. Rock-paper-scissors?

JEREMY
I love that game.

CATHERINE
Sure.

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. Yes!

RIVER looks at CATHERINE. Brief stare down.

(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 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
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)
YAAAH!

CATHERINE
What’s wrong?

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

JEREMY
Nothing, I just had to clear my throat.

(CONTINUED)
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
(Completely serious.)
Would you? That would be such a
huge help.

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.

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

(CONTINUED)
At that moment RIVER reaches the front of the line. JESSICA (27, jaded, snarky and intelligent) stands behind the counter, peering over into RIVER’s case file.

JESSICA
Do you work in the porn industry?

RIVER
No, I’m a lawyer. I just represent 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 also 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
Just tell your boss to come back in a week to pick them up.

RIVER
Sure. Do you mind if I ask-

JESSICA
I’m Jessica.
RIVER

River.

JESSICA

Well, River, I hope you enjoy your...work.

RIVER

So far it’s leaving me a little less than satisfied.

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

RIVER

How else can today get worse?

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’s so interesting?

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.
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 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
Virginia makes a candy called "Cutie Pie". Did you check to make sure they don’t use any copyright-infringing pet names?

CATHERINE
I’m not a first-year law student anymore, I know how to do 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
As I was saying: Coburn has done absolutely nothing with these videos but exercise their first amendment rights. They’re innocent. Parody, not plagiarism.
RIVER
Not necessarily...

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. These Virginia Sweats videos have been on the market for over 2 years.

RIVER
Smart. The case can get dismissed without a trial.

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?

CATHERINE immediately raises her hand, followed by RIVER.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
But we can get the case dismissed!

RIVER
But only if it works.

CATHERINE
Exactly. Besides, this case is about free speech. It should be discussed in public, before a judge-

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

(CONTINUED)
CATHERINE
Jeremy, if you're scared of going to trial, why are you even-

RIVER
(Trying to keep them from making a scene)
I’m sure Jeremy is just pointing out the value of getting through this with the smallest amount of bad press possible.

CATHERINE
Either way, we should still be prepared if we have to-

RIVER
So let’s be prepared.

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

RIVER (CONT’D)
Keep researching and have our memos ready by 2 O’clock. Samantha will decide what we do next, okay?

CATHERINE
Fine. But stop acting like you’re already a partner.

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)
Someone has to be the adult.

JEREMY hears this, and looks up to stare at RIVER.

RIVER (CONT’D)
Something wrong?

JEREMY shakes his head. RIVER stares at his computer screen. JEREMY flips to an empty page in his notebook and quickly scribbles: "Witty Comebacks - For RIVER" on top. He writes a first line: "Real adults can play Rock-Paper Scissors", then quickly crosses it off and stops himself from biting his fingers. FADE OUT.

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.

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 (MORE) (CONTINUED)
PAUL (cont’d)
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.

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 "Winters" stripped from
the firm, I suggest you let Bailey
help you out.

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
...Alright.

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

SAMANTHA
And a vicious enemy.

PAUL
Of course!

PAUL gets up to leave.

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

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

PAUL
Good. Our clients would hate to hear about named partners spending their money to play hooky for weeks in the Bahamas. Be sure you squash any rumors that come up.

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 as though handing down a verdict.

JEREMY
There’s a technicality called the "Laches" rule which states that a (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
JEREMY (cont’d)
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
Thanks. Work on making it shorter and something the client will understand. Anything else?

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

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.

SAMANTHA
(Unimpressed)
Catherine, anything to add?

CATHERINE
It’s a free speech issue. Coburn’s videos are protected under the first amendment as parodies.

SAMANTHA
How reasonable and obvious. Thank you all, I’m sure you’ve been working hard. I’ll keep these ideas in 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. Your ideas made sense. Know them inside and out for the meeting.

SAMANTHA exits.

(CONTINUED)
CATHERINE
Bailey? Why are we bringing in the
guy that came into work shirtless.

JEREMY
He is one of the most famous
lawyers-

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

RIVER
Guys!

They pause to look at RIVER.

RIVER (CONT’D)
What did she mean by "adequate"?

JEREMY
(Matter-of-factually)
I gave too much unintelligible
exposition, Catherine stated the
obvious, and you didn’t actually
have an idea. I found a rule,
Catherine found the constitution,
and you called the Virginia Candy
Company "greedy incompetents" like
that’s a defense.

CATHERINE
Jeremy-

JEREMY
(non-mocking)
Oh! I’m sorry. I thought you wanted
me to answer that.

RIVER
Forget it. How could anyone compete
for a job 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

(MORE)
RIVER (cont’d)
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!

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

JEREMY (CONT’D)
We all have to be ready in a few
hours. Let’s just do what Samantha
said, okay?

CATHERINE
Sure.

RIVER (without responding) 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.

BAILEY
Who?

SAMANTHA
I - we have a meeting with Mason
Coburn, founder of Coburn–

(CONTINUED)
BAILEY
Is that a client?

SAMANTHA
Jesus.

BAILEY
I prefer to be called Bailey. Paul asked me to sit in on this meeting?

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

BAILEY
As if that matters. I can argue anything. When’s the meeting?

SAMANTHA
Four.

BAILEY
Next week?

SAMANTHA
This afternoon.

BAILEY
What?

SAMANTHA
I told you this is silly-

BAILEY
I can handle it. Just throw me the basics.

SAMANTHA
You sure?

BAILEY
No, but what’s life without a good challenge? This’ll feel just like old times together, right?

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

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.

(CONTINUED)
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.

CATHERINE
May I ask what we’re going to say during the meeting?

SAMANTHA
Nothing. I’ve been working on the case for weeks. If all goes well, I’ll brief the client and we’ll be done in half and hour.

RIVER
Then what was the point of everything we did–

SAMANTHA
To test you and teach you. Just like this meeting.

They arrive at the conference room. CUT TO-
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.

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.

(CONTINUED)
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 was working on an art project 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 that night I 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.

SAMANTHA nods to JEREMY, who, not comprehending, sits silently until RIVER kicks him under the table and motions for him to speak. JEREMY picks up his notes for a moment, then sets them down and tries to look confident:

JEREMY
There’s a rule called "Laches" which says that companies can’t prosecute copyright claims after the product - your videos - have been on the market for a long time. We can argue that since they sat on their hands for two years the whole (MORE)
JEREMY (cont’d)
thing should dismissed without a trial.

MASON
Sounds perfect. Is there a plan B?

SAMANTHA
Plan B is to claim that the your movies are protected under the first amendment as lawful parodies of the Virginia Candy Company.

SAMANTHA nods to RIVER, who, after glancing at CATHERINE, nods with her in unison and begins:

RIVER
The only things connecting your movies to Virginia Sweets are the titles. We (indicating CATHERINE and himself) couldn’t find anything that would make anyone old enough to buy your videos confuse them with candy bars.

CATHERINE
Furthermore, your videos follow the great American tradition of porn parodies like "Pulp Friction" and "Forrest Hump"; a celebration of first amendment rights.

SAMANTHA
If it did go to trial this would not just be our legal defense but also PR tactic.

MASON
Call them the "Candy Communists" or something. After all, where would this nation be without free speech? I like it. 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.

MASON
(Indignant)
My first name is Mason.

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-

MASON
Just a minute-

BAILEY
That night, Marty, that you introduced me to Molly? It’s kind of fuzzy. What I do remember is that the morning after I was in lust. And 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 to see your cousin over the next two months. I asked Molly to (MORE)
BAILEY (cont’d)
marry me. She said yes. Isn’t that great! We’ve been married for three weeks. And you and I are cousins!

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. Drunk on love –

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

BAILEY
I would’ve married her the day we met if it didn’t seem imprudent.

MASON
Imprudent?! 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 protected by the first amendment. And you, sir, are no friend of mine.

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
Well I’m glad I got that off my chest.

The associates remain silent for a moment.
JEREMY
That was inappropriate, Mr. Winters.

CATHERINE and RIVER stare at JEREMY in shock.

BAILEY
But 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 does that? Of course Mr. Coburn would be angry-

It’s BAILEY’S turn to stare in silent shock. JEREMY quickly realizes he’s said too much.

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?

JEREMY
Me? I-I’m...Jeremy Riley. It’s nice to meet you.

BAILEY
Oh, of course - 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.

CATHERINE
Jeremy, that was insane. What made you speak up like-

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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

JEREMY
What are you talking about? I just insulted my boss, and not very professionally either.

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

RIVER and JEREMY make eye contact.

JEREMY
...Thanks, River.

JEREMY suddenly perks back up.

JEREMY
Let’s head back to the library. We still work here until they tell us otherwise. We can...start research on opposing council.

CATHERINE
Sure.

RIVER
What else could we do?

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—

(CONTINUED)
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 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.

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.
He gets up to leave.

PAUL CONT’D
And let me just say, if I hear one word about my son doing laundry, or anything else as ridiculous or embarassing-

SAMANTHA
To the firm, or to you-

PAUL
They are one and the same. Don’t let that happen to him. I would hate to jeopordize this wonderful friendship of ours.

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, when today’s over, either of you want a ride home and a smoke?

JEREMY
Smoking kills you.

CATHERINE
He’s not talking about cigarettes, Jeremy. Though he is asking us to commit a crime. I won’t rat you out, but, I think I’ll head home alone.

RIVER
Fine. And I’m guessing you don’t smoke pot, Jeremy?

JEREMY
Never tried it. Though I’ve heard only positive reviews of it. But considering its been my first day on the job, first day watching porn, and first day being shouted at by a named partner, I think I’ve had enough new experiences for one day.
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
Forget it. You all don’t work for Bailey, you work for me. And 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 remember what it was like to have 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 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.

CATHERINE
I’ll stay.

RIVER
Me too.

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

SAMANTHA
Forget him. All I want to hear out of your mouth is a yes or a no.

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
    Mr. Riley.

    PAUL
    I hear you had quite the first day, Jeremy. I’m sorry if it ended less than wonderfully-

(CONTINUED)
JEREMY
Oh, it wasn’t that bad. I met some interesting people, worked a fun case.

PAUL
Fun? Is that why I got you this job, put you through law school, so you could have fun?

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
Why did you put me in the Special Case department?

PAUL
I thought you’d do better with cases you felt closer to.

JEREMY
Rich people—

PAUL
Strangers, outcasts, freaks, and yes, the rich. A place even for the family’s youngest lawyer.

There is another pause. JEREMY looks down, uncomfortable.

JEREMY
Will you be 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
    Some day.

    CATHERINE
    Yeah, do you think tomorrow will seem boring by comparison?

    RIVER
    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. 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.

SAMANTHA
Hey.

BAILEY
Rough day.

SAMANTHA
Yep.

BAILEY
I’m sorry about what happened.

(CONTINUED)
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.

SAMANTHA
If you say so.

BAILEY
I do.

SAMANTHA
What did you want to ask me?

(CONTINUED)
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-

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-

(CONTINUED)
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. CUT TO-

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." Suddenly a door opens and footsteps are heard. JEREMY turns to look, and sees HELEN RILEY, his mother.

HELEN
Jeremy? You’re home late.

JEREMY
Mrs. Riley - I’m-

HELEN
You’re father’s not here, Jeremy. Call me mom, or at least Helen, if you can manage that.

JEREMY
Helen. Work went late because of an incident with a client-

HELEN
Oh the reason doesn’t matter. I’ve raised enough child lawyers to know that at a certain age I’ll never see them again. You’ve just reached that age.

She at the table and takes JEREMY’s note.

(CONTINUED)
HELEN CONT’D
A madhouse? That’s one way to describe it...You know you don’t have to do this, Jeremy.

JEREMY
I do-

HELEN
No, you don’t-

JEREMY
I want to, and I have to-

HELEN
You’re not going to get any closer to your father by working in the same law firm-

JEREMY
I don’t want to get closer. I want to beat him.

HELEN
Beat him?

JEREMY
Before he gets old. Before he retires. He won’t treat me any differently for being good or even great at my job. He won’t acknowledge anything I do until I throw undeniable proof on his desk that I’m better than him. Then he won’t see the freak, the nail-biter, the child who needs protecting-

HELEN
I know how much you want to, but that’s impossible, Jeremy. You know he won’t give up his pride any more than I could give up loving my kids-

JEREMY
I have to-

The door opens, PAUL, silent, enters.

PAUL
Helen.

(CONTINUED)
HELEN
Paulie.

PAUL bites his lip for a moment, then crosses and kisses HELEN on her cheek.

PAUL
I’ll be in bed.

HELEN
I’ll join you in a minute.

PAUL exits to their bedroom. HELEN raises an eyebrow at JEREMY.

HELEN
I just want you to find something that will make you happy, Jeremy.

JEREMY
I know. But I think I’ll end up liking it there. Like living in Alcatraz and commuting to Bellevue.

HELEN
Like what?

JEREMY
I’ll tell you about it.

HELEN
Alright, but give me all the details. I’d like a chance to keep your father waiting.

JEREMY
Well when I first got in, a bunch of associates were gathered—

The voice fades as the scene fades/zooms out.

END OF PILOT.