"Madhouse" Pilot

By

Zachary Kitahata Sporn
Characters:

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.

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.

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.

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

MASON COBURN, 59: Blunt, unfiltered, prideful, and tough-as-nails. Molly’s cousin. RSW client and founder of his own porn company.

DRIVER, 27. Tries to appear calm and professional but has a temper. Hides his bluntness and honesty by speaking as little as possible.

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


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 examines one of many "To Do" lists taped to the wall opposite his bed. We see it is titled "Getting ready for work". We see a short montage of him brushing teeth, getting dressed, etc. while captions of the actions are shown during each one in JEREMY’S handwriting. Each caption receives a check mark before moving on to the next one. As the camera moves with JEREMY we see other crumpled pieces of paper/pages on walls. Some are other to-do lists, some are random facts, some contain advice, etc. He exits his room after grabbing a notebook by the door.
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 flips open his notebook to the first blank page and copies down:

JEREMY
Do...parents...proud.

JEREMY smiles, sighs, underlines the note and closes his book. He begins walking towards the door as we CUT TO-

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIVER (cont’d)
you on your head when you were
little? (Pause)

DRIVER
Both.

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.

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

DRIVER CONT’D
Mrs. Matthews said to never let you
out of sight.

RIVER
I think I’m old enough to walk
through Manhattan without my
mother’s protection.

DRIVER
She said it was to protect everyone
else from YOU.

RIVER
Hah. That, I believe.

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? You’re on the wrong side of retirement if you think you can get away without calling me by my proper title.

CATHERINE
Thank you, UNCLE Abe.

UNCLE ABE
That’s better.

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)
...one-word answers are okay.
Where’d you go to college:
Yale. You? Where are you from:

(CONTINUED)
The city. Unless they look foreign, then I say New York. What’s your name: Jeremy, yours? Do NOT say 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 remains relaxed.

KENNY
River.

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

.

RIVER
Kenny.

KENNY
Oh. Sorry about that, I wouldn’t want to ruin your fancy clothes.

RIVER
Missed you too.

KENNY
You could’ve dropped by. Is the rich boy 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’d like something to celebrate my first day on the job.

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

(CONTINUED)
The usual price?

KENNY
Yup. Just bail me out when you get to be a big-shot.

RIVER
Will do.

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.

JEREMY
(To himself)
Hello, my name is Jeremy, Jeremy Riley. (Sighs) 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. Hi, I’m Jeremy. Last name? Oh, I don’t have one. I don’t have parents. I was born in a lab. 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 blood-sucking-

SAMANTHA
Bailey, it’s Samantha.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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

SAMANTHA
Oh, you retired?

BAILEY
No, I-

SAMANTHA
Because the new associates start today-

BAILEY
Samantha-

SAMANTHA
and you’re supposed to be here to greet them-

BAILEY V.O
Samantha- I got married!

A pause.

SAMANTHA
What?

BAILEY V.O
The reason I’ve been out of the office – I fell in love! I know this is short notice-

SAMANTHA
You’ve been gone two weeks, when did you-

BAILEY V.O
Three nights ago. Ceremony on the beach. You’re the first to know!

SAMANTHA
I- I- we can talk about this. When you get to the office. Today. I’m done covering for you.

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

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
This would be what, your third wife, Bailey?

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

SAMANTHA
Honeymoon’s over. Get your wrinkled ass back to New York, now.

BAILEY V.O.
Hang on, let’s talk—

SAMANTHA hangs up the phone, looking extremely distressed. She looks at a picture of herself and BAILEY in front of the firm’s entrance and slams it face down on her desk. She shakes herself out of it and 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. Well if she’s in it for the money she’ll fit right in.
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. I don’t blame him. I get annoyed with Paul after 10 minutes. You couldn’t pay me to live with him.

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.

CATHERINE laughs, JEREMY takes a deep breath before whispering loudly:

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?

(CONTINUED)
The room falls silent and everyone turns to look at RIVER and JEREMY.

RIVER
No, sir.

RIVER turns to look at JEREMY, who hesitates, visibly nervous, then changes to a military-style posture.

JEREMY
No sir.

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

The crowd nods.

PAUL
Then I wish 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-

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIVER
River, nice to meet you.

CATHERINE
Thanks. Did you two already know-

RIVER
(Indicating JEREMY)
No. We’re still working on a first impression.

CATHERINE
Hi...um...

She pauses, expecting JEREMY to turn and introduce himself.

CATHERINE CONT’D
I’m Catherine.

There’s a pause. JEREMY suddenly realizes he should respond.

JEREMY
(Sounding rehearsed)
Hello! My name is Jeremy. It’s 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, who share a "what just happened?" look. They are immediately called to by a receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST
Excuse me, are you three the new associates?

JEREMY
Yes-

RECEPTIONIST
Straight down the hall- last office on your right. Miss Hughes is expecting you.

JEREMY nods and begins walking immediately.

(CONTINUED)
RIVER AND CATHERINE
Thank you.

RIVER and CATHERINE exchange looks, then speed-walk to catch JEREMY.

CATHERINE
(To RIVER)
He seems eager.

RIVER
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 taps JEREMY on the shoulder. JEREMY stops knocking and CATHERINE opens the door letting JEREMY pass through first.

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 RSW. Now I know you’re competing to keep your 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 preping 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 was just...no Ma’am.

SAMANTHA
We’ll be meeting with the company founder, Mason 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. 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.

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
You must be joking.

SAMANTHA exits. from inside the office we can BAILEY beckon her to follow him.
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
Let’s take a walk, 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-

SAMANTHA
You got MARRIED!?

BAILEY
Yes. Which is why I assumed your call was so urgent. To interrupt a sacred time between newlyweds-

SAMANTHA
You went from playing hooky to finding true love?! 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. 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 miss a meeting, or lose a case file, or get married! I’m done.

INT. SAMANTHA’S OFFICE – DAY
JEREMY stares straight ahead as the others speak to him.

CATHERINE
Was that...Bailey Winters?

JEREMY
Yep. Founder and named partner of Riley, Sco-

RIVER
We know. But why don’t you know anything about the Special Case department?

JEREMY
I got this job through a ...family connection. But they didn’t tell me anything about which department-

RIVER
And your connection is Paul Riley?

JEREMY nods violently, embarrassed.

JEREMY
He’s my...dad.

INT. BAILEY’S OFFICE – DAY
BAILEY, fully dressed, sits behind his desk.

BAILEY
Samantha!

SAMANTHA
(Exasperated)
What?

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

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
Please. This would be your what, third wife?

BAILEY
Fourth. I don’t believe in annulment.

SAMANTHA
(Exasperated)
How did you meet this girl?

BAILEY
She was doing some graduate research on Carribean-

SAMANTHA
She’s a grad student?

BAILEY
Theater and anthropology double major-

SAMANTHA
Has she lost all her baby teeth?

BAILEY
I don’t appreciate your tone towards my wife.

SAMANTHA
Bailey, she’s a walking divorce suit.

BAILEY
Not a chance. We’re soul mates, Samantha.

SAMANTHA
Oh like you’ve never said that to someone-

There is an awkward pause. SAMANTHA chooses her next words carefully.

SAMANTHA CONT’D
You are worth a lot of money, including the firm’s money. If she files for divorce she could take-

BAILEY
There’s no way-
CONTINUED:

SAMANTHA
Did you tell her what you do before or after getting married? God, does her family even know about-

BAILEY
You’re jealous.

SAMANTHA
I’m trying to protect this firm and you-

BAILEY
I don’t need your protection, Samantha. We’re done here. Send one of your new associates 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, seeing as it’s my firm. Send one of the infants over. I’ve got work to do.

SAMANTHA exits.

INT. SAMANTHA’S OFFICE – DAY

RIVER
Well what Daddy-

CATHERINE
Paul Riley-

RIVER
didn’t tell you is that the SC department handles the "sensitive" cases of the firm. Cases where the client either needs something extra like no publicity...or is a little crazy.

CATHERINE
Insanely rich crazies. Jet-owners that demand their own separate department called "Special Cases" because "Rich despots needing extra hand-holding for their egos" wasn’t a catchy department title.

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

CATHERINE
It is a- never mind.

RIVER
What else were you expecting at a corporate firm?

CATHERINE
Forget it.

JEREMY
Ah. So that’s why Mr. Riley always called it "the Madhouse".

CATHERINE
You call your dad-

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’s - Mr. Winters’ - laundry to be cleaned. The rest - get to work.

CATHERINE
Which one do you want to-

SAMANTHA
I don’t care, as long as somebody does it.

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-

(CONTINUED)
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
Yes! Winner!

JEREMY tries to high-five CATHERINE, she just stares until he backs off. RIVER looks at CATHERINE. Brief stare down.

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
Be sure to tell them there are "delicates" mixed in.
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 rejoice, I will not forget this noble and dangerous guest you take on behalf of your sovereign.

RIVER remains still as BAILEY chuckles to himself, 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.

JEREMY
Who would base porn off of the most delicious candy in-
CATHERINE
(Like reading a shopping list)
If you can think it, there’s porn of it. The videos have been on sale for two years. Virginia didn’t sue until now because they had no clue 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.

CATHERINE
It’s just porn.

JEREMY
...Yes, yes it is just porn.
Nothing scary or disgusting...

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
(Joking)
What’s the problem? Never seen porn?

JEREMY
Once, long ago, when my college roommate thought I wasn’t looking.

CATHERINE
That’s...disturbing.

JEREMY
It just seemed so icky-

(CONTINUED)
CATHERINE
Already T-M-I. How ’bout you keep your file closed, and I’ll read everything you need to know out loud?

JEREMY
(Completely serious.)
Do you mind?

CATHERINE
No, I love reading cheap pornos at 10 AM...

JEREMY looks as though he’s trying to decide if she’s joking. CATHERINE ignores this, flipping to a page.

CATHERINE CONT’D
(Sounding bored.)
Film #1: "Caramel Desire", opens on three nude virgins bathing-

CATHERINE looks up to notice JEREMY looking serious and attentive while taking notes.

CATHERINE CONT’D
In the mythic "Caramel River"-

CUT TO-

INT. BUS - DAY
RIVER sits on a bus, two bags of laundry between his legs. He has the case file open and is examining it as the bus stops and people begin to file on. One of the passengers, a NUN, sits down next to RIVER. She looks away, disgusted.

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

The NUN grips a small crucifix necklace and begins to recite the Lord’s Prayer.

NUN
Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be-

RIVER
I’m sorry. It’s for work I’m not-

The NUN prays louder. People on the bus begin to turn and stare.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

NUN
-thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

RIVER
Fine. Have it your way.

As the NUN continues, RIVER flips to a page in the case file and begins reading, loudly.

NUN
-on Earth as it is in heaven.

RIVER (SIMULTANEOUSLY)
(With dramatic flair)
"Oh Michael, this lollipop is so delicious."

NUN
Give us this day our daily bread-

RIVER (SIMULTANEOUSLY)
"Why don’t you try some of my whipped cream?"

The shouting escalates. A family of tourists starts to take photos and videos while other passengers stare.

NUN
(Shouting)
And lead us not into temptation!

RIVER (SIMULTANEOUSLY)
"And suck the cherry on top-"

NUN
But deliver us from evil!

The NUN snatches the case file out of RIVER’S hand and slips it out the bus window.

RIVER
Hey- hey! What the hell! You

NUN
(Indoor voice, completely calm.)
For thine is the power, and the glory-

RIVER, furious, grabs the laundry bags and rushes off the bus after the case file.

(CONTINUED)
RIVER
I’d worry more about hell if I wasn’t already living it.

RIVER motions to the bus driver, who lets him out.

NUN
Amen.

A few people on the bus near the nun start clapping. The family of tourists snap more pictures as out the window we see RIVER running after the case file, blowing in the wind.

INT. SPECIAL CASES LIBRARY - DAY

CATHERINE watches something on a computer with headphones and JEREMY has his buried in a sea of books. Suddenly JEREMY jumps out of his chair:

JEREMY
(Jumping out of his chair.)
EUREKA! Oh, (to others in the library) sorry. I found a solution!

JEREMY lets a grin erupt on his face and strikes an eccentric win-pose.

CATHERINE
...well, what-

JEREMY
A loophole! Companies can’t wait more than a few years to prosecute someone on copyright infringement. Coburn’s candy videos have been on the market for over 2 years.

CATHERINE
Smart. But won’t Virginia Candy 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.
INT. BUS - DAY

RIVER, looking tired, now without the laundry bags, enters and half-collapses into the seat nearest the door. He pulls out the case file and begins to read. RIVER jerks around as he realizes that there are two kids, around ten, standing on the chair behind him and reading the case file.

KID 1:
Whatcha readin?

KID 2:
What’s a "cunn-in-in-iligus?"

RIVER
Shouldn’t you both be with your mother?

KID 1:
She’s driving the bus.

KID 2:
Hi mom!

The BUS DRIVER waves back and glances at them with her rearview mirror as they stop at a light.

BUS DRIVER:
Kids, don’t annoy the nice man.

KID 1:
But mom, he’s reading about naked-

RIVER
THIS IS MY STOP.

RIVER gets up and moves towards the door.

BUS DRIVER:
We’re in the middle of the road.

RIVER
I see an empty cab two lanes to the right.

RIVER pulls out a 20 and presses it into the BUS DRIVER’S hand.

RIVER (CONT’D)
Just forget I ever came on.

The BUS DRIVER takes the money and opens the door. RIVER rushes out as the bus doors close.
INT. SPECIAL CASES LIBRARY - DAY

JEREMY and CATHERINE argue as RIVER enters, unseen.

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

CATHERINE
We shouldn’t be trying to. This is about free speech. It should be decided in court-

JEREMY
I hate free speech. I have it, use it, and all it does is embarrass me or get me into trouble-

RIVER
Now, now children! How many times have I told you to play nicely while I run errands-

CATHERINE
Excuse me? Who are you calling-

RIVER
Sorry, sorry! I’ve just had enough of ten-year-olds for one day. What I miss?

JEREMY
(Excited)
I found a loophole that could get us out of trial altogether-

CATHERINE
(Serious)
And I think we should be looking at the first amendment-

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

CATHERINE
Wow, thanks for listening. Guess you figured everything out while pretending to be a maid-

RIVER
(Ignoring her.)
The case is pretty straightforward.

(CONTINUED)
Catherine rolls her eyes and gets back to work. Jeremy looks as though he’d like to say something to River, but instead flips to a page in his notebook that says "Witty comebacks" on top. He writes at the first available space: "Now now, children. Play nice." Jeremy laughs. The others look at him. Jeremy’s smile fades and looks incredibly serious as he continues to write: "I’ve had enough of ten-year-olds..." Fade out.

End 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-

Paul
I want Bailey to sit in on the Coburn meeting. (A beat)

Samantha
Bailey? He hasn’t been on 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.

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

PAUL
No one doubts your skill, Samantha. Bailey has name recognition that few others have. He doesn’t have to do anything more than twiddle his thumbs, but he will be there.

SAMANTHA
I don’t-

PAUL
You think Bailey’s a liability.

SAMANTHA
Who doesn’t?

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
The firm can’t afford to fire him.

PAUL
His little stunts add up.
SAMANTHA
Bailey has too much "name recognition."

PAUL
Which is why it would be catastrophic for our image if that name became associated with behavior-

SAMANTHA
Alright. I’ll do it.

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

SAMANTHA
And a vicious enemy.

PAUL
You don’t have to convince me.

PAUL gets up to leave.

PAUL CONT’D
By the way, where has Bailey been the last three weeks?

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

PAUL
Hmm. Then I guess the rumors I’d heard about Bailey spending weeks in the Bahamas on company money with some new mistress.

SAMANTHA
Nope. Not a mistress.

PAUL
Good to hear.

PAUL exits. When he’s out of sight, SAMANTHA leans back in a sigh of relief.
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, and SAMANTHA hand SAMANTHA a page or two of notes. JEREMY hands over a stack of at least 15 pages.

    SAMANTHA
    Oh my.

    JEREMY
    I included some past rulings and relevant-

    SAMANTHA
    Is there a short version?

The associates glance at each other, uncertain. No one wants to step forward.

    SAMANTHA CONT’D
    Pretend I’m not a lawyer. Pretend I’m a wealthy client with a short attention span. You’ve got one sentence to explain, clearly, why I need your help before I take my money to the firm across the street.

JEREMY steps forward, taking a deep breath.

    JEREMY
    The "Laches" rule states that a company can’t sue another after 2 years-

    SAMANTHA
    Next.

    CATHERINE
    Mr. Coburn, your case is the latest in a series of attacks on First Amendment rights-

    SAMANTHA
    I don’t give a shit. I’m being sued. I don’t have time to listen to first amendment whatever.

(CONTINUED)
RIVER
Mr. Coburn, ever wonder why porn parodies like "Forest Hump" and "Pulp Friction" don’t get sued? It’s because they’re parodies, protected under the first amendment. That’s all we need—

SAMANTHA
Better. "Pulp Friction". Funny. Did you make that up?

RIVER
Nope.

SAMANTHA
Good researching. You three have to understand—

JEREMY runs back to a table, grabs his notebook, and prepares to write down what SAMANTHA says.

SAMANTHA
—clients aren’t lawyers. They won’t understand a word you say if you speak in technicalities or flowery speeches. Meet me outside my office at 3:45. But I’ve got to say—

SAMANTHA flips through the Associates’ notes.

SAMANTHA CONT’D
This isn’t half bad for your first day.

SAMANTHA exits, JEREMY finishes taking notes.

RIVER
Well that went well.

CATHERINE
Easy for you to say.

RIVER
Hey, she said we all didn’t do half bad—

CATHERINE
We all didn’t spend half the day going to the dry cleaners, kiss ass.
RIVER
What do you think this job is, Catherine? We don’t write motivational speeches. We argue for a living.

JEREMY
(Reading aloud)
Guys, stop being ten-year-olds.

JEREMY smiles. The other two look at him, angry. JEREMY looks through is notes for what to say next, not finding any, he shuts the book.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
River’s right. Samantha was impressed. Let’s just get ready for the meeting.

CATHERINE
Fine.

She sits back down to work in a huff. RIVER rolls his eyes and goes to work at the other side of the library. JEREMY looks both ways, shrugs, and sits down to work at the nearest desk.

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-  

BAILEY
Is that a client?

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
Jesus.

BAILEY
I prefer to be called Bailey. But that name sounds familiar- I know! I met him while I was away. Nice guy. Beautiful singing voice while drunk.

SAMANTHA
You mean you met him-

BAILEY
In the Bahamas, just before meeting Molly. 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 I've skipped by on charm and good looks before. And the client already likes me.

SAMANTHA
Alright. Mason Coburn, founder of Coburn Film Distributers-

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, First Amendment. Let’s go.

He exits. SAMANTHA looks nervously at the ceiling.

SAMANTHA
Please let the old Bailey show up 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
What do you want us to say during the meeting?

SAMANTHA
Nothing. I forgot to tell you three, but Bailey Winters will be sitting in on this meeting.

RIVER
You forgot that your boss-

SAMANTHA
No, I forgot to tell the day-one associates because I have bigger things to- the point is, Bailey will probably do most of the talking (under her breath) while I do damage control.

CATHERINE
C’mon, we can handle it.

SAMANTHA
I’m glad you’re confident, but-
JEREMY
I’ve cut my description down to 500 words!

RIVER
How else are we supposed to learn how to talk to a client?

CATHERINE
Exactly.

RIVER
And we’ve got the living legend Bailey Johnson himself backing us up.

SAMANTHA
(Under her breath)
That’s exactly what I’m worried about...Alright. But you three pay attention to my signals. First sign of trouble, you let me and...Bai-Mr. Johnson take over.

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, 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 you should let the four of us do the talking.

BAILEY
You’re benching me for three kids—

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
Who have more than an hour of prep, yes.

BAILEY
Well if you think that’s best-

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.

BAILEY
It sure is. You’ve met Samantha?

MASON
Only on the phone. I travel a lot, scout exotic locations for my movies. I like a hands-on approach to my work.

RIVER snickers and JEREMY utters a muffled "eww", CATHERINE nudges both of them and SAMANTHA shoots all three a look.

MASON CONT’D
This is the first chance I’ve had to sit and discuss my predicament. If I had known that my drinking buddy-

MASON slaps BAILEY on the back, BAILEY smiles uncomfortably.

MASON CONT’D
was THE Bailey Winters, I would’ve signed on immediately. I figured the named partner of a firm would’ve been an uptight, elitest, greedy prick.

BAILEY
Well we’ve got those here too.

MASON
Ha. I also got a call from my daughter - she was spending time in the islands too - saying she’d met you.

(CONTINUED)
BAILEY
Your daughter?

MASON
Molly! The absolute most precious thing in the world to me.

BAILEY
(Nervous)
You’re Molly’s— and she said nice things—

MASON
She said you were just about the sweetest man she’d ever met and I’d be a fool not to hire you and your firm. And on that subject, my company’s being sued. What do I do?

BAILEY
(Thinking nervously)
Simple. Tell him, Samantha.

SAMANTHA
(Also worried by this revelation)
We’ve got two main strategies, MR. Coburn.

SAMANTHA turns and nods to JEREMY, who, not comprehending, sits silently until CATHERINE 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 technicality...

INT. PAUL’S OFFICE – DAY

PAUL stands in his office, getting ready to head out. His SECRETARY comes in, setting some papers down on his desk.

PAUL
Lucille, I have to step out of the office a moment. But I need you to do something for me— discreetly.

SECRETARY
Yes, Mr. Riley.

(CONTINUED)
PAUL
Head down to Special Cases—there’s a strategy meeting going on in their conference room. Page me as soon as someone leaves the meeting.

SECRETARY
Yes sir.

PAUL
Thank you.

CUT TO-

INT. SPECIAL CASES CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

MASON
Alright! I get the picture. If they wanted to sue me they shouldn’t have waited two years.

JEREMY
Yeah, good thing your movies were so awful.

There is a sudden silence.

MASON
What...did you just say to me, boy?

JEREMY
I mean, if people had actually bought them, Virginia Candy would’ve found out about them sooner and sued-

SAMANTHA
Mr. Coburn-

MASON
My movies are works of art.

JEREMY
Eh, they’re actually kind of gross.

SAMANTHA (SIMULTANEOUSLY)
If we could get back to the case-

MASON
You bring a man in here and insult his life work-

(Continued)
CATHERINE
I love your movies, Mr. Coburn.

RIVER
I watch "Candy Sutra" every night before going to bed.

MASON
-and expect to get paid-

BAILEY
Mason!
The room stands still.

MASON
Bailey-

BAILEY
My office. Let’s take a walk.

BAILEY guides MASON out of the room while turning to give an "I got this" pose to SAMANTHA and the associates.

JEREMY
I’m so-

SAMANTHA
Don’t.

CATHERINE
Should we go after them-

SAMANTHA
You three don’t need to do anything. Go wait in the library.

SAMANTHA begins packing files to leave.

SAMANTHA CONT’D
I’ll let you know when you can go home for the day.

SAMANTHA exits. The associates sit in stunned silence.

END ACT 3.
ACT 4: INT. BAILEY’S OFFICE – DAY

MASON is seated in front of BAILEY’S desk as BAILEY pours himself a glass of scotch. Just as BAILEY finishes–

    MASON
    You even remember what brand of scotch I drink.

BAILEY stops himself from downing the scotch to hand it to MASON.

    BAILEY
    Of course.

BAILEY hands MASON the glass and pours himself another.

    BAILEY CONT’D
    Mason–

    MASON
    Bailey I can’t work with people that don’t respect me–

    BAILEY
    Horse shit. You didn’t hire us to be your company’s fan club. You hired us because we know how to beat a lawsuit better than anybody. Am I right?

    MASON
    Yes–

    BAILEY
    So let us to our job, Mason, we’ve got this locked up.

There is a pause. MASON looks at BAILEY, seemingly reassured.

    MASON
    You’re right.

They both take a big sip of scotch.

    BAILEY
    So, who told you I was "THE" Bailey Winters, not just some guy in a bar?
EXT. NEW YORK PAYPHONE - DAY

We see PAUL dialing the number on a payphone across the street from the RSF building. It rings a moment. We do not hear the voice on the other end.

PAUL
Hello? Molly?...Yes, yes he just got in...I’ll let you know how it goes...You’ll get your money, don’t worry. You’re sure he doesn’t suspect anything? Good. Call you again soon.

PAUL hangs up, glances around suspiciously once, then walks calmly back towards the RSW building.

INT. BAILEY’S OFFICE - DAY

BAILEY just finishes his glass of scotch, and begins to pour himself another.

MASON
To be honest, I wasn’t so sure about hiring Samantha over the phone. But when Paul told me you were THAT Bailey, how could I refuse?

BAILEY
Glad to be of service.

BAILEY begins to sip his second scotch, visibly lost in thought.

BAILEY CONT’D
Isn’t that what family’s for?

MASON
Excuse me?

BAILEY
I know no one likes in-laws. But for us, I think it can bring us closer-

MASON
What the hell are you talking about?

There’s a pause. BAILEY has an uncomprehending look as he tries to decipher MASON’S suprise.

(CONTINUED)
BAILEY
Molly didn’t tell you?

MASON
Tell me what?

INT. RSW SPECIAL CASES - DAY
SAMANTHA stops outside BAILEY’s office. She can’t hear inside the office, and can only see BAILEY’S face. Next to her is PAUL’S SECRETARY, holding a cup of coffee. After looking inside for a moment SAMANTHA notices the SECRETARY.

SAMANTHA
Hello.

SECRETARY
Hi.

SAMANTHA
Aren’t you Mr. Riley’s secretary?

SECRETARY
Yes, I am.

SAMANTHA
What are you doing here?

SECRETARY
Coffee break.

SAMANTHA
Ah-

SAMANTHA turns back to look into the office, where she sees movement.

INT. BAILEY’S OFFICE - DAY

MASON
You did WHAT with my daughter?

BAILEY
(Taking another sip of scotch.)
Married her. I assumed she’d told you-

MASON
You’re shitting me.

(CONTINUED)
BAILEY
"You’d be a fool not to hire Bailey". She told you what a great guy I was. Molly and I were made for each other!

BAILEY moves from behind his desk to kneel in front of MASON, head bowed.

BAILEY CONT’D
Mason Coburn, I’d like to take this moment to ask for your daughter’s hand in marriage...retroactively.

MASON
You wrinkled bastard!

BAILEY
Hey, that’s totally uncalled for. Why can’t you just be happy for Molly and me...Dad?

MASON
Dad?! That’s it, I’m getting the hell out of here...

INT. RSW SPECIAL CASES - DAY

SAMANTHA stands outside, staring into BAILEY’S office looking nervous. We can see PAUL approach as his SECRETARY motions for PAUL to look into BAILEY’S office.

PAUL
Samantha?

SAMANTHA
Paul! What are you doing--

MASON burts out of BAILEY’S office, followed by BAILEY.

BAILEY
Mason, please--

MASON
Don’t you dare speak to me. I don’t ever want to see your face- or this lawfirm--

SAMANTHA
Mr. Coburn, what’s--

MASON points at BAILEY

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

MASON
this son of a bitch. This isn’t a law firm, this is an asylum run by the patients. Good day, to all of you. You’ll be hearing from my lawyers.

MASON storms off in a huff. PAUL glares at BAILEY and SAMANTHA, furious.

End Act 3.

INT. RSW SPECIAL CASE LIBRARY - DAY

RIVER
You should write this whole situation down, Jeremy, under "things not to tell a client."

JEREMY pulls out his notebook and begins to write, then stops when CATHERINE says:

CATHERINE
He was being sarcastic. Come on, River, it’s his first day.

RIVER
Of life?

CATHERINE
Stop-

RIVER
No, seriously. Because I’m pretty sure that not insulting someone’s life’s work is something they teach in Kindergarten.

CATHERINE
I have had it with your attitude.

RIVER
Likewise.

CUT TO-
INT. SAMANTHA’S OFFICE – DAY

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 20-something daughter? Are we enacting some kind of Greek tragedy?

SAMANTHA
I had no idea Bailey’s wife was Coburn’s daughter-

PAUL
But you did know that Bailey spent the last few weeks getting married without telling anyone-

SAMANTHA
I found out this morning and why aren’t you shouting at Bailey?

PAUL
Oh, I will, rest assured. At the next all-partners meeting I’ll bring a vote to have Bailey removed.

SAMANTHA
Hah, now you show your true colors. When are you going to stop being jealous of Bailey-

PAUL
Jealous of that gasbag? He couldn’t even keep his mouth shut for one strategy meeting-

SAMANTHA
He’s always been a better litigator. That’s why he went to trial while you counted the books and schmoozed with clients-

PAUL
That doesn’t make him a better-

SAMANTHA
No, but he doesn’t deserve to be fired.

(CONTINUED)
A slight pause.

PAUL
He came in to work shirtless, he married a girl, he blew one of the biggest clients we’ve had in-

SAMANTHA
One bad day-

PAUL
Years of bad days that never end!

PAUL gets up to leave.

PAUL CONT’D
I will not let Bailey drag my legacy down with his. And you are not to let my son do anything as demeaning as wash Bailey’s shirts.

SAMANTHA
And if Bailey orders me-

PAUL
Figure it out. I would hate to jeopardize this wonderful friendship of ours.

PAUL exits. SAMANTHA carefully flips upright the photo she had slammed on her desk at the start of the episode. We get a better look: 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. RSW SPECIAL CASE LIBRARY - DAY

CATHERINE and RIVER remain pitched in a heated argument. JEREMY watches, afraid to interrupt.

CATHERINE
People make mistakes, River-

RIVER
(Indicating JEREMY)
Why are you coddling him? He screwed up-

CATHERINE
We can be a team without insulting each other. We can be a team by standing united-
RIVER
Even when Samantha fires all of us in an hour?

A pause.

CATHERINE
She wouldn’t do that.

RIVER
You sure?

CATHERINE
(To JEREMY)
You just had to open your mouth—

JEREMY
ENOUGH!

Another pause.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
I’m sorry I screwed up. I did. And River’s right, they might fire all of us. It might be the end of our careers.

RIVER
How uplifting.

JEREMY
I can hand in my resignation now.

CATHERINE
What?

RIVER
(Casually)
Hmm. That could work.

JEREMY
Neither of you did anything wrong. This way, at least, they won’t fire all of us.

CATHERINE
(Conflicted)
It’s only fair. No one wanted this, but, what else can we do? Thank you, Jeremy, I—we won’t forget this. If you ever need—
RIVER
Oh for the love of— don’t resign, Jeremy.

CATHARINE
River!

JEREMY
Why—

RIVER
If I have to spend the year working with a bitch willing to throw either of us under the bus I’ll go crazy.

CATHARINE
Please! I bet you don’t have to worry about rent money in your life—

RIVER
No, I don’t. So if I wrote you a check for 100 thousand dollars would you resign?

CATHARINE
What? No I—

RIVER
Why not?

CATHARINE
Because this job is about more than money—

RIVER
Really?

CATHARINE
It’s about learning the weaknesses of corporate giants and how to protect the innocent—

RIVER
So prove it. What’s matters most to you?

Silence. CATHARINE thinks hard, as RIVER reclines deeper into his chair. JEREMY gets up and begins pacing back and forth.
CATHERINE
(Sincere)
You’re right. I shouldn’t have— I’m sorry, Jeremy.

JEREMY
Apology accepted.

CATHERINE
Just like that—

JEREMY
I’ve been through worse. And you were willing to read me porn.

CATHERINE
Thanks...?

SAMANTHA
Ahem!

The associates all turn to see SAMANTHA standing next to them.

JEREMY
Samantha!

CATHERINE
How long have you been standing—

SAMANTHA
Long enough. You three stuck together (looking at CATHERINE) in the end. That’s enough of a lesson for day one. I know today wasn’t ideal. Tomorrow will probably be boring by comparison, but I promise you’ll learn how to do the job, if I have to beat it into each of you.

SAMANTHA starts to leave. She cringes as JEREMY asks:

JEREMY
Did Bailey—

SAMANTHA
We lost the client. It turns out that today you three were the best lawyers in the conference room.

A beat. The associates show a mix of pride and disappointment.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SAMANTHA CONT’D
But there’ll be others. Tomorrow, 9 AM. Welcome to the Madhouse.

SAMANTHA exits. The associates turn to look at each other. They stand and start to exit.

JEREMY
See you tomorrow.

CATHERINE
Yeah, see ya.

RIVER nods his head towards the others. RIVER and CATHERINE head for the elevator. JEREMY follows at first, then hesitates.

RIVER
You coming?

JEREMY
I’ll get the next one.

CATHERINE
There’s room-

JEREMY
I’ve got something to take care of. Family business.

The elevator door closes. CUT TO-

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
It’s over. I wanted to ask you something.

SAMANTHA
Shoot.

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

SAMANTHA
Yes.

BAILEY
What changed your mind?

SAMANTHA
He threatened to fire you.

BAILEY
As if he had the spine. But why was he at my office the moment Mason stormed out?

Samantha thinks for a moment.

SAMANTHA
His secretary...she was there the whole time, watching.

SAMANTHA turns away, suddenly deep in thought.

BAILEY
It was Paul who told Mason that I was THE Bailey Winters-

SAMANTHA
Paul lures Mason into hiring the law firm by offering you as his lawyer-

BAILEY
And sets me up for failure at the same time.

(CONTINUED)
SAMANTHA
But how did Paul even know that you and Mason had met, or that you had married his daughter, and that she hadn’t even told Mason you two were married-

BAILEY
Paul would’ve had to have someone there, following me and sending back information, setting up...everything. I need to have a chat with my wife.

SAMANTHA
You don’t think she and Paul-

BAILEY
I think Paul would love to rename the firm "Riley, Riley, and Riley".

SAMANTHA
What should we do?

BAILEY
What I taught you to do best - win.

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.

PAUL CONT’D
Jeremy. I hear you had quite the first day

JEREMY
Yeah. Met some interesting people, learned some things, worked a fun case.

(CONTINUED)
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
People remember the name of Cicero,
even centuries after Rome crumbled.

There is a pause, JEREMY shuffles uncomfortably.

JEREMY
Good point, Da-

PAUL levels JEREMY a glare.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
Mr. Riley.

There is another pause. JEREMY looks down, uncomfortable.

JEREMY
You heading home soon?

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

PAUL sits and begins sorting through some papers on his
desk. JEREMY hesitates a moment, then moves into the
hallway, slumping against a wall.

JEREMY
Me too, Dad.

JEREMY begins to walk forward as we CUT TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT.