

NEXT GENERATION

ORIGINAL PILOT

Written By: _____

WGAE #I263509

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TEASER

1 INT. HEALTH CLUB - FINANCIAL DISTRICT BOSTON - MIDDAY *
SPRING(DAY 1)

Modern, upscale gym populated by busy executives. Current, popular music. PATRICE MARKS, (45) is an extremely fit, tightly wound attorney with a commanding presence. She performs repetitions of a strenuous step-up move. Her male Trainer, KYLE LOEFFLER (28), attentive, monitors her, keeps an eye on her two cell phones.

KYLE
(shouts)
Just two more!

Patrice motions "not yet" and continues to the precise beat until song ends. Kyle is ready with fresh towel, bottled water.

KYLE (CONT'D)
(admirer)
You're intense today! Even for you?

PATRICE
They're extending Equity
Partnership invitations later.

KYLE
But you're already a Senior
Partner.

PATRICE
(focused)
I want this.

CELL PHONE
Ring.

Kyle retrieves phone. Patrice looks at caller name, waits.

CELL PHONE (CONT'D)
Ring. Ring.

PATRICE
(into phone)
Yes, Lila?

Patrice listens.

PATRICE (CONT'D)
(crisp)
Larry's office? Not a conference
room?
(MORE)

PATRICE (CONT'D)

(beat)

No. Not in 15. I'll be there in an hour.

Patrice hands phone to Kyle. Her expression reveals nothing. She crosses her fingers.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

(to Kyle)

You and I still have 10 minutes - what's next?

KYLE

So cool.

Kyle motions to stretching area. He and Patrice head in that direction.

MONTAGE

2 INT. HEALTH CLUB - ENTRANCE TO LOCKER ROOM - A LITTLE LATER
Patrice enters, brisk but does not hurry.

INT. HEALTH CLUB - LOCKER ROOM

Patrice showers, dresses in elegant, professional attire, applies make-up. She is pleased with her reflection and exits.

END MONTAGE

3 INT. HEALTH CLUB - FRONT DESK - MOMENTS LATER
Kyle talks with OTHER TRAINER. Patrice passes by. Kyle stares after her.

OTHER TRAINER

Dude. That'll never happen.

KYLE

I'd follow that woman anywhere.

Kyle gazes in Patrice's direction. She heads out of the Club.

4 EXT. HEALTH CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Patrice gets into a taxi. She sits back, closes her eyes, allows herself a small smile of anticipation.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

*

MONTAGE

5 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - BOSTON - MOMENTS LATER

Patrice enters the building.

6 INT. IMPRESSIVE LOBBY

Patrice strides across to elevator.

7 INT. ELEVATOR

Patrice rides up to high floor.

8 INT. LAW FIRM

Patrice walks past large, elegant reception area of well-established law firm, nods to various employees.

END MONTAGE

9 INT. - MANAGING PARTNER'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

LARRY FRIEDMAN, (55), distinguished, stands behind his desk, girds himself for the meeting.

Patrice enters.

Larry, authoritative, gestures for her to sit.

Patrice sits, becomes aware the mood is not what she expected.

Larry hands Patrice a legal document. Curt, he motions for her to read. Patrice's eyes flicker. She stands, looks directly at Larry.

PATRICE

(cold)

Well, then, Larry.

Larry stares back.

Patrice skims document. Slight, internalized panic. Composed, she opens her mouth to speak.

Larry holds up his hand.

LARRY

(furious but steady)

Stop, Patrice. Do not say a word.

Now -

PATRICE

(interrupts, sharp)

I did not "steal" money. Jody Shulman wanted me to have it. I can defend against any claims her heirs make against us.

LARRY

No. They found your paper trail. One million dollars belonging to Mrs. Shulman, our client--

Larry glances at document.

LARRY (CONT'D)

"a frail, vulnerable, woman who completely trusted the firm" and you, Patrice. And who gave to you her broad Power of Attorney--

PATRICE

Larry, you are overreacting. I have the right to--

LARRY

(louder, measured, leans forward)

Shut the fuck up. Her estate came after us, not you. We settled and gave them an amount to go far away - which you will repay within 30 days. God, Patrice. We paid you half a million a year. Wasn't that enough for you?

Patrice has involuntary reaction to "enough" but she remains staring straight into Larry's eyes. She starts to argue.

Larry shakes his head.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(lower)

Listen carefully: you committed a felony. I know, BFD. But, as we both know, what's much worse is there are so many Professional Rule violations here that you would lose your license and you would be raped, bloody and ruined --anywhere you went.

Patrice realizes she has been caught but refuses to back down.

PATRICE

I will not allow you to deprive me -

LARRY

Game over. But, if you really want to stand there fencing with me, try to remember your husband. If Terry ever wants to practice real estate law again --escrows filled with clients' money...Bar Counsel will be way up his ass --by his association with you.

Larry clears his throat, hands Patrice a folder.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(calmer)

It's Friday. You have the weekend to review the Termination Agreement but the provisions are non negotiable. And trust me, we covered ourselves.

Larry sits down, leans back.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(quiet)

Why, Patrice?

Patrice thinks through her options, concludes there is no way out. She sits on edge of chair.

PATRICE

(soft but clear)

90 days not 30. And I'll sign right now.

10 INT. LAW FIRM HALL - SOME MOMENTS LATER

MONTAGE

Patrice strides through the firm, her mannerisms exactly as before. She passes by her office, looks in at photographs of her wedding, children - evenly lined up in contemporary silver frames on an immaculate desk.

11 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - SOME MOMENTS LATER

VALET brings Patrice sports car. Polite interaction.

Patrice reaches for "top down" but retracts her hand. She drives away.

12 EXT. MARKS HOME - WEALTHY SUBURB - ABOUT AN HOUR LATER
Patrice drives up to large, landscaped house, 3 car garage.

13 INT. MARKS HOME - FRONT HALLWAY- MOMENTS LATER
Contemporary design, sleek, minimalist decor, art. Nothing is out of place. Patrice looks up the staircase, judges if anyone is home. She slips off her heels, goes up. Her crisp appearance now reveals signs of stress.

14 INT. MARKS HOME - UPSTAIRS HALL - CONTINUOUS
Patrice enters her bedroom.

15 INT. MASTER BEDROOM SUITE BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS
Patrice closes the door, slumps down, erupts with emotion, curls up, cries.

END MONTAGE

16 INT. MARKS HOME - RYNN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS
RYNN MARKS, (16), is tall, slim, focused, like her mother. Decor of room reflects her single minded passion for TV. Rynn is absorbed on laptop, wears earphones. Rynn thinks she hears a noise. She looks up for a second, resumes her work.

17 EXT. STREET AND MARKS DRIVEWAY - ABOUT AN HOUR LATER
Luxury SUV approaches MARKS HOME, enters driveway.

18 INT. SUV
TERRY MARKS, (46), fit, boyish is in driver's seat and JOHN MARKS, (17), good natured, cool teenage vibe, is in passenger seat. They return from driving range.

Terry drives. John texts.

TERRY
Fun, huh?

JOHN
(polite, does not look up)
Awesome, Dad.

Terry opens garage door by remote. A sliver of PATRICE'S car is visible.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Hey, Mom's home already?

TERRY
(disinterest)
I guess.

19 INT. MARKS' KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Terry and John walk through gleaming, hi-tech kitchen.

TERRY
Are you going out with SLOANE or
eating here?

JOHN
We'll probably hang out later but
sure, I'll eat here. Can we have
sushi?

TERRY
Sure.

Terry and John exit kitchen in different directions.

20 INT. MASTER BEDROOM SUITE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Patrice wears old Harvard Law sweatshirt, gym tights. She
washes face. She crosses into the bedroom.

21 INT. MASTER BEDROOM SUITE BEDROOM

Patrice enters from bathroom.

Terry enters from hallway.

TERRY
You OK?

Patrice shakes her head "no" and sinks into a chair. The long
standing tension between them is palatable.

PATRICE
(dazed)
They fired me. I have to pay them
back the \$1M in 90 days.

Terry is in shock. It is not clear how much he knows or what
he is feeling.

TERRY
Patrice, what the hell did you do?
And start at the beginning.

PATRICE
(cold)
And just when would that be?

Terry and Patrice stare at each other.

TO BE CONTINUED...