

FADE IN:

EXT. 880 FREEWAY, SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA - DAWN

Cars speed during morning commute. 1/2 hour before sunrise.

INT. 2017 TESLA MODEL S - DAWN

TABITHA LARSEN, late 40s, high-tech executive, checks in as usual with her top accounts. A man screams over the cell.

ANGRY MALE VOICE (V.O.)
God damn it, T. Being a loyal
customer for 15 fuckin' years
should count for something. I
shouldn't have to...

TABITHA
(calmly, confidently)
Ron, take it easy, take it easy.
Gimme a minute.

She puts Ron on hold. Initiates voice command: "CALL BRAD"

Traffic jam up ahead on left most lane. She moves two lanes over, comfortably maintains speed.

Brad picks up.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Ron Sacknitz is pissed as hell.
Where is his DLX shipment?

BRAD (V.O.)
First, you're not my boss, T, and
second, I just got this promotion
to Senior VP of Operations.

Tabitha rolls her eyes. He's on a MALE POWER TRIP.

BRAD (V.O.)
I need to huddle with my staff.
Maybe we're short on parts. Call me
in an hour.

He hangs up on her. Tabitha shakes her head. The off-ramp to the San Mateo Bridge, her exit, is up ahead.

Suddenly, incoming call from "BROOKHAVEN". She picks up, keeping her customer, Ron, still on hold.

TABITHA
What's wrong, Angie?

It's ANGIE, her mother's PCA (patient care assistant).

She slows down. Moves to exit lane.

ANGIE (V.O.)
She insists on seeing you. Won't
eat. Won't take a bath.

TABITHA
Damn it.

Takes the off-ramp.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Tell her I'll stop by later.

ANGIE (V.O.)
When? She'll ask...you know HER.

She quickly scrolls through her calendar. Full of meetings.

TABITHA
Say 5:30...no, make it 6:30.

Hangs up with Angie. Gets back on Ron's call.

RON (V.O.)
What the hell is going on, T?

TABITHA
Ron, the shipment will be there by
next Wednesday. I promise.

RON (V.O.)
I've got a lot on the line here. If
you want Gideon to look good for
this merger, you gotta make me look
good.

The San Mateo bridge is now fully in her view. She clutches
her steering wheel tight.

TABITHA
(distracted)
I know. I know.

RON (V.O.)
If you come through on this, I
promise to send more business your
way.

TABITHA
(still distracted)
OK. OK.

Her gaze is fixed on the bridge. Can't move a muscle.

RON (V.O.)
And Zach would be foolish not to
make you CEO when he leaves...

The word "CEO" jolts her, but it is too late. The Tesla...

EXT. SAN MATEO BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

...cruises onto the bridge. An expanse of dark blue water on both sides. Water as far as the eye can see.

INT. TELSIA - CONTINUOUS

Hangs up with Ron. Sits up.

INTERCUT TESLA/SAN MATEO BRIDGE

Tabitha clutches the steering wheel harder, her nails now cutting into the leather. Keeps her stare dead ahead, refusing to even look at the water.

Nervously recites her favorite Catholic prayer:

TABITHA
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord
is with thee...

MEMORY FLASH: A young girl swims, gasps for air.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Blessed art thou amongst women...

The young girl sinks underwater, flails in panic.

Tabitha unknowingly swerves into the middle lane.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
And blessed is the fruit of thy
womb...

The young girl is now an INFANT BABY, plunged underwater in a baptism ritual. The baby starts to CRY OUT...

HONK!!! A Porsche almost rear ends the Tesla. She jerks her wheel, SLAMS the brakes, pulls over all the way to the right shoulder, and stops the car.

She GASPS for air, as if coughing out water from her lungs.

A pick up truck slows down and pulls up next to the Tesla.

PISSED OFF TRUCK DRIVER
You rich bitch. What the fuck?

The driver keeps going. Tabitha's whole body shakes.

She fishes inside her designer Italian tote, takes out a fancy lipstick tube, pulls out top to reveal her SECRET PILL STASH. Swallows two pills with coffee.

RING! She STARES at the name of caller, GULPS. Lets it ring.

Grabs a letter-size envelope from glove compartment, presses it tightly against her chest.

Plops her head on the steering wheel, starts sobbing, as phone continues to ring...and ring...

The Tesla now sits on bridge next to a long line of cars stuck in rush hour. The morning sun kisses the horizon.

TITLE CREDITS: TABITHA DROWNING

EXT. PARKING LOT, GIDEON COMMUNICATIONS - MORNING

Modern tech complex with multiple glass-storied buildings.

Only a few parked cars. Too early for most folks to come into work, but not for Tabitha.

Prominent bumper sticker on back of Tesla: "Hillary Clinton 2016: It's Time for a Woman President"

INT. TESLA - MORNING

Tabitha takes a breath, then furiously texts Brad: *"You wanna tell Z you screwed up a \$20B merger cause you needed a staff meeting about a shipment? Good luck with that."*

She puts lipstick back in tote, the envelope back in glove compartment. Checks face in mirror. Still red, flushed.

EXT. GIDEON COMPANY ENTRANCE - MORNING

Tabitha wears her Wednesday uniform - a dark pantsuit with a mustard blouse for a pop of color, and comfortable heels. Swipes company badge.

INT. COMPANY LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

WAYNE, the attendant, is at his usual post.

WAYNE
Good morning, Ms. Larsen.

She looks down at her watch to avoid eye contact.

TABITHA
Sorry...running late.

INT. WOMEN'S RESTROOM - CONTINUOUS

She takes a few deep calming breaths. Massages the tightness in her right shoulder. Stands sideways, checks herself out in the mirror. Reapplies makeup, fixes hair.

Ready. Badass Executive. Get Set. Go.

INT. MARKETING DEPT CUBICLE AREA - MORNING

Tabitha's senior manager, thirty-three year old REGGIE TURNER, sits at his desk typing on the computer.

TABITHA
Trying to beat me to the office?

Reggie rises from his chair, startled.

REGGIE
Uh...it's new hire orientation day.

TABITHA
(checking her watch)
Right, right...

She gets back to the conversation.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
You remind me a lot of me...I mean
back when I started at Gideon.

Tabitha resumes walking towards her office.

REGGIE (O.S.)
Any word on Northrop?

TABITHA
(her voice trailing)
Patience, patience...

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TABITHA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

She stops at SHELLIE's desk.

Shellie, early 60s, is the best executive assistant in the business. Organized, attentive to detail, knows how to manage up. An absolute asset to Tabitha.

Tabitha takes out cell from her inner jacket pocket, scrolls through her calendar again.

TABITHA
Who's ST at 4pm?

SHELLIE
Steve Turnbull, the new editor at TechDigest magazine. There are rumors floating about the Apollo merger and he wants a statement.

TABITHA
How the hell did that leak out?

SHELLIE
I don't know, but he was insistent and I know you wouldn't want me to say no to the press.

TABITHA
(looking down at phone)
Did Zach call?

SHELLIE
About the Northrop proposal?

TABITHA
How did you know I was gonna ask about...?

SHELLIE (CONT'D)
(handing her a smoothie)
You're batting 3-0. You will win Northrop. I'm sure of it.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
(waving the phone)
How about tomorrow you schedule me some nap time?

Shellie responds with a sly smile.

Tabitha is about to go in, but suddenly realizes...

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I almost forgot...call Claire's school and tell them she's gonna take the bus today. Just remembered Norm can't pick her up. He has a VIP client flying in from Boston.

She pauses, her mind racing with to-do lists.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Then call Michelle Golding and see if she can pick up Claire and take her to the dance recital tonight. She owes me a favor for that PTA luncheon I covered for her last week. I'll just meet them there.

INT. TABITHA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tabitha plops everything on her desk, sinks back in her chair, gazes at a wall of photos and awards.

Takes a big sip of her kale smoothie. Squeezes stress ball.

One photo catches her eye: her on a podium, with a HANDSOME MAN standing behind her, applauding. The caption below reads, *"Tabitha Larsen: Female Executive of the Year."*

Tabitha smiles, checks her voicemail - a message from "MANNY." She grips the phone hard, presses play and listens.

MANNY (V.O.)

Tabbie, I have a shoot in Bay Area next week. I would love to see you. Just to catch up for old times sa...

A LOUD KNOCK. Tabitha is startled, hits DELETE on her voicemail a second before...

ZACH

Not schmoozing with a headhunter, are you, Tabbie?

It's the handsome man from the photo. ZACH DONAHUE. Early 50's. Snug polo shirt. Trendy sneakers. Gideon's CEO.

TABITHA
(blushing)
No, of course not. Don't be silly.
Come in.

Zach grins and saunters in, drops a folder on meeting table on the way to a hoops game set up in the corner.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
(squeezing stress ball)
What are you doing here so early?

ZACH
The Northrop account is worth
\$200M/yr. If we win it, there's no
way Apollo's Board would say no to
the merger with us...

He shoots the foam basketball at the hoop. SWISH!

ZACH (CONT'D)
And this company that I founded and
which you
(pointing at Tabitha)
and I built together will soon be
worth a FUCKIN' TWENTY BILLION
DOLLARS. Can you believe it?

He retrieves the ball, shoots again. Another SWISH.

TABITHA
Don't you think I know that? It's
been two weeks. We should have
heard back by now. You play golf
with Mark, don't you? Has he said
anything? Do you think somebody
underbid us?

No response. Not like him. He shoots again, and again.
Tabitha tries to read his face - NOTHING.

Zach retrieves a folded piece of paper from his pocket and
hands it to Tabitha. Her palms sweat. Tabitha reads...

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Zach, we were impressed by a number
of the proposals received...after
extensive evaluation, we're happy
to award Northrop's business to...

Looks up, flings her stress ball at Zach - hard.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
You SHIT!

He ducks, but still gets hit. She picks it up, throws it again. A playful moment between them, like the good old days.

ZACH
(bursting out in laughter)
You should have seen your face...

Zach leaves the game, finally sits down. Tabitha retrieves the stress ball, eyes the folder on the table.

TABITHA
Do you think promoting Brad was a good decision?

ZACH
Does it bother you?

Tabitha paces back and forth.

TABITHA
What do YOU think? He has been with Gideon for half the time I've been here and you've already made him Senior VP.

ZACH
Look, I know Brad's got a bit of a big head, but the Board wants him in the C-suite. They think he can take Gideon into the future.

TABITHA
Well, that's a real downer. After all the FUCKIN' work I've put in.

ZACH
How would you like to convince them you're the better gal for the job?

TABITHA
Whose job?

ZACH
My job.

She stops pacing, directly faces Zach.

TABITHA
Your job?

ZACH
Yeah, my job. What do you say?

The adrenaline rushes through Tabitha. Her palms sweat.

TABITHA
Where are YOU going?

ZACH
Graham has had a relapse. A bad one. He has to go back into rehab. It's too much for Cassie to handle by herself.

Tabitha finally sits.

TABITHA
(leaning forward)
Oh no...why didn't you tell me?

ZACH
I might be a great executive, but guess I'm a lousy dad.

TABITHA
Don't be so hard on yourself.
Being a parent is tough stuff.

Zach walks over to Tabitha's desk, picks up a photo: It is of a father and daughter in a playful mood.

ZACH
Claire's a good kid. You and Norm are lucky.

Tabitha gets up, paces again.

TABITHA
What about the merger talks with Apollo?

ZACH
I'm not worried. IF there are no hiccups, and I'm sure there won't be any with you in charge, our merger with Apollo should close by end of March.

Zach motions to Tabitha. She throws him the stress ball.

TABITHA
Does anyone else know about this?

ZACH
Just the Board. I plan to stay on as Chairman. You know what to do.

TABITHA
I do?

Zach is near the door, more than twenty feet away from the hoop. Jumps, shoots the stress ball.

ZACH
Board meeting is on Friday. Bury
that cocky...smooth talker...

SWISH. He pumps his fist in glee.

ZACH (CONT'D)
(facing Tabitha)
Show them why I made the smartest
decision ever when I hired you.

Zach rubs his finger across chin, points at folder on table, and leaves, closing the door behind him.

INT. TABITHA'S OFFICE - LATER

Tabitha sits at desk, opens manila folder. Bows her head in prayer, caresses her CROSS pendant necklace.

TABITHA
Thank you, Heavenly Father, for all
the blessings you have given me.
Strengthen me through your Holy
Spirit.

Makes sign of the cross.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Opens the folder. Inside is a single sheet of paper: *A list of names of the five Gideon Board members. Two names are "FOR TABITHA", two names are "FOR BRAD", and one name is marked "UNDECIDED."*

Tabitha follows that name with her fingers: *BEATRICE HARLOWE.*

INT. SHELLIE'S DESK - MORNING

TABITHA
Cancel my appointments, meetings
for the rest of the day. Tomorrow
too. No interruptions unless
absolutely URGENT. And, please get
me a meeting ASAP with...

Tabitha hands Shellie a post-it note. She looks down at name, immediately recognizes it.

SHELLIE
Everything OK?

TABITHA
Yeah, couldn't be better.

They understand each other, and the import of the meeting.

TABITHA (CONT'D) SHELLIE
And can you order in...? And can I order in lunch?

Tabitha nods her head, flashes a quick smile. She returns to her desk, shuts the door behind her.

Takes out cell, calls her husband, NORM, but it goes straight to voicemail.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Norm, uh, I've some REALLY big
news. Call me if you can. Or, I
guess I'll just meet you at
Claire's recital tonight. I know, I
know...I promise not to be late.
Uh, since you're not there, I guess
I'll just talk to you later. OK.
Bye.

Tabitha hangs up, massages her right shoulder. Talking to her husband stresses her out more than anything else. Puts away the cell in her tote, turns on DO NOT DISTURB.

INT. TABITHA'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Tabitha stares at the presentation open on her computer.

A half eaten wilted salad sits to her right, surrounded by papers, folders, files. To her left is a row of half empty drinks - water, smoothies, coffee.

She checks her watch. 5pm. Still time to squeeze in another hour of work before visiting Mom and Claire's recital.

Reads the post-it left by Shellie: *"Harlowe @10 tomorrow. I'll be rooting for you."*

Types in "Beatrice Harlowe" in Google Search. A series of images, articles pop up. She reads attentively, takes notes. Reads another article, takes more notes. Starts typing away furiously on the presentation. She's in the FLOW.

INT. TABITHA'S OFFICE - LATER

She checks her watch. 9:00pm. She retrieves her cell to find the DO NOT DISTURB mode still ON. 5 missed calls, 9 missed texts.

TABITHA

SHIT!

Grabs her tote and coat and runs out the door, knowing full well she has already missed Claire's performance.

EXT. EXCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Tabitha drives home, passing a row of palatial homes in her subdivision.

INT. TESLA - NIGHT

Tabitha is on the phone.

TABITHA

Angie, is my mom still awake?

ANGIE

No, Ms. Larsen. You know the drill.
Lights out fifteen minutes ago.

TABITHA

Right...right. Please tell her I'm
sorry. Very sorry.

Tabitha hangs up, pulls into driveway, takes a deep breath.

INT. THE LARSEN HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen, the main hang-out for the Larsen household, combines Italian rustic charm with sleek modern touches, like the rest of the sprawling, luxurious home.

Tabitha eyes a covered dinner plate on banquet table.

NORM, mid-50s, Tabitha's husband, rinses the plates, loads the dishwasher. Tabitha goes to him, reaches her hand out, brushes his arm. He ignores her, continues with his chores.

TABITHA

Norm, I turned on DO NOT DISTURB on
the phone and...

NORM

Stop. Just stop with the excuses. I have heard them all, and by now, Claire has heard them all too...

He opens the fridge, puts the leftovers away.

TABITHA

Listen to me, Norm. It's different this time.

He gives her a cold stare. She looks around the kitchen. No sign of Claire.

NORM

She's upstairs. I don't think she wants to see you right now.

He starts wiping down the countertop, his back to Tabitha.

TABITHA

I was late because...

She pauses, weighing the right words for the moment.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Because...they're considering me for CEO.

Norm abruptly STOPS cleaning, walks towards banquette.

NORM

When? When is it official?

TABITHA

I've got to win it first. It's down to me and Brad. The last two standing. Isn't it fantastic?

No response. Norm rubs his temples hard, deep in thought.

NORM

There's a very good chance I'll get that Colonial revival job in Boston, and if that happens, that would be tremendous for me, Tabbie. I just figured maybe it's now my turn.

TABITHA

Your turn?

NORM

Yeah, I stayed home and took care of Claire to support your career and look where you are now.

TABITHA

That's what we agreed on.

Tabitha pulls up a chair.

NORM

I know. I know. Stop hammering me with the obvious, will you?

TABITHA

We'll figure something out. We'll get Delores to give us more hours when you're out of town. Have Michelle keep Claire for a few extra hours after school. Let me first get through this. I gotta win. Then, things will be better. WE will be better.

She puts her hand in his. He removes it, gets up from table.

NORM

I'm happy for you. I really am. But I don't think I can do this anymore.

INT. LARSENS' KITCHEN - LATER

Tabitha devours the lasagne, licking her lips after every morsel. Norm really outdid himself this time.

She retrieves the white envelope from her tote. Inside is an ultrasound picture: "*BABY FRANCES, DUE DATE 9/13/11.*"

TABITHA

You would have turned five today.
You would have had cake, opened presents, played with friends.
Only if I hadn't...

She caresses her pendant, shuts her eyes. A few tears.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

(opening her eyes)

You understand I had to do it, don't you? Every step up the ladder got me closer to where I am now. I had to. I just had to.

She puts away the ultrasound, makes sign of the cross, wipes off her tears, and finishes the last morsel on her plate.

INT. ELEVATOR LOBBY IN OFFICE HIGH-RISE - MORNING

The elevator opens, out steps BRAD DAVENPORT, mid-40s. 6'4". Former football player. All BRAWN. Tabitha raises her eyebrows in surprise.

BRAD

Hey, T. Funny both of us are here.

Brad edges closer towards Tabitha and whispers in her ear.

BRAD (CONT'D)

I'm going to be CEO. I have the votes. Do you think they're really going to trust Apollo with you?

TABITHA

(stepping back from him)

Remember who you're talking to, Brad. Who hired you at Gideon in the first place. We'll see what the Board decides.

The elevator arrives. She walks in with her back to Brad. She's not going to let him have this moment.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Elevator doors open to a swanky office suite behind large glass walls. Sole tenant on floor. Sign reads: "*HARLOWE STRATEGIC CONSULTING*"

INT. BEATRICE HARLOWE'S OFFICE - MORNING

BEATRICE HARLOWE, mid-60s, is immaculately dressed in a bespoke designer suit and heels. Fidgets with silk scarf around her neck. Smart, shag haircut.

BEATRICE

So, Tabitha, is it? Please sit.

TABITHA

(shaking Beatrice's hand)

Thank you for seeing me, Ms. Harlowe.

BEATRICE

You want to be the top dog in a man's world, do you? Well, I never did.

TABITHA

Why not?

BEATRICE

I was fed up with the late nights, the missed times with my kids. Two divorces later, I quit and started my own company. Look around you.

Tabitha admires the stylishly decorated office.

TABITHA

It's clear you've done really well. But Ms. Harlowe, I have spent more than 15 years at Gideon, taking on tough challenges, grown revenue, brought in customers.

BEATRICE

All well and good. But what are you going to do now?

TABITHA

What do you mean?

BEATRICE

You have to do more. Work harder, think smarter, the bar is always going to be higher for you because you are a woman.

TABITHA

Are you saying Brad's a better bet because he's a man?

BEATRICE

I am thinking of Gideon for the long-term. Brad has done well in every department he has led, has impressed several of our Board members with his strategic vision and he has excellent presence on the Street.

TABITHA

The street?

BEATRICE

Yes, the investors. Wall Street.
You might be smart, and you might
have worked hard, but frankly you
seem a bit NAIVE.

OUCH! Tabitha wasn't expecting that. She stands up defiant.

TABITHA

Ms. Harlowe, I know I have what it
takes. You may have made up your
mind, but just listen to my
presentation. That's all I'm
asking for, a fair shot.

Tabitha picks up her tote, and walks out, head held high.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

TABITHA

(smacking herself with a
folder)

FUCK ME! FUCK ME!

She reaches for her lipstick, pops a few pills.

INT. TABITHA'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Tabitha paces back and forth, poring over the presentation.
She mouths the words and gestures as if standing in front of
the Board.

Shellie walks in, Reggie follows close behind.

SHELLIE

I know you didn't want any
interruptions but...

Shellie closes the door to give them privacy.

REGGIE

Operations still hasn't received
our marketing forecast.

Tabitha puts away her presentation in top desk drawer.

TABITHA

That's two months in a row they
haven't gotten it on time. Didn't
Susan submit it?

REGGIE
Apparently not.

Tabitha confronts Reggie.

TABITHA
Why didn't you tell me about this before?

REGGIE
Shellie said you're working on something important, that you're not to be disturbed...

TABITHA
Susan works for you, doesn't she? So tell her. Tell her to get her act together or else...

REGGIE
T, I just figured it would be better coming from you. I know she's going through some personal stuff right now, and I don't want to appear...

TABITHA
For God's sake...

Tabitha storms out of the office.

INT. MARKETING DEPT CUBICLE AREA - CONTINUOUS

SUSAN ALBRIDGE, mid-20s, marketing analyst, types on the computer, her back to Tabitha.

TABITHA
(raising her voice)
You forgot about this month's Marketing forecast.

Susan jumps out of her skin. She swivels her chair around.

SUSAN
What?

TABITHA
Our demand forecast model drives production, operations. When we don't put in the right forecast, then Operations falls short of parts...
(her voice growing louder)
(MORE)

TABITHA (CONT'D)
 ...we can't get the shipments out
 the door...
 (and louder)
 ...which means really pissed off
 customers. Like Ron Sacknitz.

Tabitha is now yelling. Employees in other cubicles get up from their chairs to see what's going on.

Tabitha hovers over a cowering Susan.

<p>SUSAN (realizing her mistake) Oh, my God. I am so sorry. I don't know how I missed...</p>	<p>TABITHA (CONT'D) (leaning into her ear) I can't keep giving you rope, Susan, if you're gonna hang yourself with it.</p>
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Tabitha exits the cubicle and bumps into Reggie who's with a new hire, LAUREN, early 20s.

REGGIE
 Tabitha, this is Lauren. She's
 here for the new employee
 orientation.

Tabitha inspects her from head to toe. Lauren's low-cut blouse gives her pause. She makes a note of it.

TABITHA
 (without missing a beat)
 Hi, welcome to Gideon. Happy to
 have you on the team. You're in
 good hands here with Reg.

Tabitha walks away. Lauren GULPS. She peeks into Susan's cubicle to see if she's OK, but hears her quietly weeping.

EXT. THE LARSEN POOL - DAWN

Tabitha does laps across the pool. Gets out, removes her swim belt, grabs her towel, and walks inside.

INT. TABITHA'S CLOSET - DAWN

Something out of a California Closets promo magazine. Hangers and hangers of coats, jackets, suits all sorted by season and color.

Selects her favorite cream-colored Chanel boucle skirt suit and holds it out in front of her, then poses with it in front of her full length mirror.

INT. TABITHA'S BATHROOM - DAWN

She wears her Spanx, and examines herself in the mirror, turning left and then right. She practices her presentation:

TABITHA
In five years, this strategy will
help Gideon become...

Too serious. Smiles a bit wider. Slips into her Jimmy Choo suede pumps that make her feel like a million bucks. Repeats the words...

TABITHA (CONT'D)
In five years, this strategy will
ENSURE Gideon becomes...

She slides open the bathroom doors. Norm still fast asleep.

Tabitha brushes, flosses her teeth, applies deodorant, and splashes on perfume. Board Room Ready.

INT. C-SUITE COMPLEX - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Brad finishes his presentation and walks out of the Board room towards Tabitha. Tabitha paces, looks through her notes.

BRAD
Ready for prime time?

She ignores him, continues prepping for her pitch.

INT. BOARD ROOM - MORNING

Tabitha hits her clicker to mark the end of her presentation. She scans the faces of the Board members, looks for a signal from Zach.

He nods. She goes in for THE KILL.

TABITHA
The greatest strength I bring to
Gideon is my LOYALTY to all we have
built here together. This company
has been my family, my life, my
home away from home for almost 20
years. No other employee can say
that.

She leans forward, looks directly at Beatrice Harlowe.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Don't underestimate me. I will not
let you down.

INT. C-SUITE COMPLEX - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Brad and Tabitha sit awaiting the outcome of the Board meeting in progress. The tension is raw.

Zach comes out of the room, and walks up to both of them. Brad and Tabitha stand up in anticipation.

BRAD
(muttering)
That didn't take long...

ZACH
(shaking Brad's hand)
Great work, Brad,
(pause)
but...

Zach turns to Tabitha and gives her an even warmer handshake and a tight hug.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Tabitha here is the new Gideon CEO.
Congratulations, T. You deserve
it.

BRAD
But Zach...

ZACH
Not now, Brad. Congratulate your
new boss.

The other board members file out, and each takes turns shaking Tabitha's hand.

TABITHA
(beaming from end to end)
Thank you...thank you so
much...yes, I am thrilled...thank
you, Ms Harlowe. Beatrice.

Tabitha's in seventh heaven. She has shattered the ultimate glass ceiling.

MONTAGE

-- Boxes get moved into Tabitha's new CEO suite that overlooks a private lake and manicured grass grounds. Shellie settles in at her new desk, arranges a bouquet.

-- Fast sequence of Tabitha on various magazine covers

-- Tabitha gets tour of corporate jet; removes shoes, kicks back in cushy leather seats

-- Tabitha in high-end boutique, trying on different outfits in dressing room. Wears the last one, and walks out, with several packages in hand.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - MORNING

Tabitha, dressed in a red sheath and fitted jacket, drinks a kale smoothie and stands in front of window, admiring the view. Zach walks in.

ZACH

How does it feel...all this?

TABITHA

I'm still pinching myself to make sure it's real.

Tabitha gets right back in work mode.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I gotta figure out the integration plan - how we and Apollo are gonna work together post merger.

ZACH

YOU don't have to figure out anything. Use the Senior VP's. They work for YOU now. Delegate. Give guidance. Supervise.

Tabitha takes it all in.

ZACH (CONT'D)

(pointing to the window)

Focus your energies on what's out there. You are now the face of the company we project to the world. Our brand.

TABITHA

Will take some getting used to.

ZACH

And no more lunches at your desk,
or missing dinners with family, OK?

TABITHA

I thought I would be even busier...

ZACH

You will be, but YOU'RE IN CHARGE,
Tabbie. Get it? Don't do what I
did, and make all this consume your
life.

TABITHA

How are YOU feelin'?

ZACH

Like a big weight off my shoulders.
You don't know how relieved I am
you're steering this ship.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - AFTERNOON

Lauren, the new hire, squirms in her seat, looks around,
visibly nervous. Didn't expect to be called into the CEO's
office the first week of starting a new job.

TABITHA

Lauren, I hope you won't take what
I'm going to say the wrong way, but
I think you should reconsider what
you wear to work.

LAUREN

Excuse me?

TABITHA

Look around you. The ratio of
women to men at this company is
astoundingly low...

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - AFTERNOON

Shellis is away from her desk. Susan approaches, looks around
cautiously. She's about to knock on Tabitha's door, but stops
when she OVERHEARS Tabitha talking to Lauren inside:

INTERCUT TABITHA'S OFFICE/CORRIDOR OUTSIDE OFFICE

TABITHA (O.S.)
...and if you value your
INTELLECT, which I'm sure you do,
Lauren, then make sure that is what
people are focusing on, okay?

Tabitha walks around to front of desk, and leans against it,
with folded arms. She stands inches away from Lauren. Lauren
is flustered, sits upright, fixes her V-neck blouse.

LAUREN
I didn't mean to come across as...

TABITHA
Women never mean to. But we're
always giving signals -- the way we
dress, the way we smile, the way we
talk, the way we walk. And men
can't help themselves but take
advantage...

Susan presses her ear to the door - hard.

TABITHA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
...but when they do, we have to
stop them at their tracks.

Tabitha returns behind her desk.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
We have to get their focus back on
our brains, our inherent talents
and skills we bring to the
workplace. Understand, Lauren?

LAUREN
Yes, Ms. Larsen...I mean, Tabitha.

Susan's heard enough. She walks away. She's not going to
have that chat with Tabitha after all.

INT. TESLA - EVENING

Tabitha calls STEVE TURNBULL, Editor of TechDigest.

TABITHA
Hey Steve, it's Tabitha Larsen.

INT. TECHDIGEST OFFICES - EVENING

Steve eats a pizza slice, with a side of soda.

STEVE

I know who you are. You're on my speed dial now, Ms. CEO.

INTERCUT TABITHA/STEVE

TABITHA

Come on now, Steve. It's still me.

STEVE

You're in the big leagues now. Get used to the limelight. So when can I get my exclusive? You promised.

TABITHA

That's what I am calling about. How about next week?

STEVE

It's a date. Don't cancel on me.

Tabitha hangs up as she pulls into the driveway. Just in time for family dinner.

INT. LARSEN HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

CLAIRE, Tabitha's 16-year old stepdaughter, does her homework at banquette with headphones on. Norm sets dinner for two.

Tabitha walks in.

TABITHA

May I join you?

Claire is surprised to see her. She removes her headphones.

CLAIRE

Hey.

Tabitha squeezes into the dining bench next to Claire.

TABITHA

Hey.

Norm sets another place for Tabitha. Returns to kitchen.

CLAIRE

Did you know women make up more than half of the workers in this country, but account for less than 5% of Fortune 500 CEO's?

TABITHA

Who told you that?

CLAIRE

Justin. My new boyfriend. He's a real feminist.

TABITHA

Straight A student?

CLAIRE

Yes, Mom. He's real smart, but different. Not like the other boys.

Norm sets down two bowls of soup.

TABITHA

(blowing the soup)

What are his college plans?

CLAIRE

You're not even listening. He has his own ideas about the world, and what he wants to do after school.

TABITHA

Sounds serious. Is it?

CLAIRE

We're going to a concert on Friday. And then hang out here afterwards.

TABITHA

Is that a good idea?

She looks to Norm to intervene, but nothing. Claire gets up.

CLAIRE

I'm gonna go out with him, alright? Just because you're now hanging out with us, don't PRETEND you care.

Her words sting.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(turning to Norm)

I'll have my dinner later, Dad.

Claire stuffs her homework in backpack, goes upstairs to her room. Norm turns to Tabitha.

NORM

You can't just show up, and expect to fix things between the two of you overnight. It will take time.

(pause)

By the way, I'm leaving for Boston tomorrow after dropping her off at school.

Norm sits at banquette, finally ready to eat.

TABITHA

How long?

NORM

Depends on how much they like the blueprints. A few days.

TABITHA

Just go, and don't worry about anything, OK? I can manage. I'll make the time.

She leans over, smiles, gives him a peck on the cheek.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I'm in charge now, remember?

INT. C-SUITE COMPLEX - MORNING

A crowd of employees file into the open auditorium.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - MORNING

Tabitha paces up and down her office preparing her first speech to the rank and file. Shellie hands her a smoothie.

SHELLIE

Ready for your close up, Ms. Larsen?

She takes a big sip, crosses her fingers for good luck.

INT. C-SUITE COMPLEX - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Tabitha's cell buzzes. Incoming Text from "MANNY": "CEO! You owe me a drink. Flying into SFO tomorrow."

She turns off the phone, puts it back in her jacket.

INT. GIDEON AUDITORIUM - MORNING

Employees listen attentively, whisper to each other -- all abuzz about the new CEO. Tabitha makes her closing remarks.

TABITHA

Over the next decade, we will continue to lead the industry with cutting-edge products and technologies. But at the heart of this company will always be its people - all of you. This will continue to be a workplace where everyone is respected and listened to.

Tabitha sees a YOUNG WOMAN get up, leave early. She looks FAMILIAR, but can't make her out under the stage lights.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

So, thank you for all your hard work. It is a real honor and privilege to lead this company into the future.

Roaring applause. Several female employees give a rousing standing ovation.

INT. C-SUITE COMPLEX - RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

The young woman is SUSAN. She looks around NERVOUSLY, then walks briskly to the Marketing offices in the next building.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - AFTERNOON

Tabitha walks in, sees a post-it note on her desk: *URGENT. St. Andrew's.*

INT. ST ANDREW'S CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gideon's Human Resources Director, MELINDA, mid-50s, chats with an older gentleman Tabitha doesn't recognize.

TABITHA

What's going on?

MELINDA

This is David Holmes. He's a lawyer.

DAVID HOLMES, late-60s, grey-haired, wears an off the rack suit and matching tie. Old school. Old timer.

MELINDA (CONT'D)

I thought you should hear this as soon as possible. You might want to sit down.

Tabitha takes a seat at the long table across from David.

STUART RANDALL, mid-40's, Gideon's legal counsel, enters, sits next to Tabitha. He's all business in an expensive Hugo boss suit.

STUART

Sorry I'm late...

DAVID

Ms. Larsen, my client, a current Gideon employee, is filing a formal complaint alleging sexual harassment by Mr. Zach Donahue.

David pushes a thick brown envelope towards Tabitha.

TABITHA

(looking at Melinda, Stuart)

You're kidding, right? That's not possible. What's the allegation?

DAVID

(pointing to envelope)

It's all there. Inappropriate touching, banter, sexual coercion.

TABITHA

Who filed the complaint?

DAVID

An employee in your department before your recent promotion. Susan Albridge.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - AFTERNOON

Tabitha closes her office door, rips the envelope open, and starts flipping through the pages of the complaint, reading as quickly as she can.

She storms out of her office...

INT. OUTSIDE ZACH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

....and towards Zach's corner office down the hallway. Zach's 30-year old assistant, CINDY, jumps out of her chair.

CINDY
He is on a very important call. He
should be done in...

INT. ZACH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tabitha BARGES in, right in the middle of Zach's phone call. Zach stops Cindy at the door with a hand gesture.

ZACH
(speaking on phone)
Mark, let me call you back, OK?

Zach hangs up. Tabitha SLAMS Susan's complaint on his desk.

TABITHA
(in a forced whisper)
What the hell is going on, Zach?
Did you know about this?

Zach calmly picks up the document, leafs through the pages. Tabitha gazes at the gardens outside, deep in thought.

ZACH
This is bullshit, and you know it.
Come on, Tabbie, does this
(waving the pages)
sound like me? You have known me
almost as long as my own wife.

Tabitha starts pacing across the room.

TABITHA
I need your phone records, email
records, everything.

ZACH
Of course. I.T. can get it for you.
Whatever you need.

Zach turns on the large mounted TV. Bloomberg Business News.

ZACH (CONT'D)
(pointing at his desk)
That was Mark at Apollo.
(MORE)

ZACH (CONT'D)
They want to do the merger
announcement soon. Let's get this
thing behind us ASAP.

TABITHA
(raising her voice)
Are you telling me to drop it? To
not investigate?

Zach gestures, signaling her to keep her voice down.

ZACH
No. Of course not. Do a full and
thorough investigation. The Board
wants me to take a week off so you
can do your thing.

Zach walks over to the mini-fridge, takes out a Red Bull for
him and a bottled water for Tabitha.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Look, sit down. I'll tell you
exactly what happened.

Tabitha takes a seat.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Susan came into my office. I
remembered her...from the company
meeting last month. She asked me a
good question, a smart question.
(pause)
She was sitting where you're
sitting right now. She went on and
on about her divorce. Her financial
problems. About her husband
refusing to pay alimony. She said
she was a good worker, showed me
some analysis she had done.

TABITHA
(interrupting)
Did you touch her, make advances,
flirt?

He turns off the TV to give the question his full attention.

ZACH
I might have said that she's a
pretty woman...that there will be
other men...

Tabitha stands up, gives him a hard stare.

TABITHA
What were you thinking?

ZACH
She said her birthday was coming up, that she would be spending it all alone. I think I just felt sorry for her...yeah, I know it was a stupid thing for me to say.

TABITHA
What else are you NOT telling me?

ZACH
Nothing. I promise. She thanked me for the meeting, left, and that was that.

TABITHA
Did anyone else see her leave your office?

ZACH
I don't know. I'm sure Cindy did. You gotta believe me, Tabbie. I worked too hard...WE worked too hard...to build this company to have this tarnish my reputation.

ZACH (CONT'D)
I can't have this be my
lega...

TABITHA
(defiantly)
In all these years, Zach, one thing you've never done is lie to me.

Tabitha takes a sip of water, picks up the complaint.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
(waving document at him)
I know this is not you. Not the mentor, the boss, or the man I know. We're gonna fight this.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - AFTERNOON

Reggie sits at the meeting table, admires the luxurious space, decor, everything.

VROOM VROOM of the high-end Vita-mix blender in action.

REGGIE
Wow, this office is something...

Tabitha pours out the smoothie, carries two tall glasses to the table. Hands one to Reggie.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Thanks, Tabitha. This is a nice set-up you've got here. You know, the whole team is really happy for you.

TABITHA

Well, that's what I wanted to talk to you about...the team. I know I can count on you being discreet.

REGGIE

Sure. What's up?

TABITHA

I'm worried about Susan. She has always been a solid, dependable worker, but recently...like that forecasting fiasco. How many second and third chances can we afford to give her? She seems emotionally...uh...

REGGIE

...upset, on edge? Yeah, you're right. The others are complaining. They resent having to put in extra hours to cover for her mistakes.

TABITHA

Did she confide in you? Say anything?

REGGIE

Well, I didn't want to bring it up because I wasn't sure how you would feel about her...her going over your head...

TABITHA

What do you mean?

REGGIE

She said she was gonna schedule a 1:1 with Zach...to make sure he knew she was valuable to the company and...

TABITHA

...go on...

REGGIE
...to tell him she wanted to
transfer to another department.

TABITHA
Why didn't she come to you as her
direct supervisor about the
transfer request?

REGGIE
After that last performance review,
she probably didn't think YOU or I
would recommend her...you know, to
another team.

TABITHA
(distracted)
Right. Right.

She gets back to the topic at hand.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Thanks for letting me know, Reg.
You're a real asset to the company.

He flashes a big smile. As Tabitha shows Reg out...

...Stuart, Gideon's counsel, walks in.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Come in, Stuart. Perfect timing.

INT. EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Susan and her lawyer, David are seated at table. She
whispers something in his ear, but suddenly STOPS when she
sees Tabitha and Stuart enter the room and take their seats.

Susan sits upright, adjusts her blouse.

STUART
What was Ms. Albridge doing in Mr.
Donahue, the Gideon Chairman's
office? Did he request a meeting?

David turns to Susan.

SUSAN
I was working on an important piece
of analysis for the Northrop
proposal, and I thought Zach might
be interested.

STUART
So, you took the initiative to ask
for this meeting?

SUSAN
Yeah, I guess I did.

STUART
And what happened next?

SUSAN
Well, he asked me how I was doing.
I am going through a divorce...

STUART
A very bitter one, right?

SUSAN
Yeah. I guess so. And then
he...and then he...

DAVID
It's alright. Take your time.

Susan takes a deep breath.

STUART
(reading from complaint)
You say here, "he asked me if I was
seeing someone...if I wanted to
have dinner with him, despite the
age difference between us..."

SUSAN
Yes. That's what he said.

STUART
And then?

SUSAN
He came towards me...stood really
close...touched me...here...

She points to her right shoulder.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
And then he slid his hands down my
arms like this...

She slides her hands down her arms, mimicking the action.
Tabitha watches curiously at the gesture.

STUART
And then?

Susan squirms in chair, starts to feel very uncomfortable.
She looks pleadingly at David.

DAVID

Then he kissed her, he said she was
a pretty woman...he said...

STUART

(reading from complaint)
Yes, it says here..."Mr. Donahue
said, 'that he looked forward to
seeing me again real soon.'"

(pause)

Ms. Albridge, as this was going on,
did you say, NO? STOP? Did you
yell? Scream? Do anything at all?

SUSAN

I...I couldn't...I couldn't move.

STUART

Why didn't you convey what happened
to Mr. Reggie Turner, your direct
supervisor, or to

(pointing to Tabitha)

Ms. Larsen here, your department
head at that time?

SUSAN

(glancing at Tabitha)

I tried. I went to her office. I
prepared myself to talk to her,
woman to woman. But then...

STUART

But then, what?

SUSAN

I didn't think she would really
understand...my point of view.

Tabitha shakes her head. Susan notices.

STUART

Ms. Albridge, your ability to do
your work has suffered recently,
isn't that correct?

SUSAN

Well, the stress at home...and this
whole episode with Zach...it's been
really tough...but I showed up for
work every day, and did all I could
to support the team.

STUART

The same team you had no problems
LEAVING to transfer to another
group?

Susan furtively glances at Tabitha.

STUART (CONT'D)

And, isn't it true you were
recently denied a raise because of
your poor job performance?

SUSAN

Mmm....yes.

STUART

Even though Ms. Larsen here had
given you plenty of opportunities
to prove yourself.

(pause)

So, you went over your bosses'
authority to make a case directly
to Mr. Donahue for a raise, so you
could improve your financial
situation, since you were not
getting ALIMONY...

SUSAN

(desperately)

That is not true. That's simply
not true.

DAVID

We're NOT going to tolerate this
character assassination.

SUSAN

I thought I might get fired. So, I
wanted to make sure Zach knew that
I am a good worker. That I can
still contribute...

DAVID

(chiming in)

This is a clear case of quid pro
quo. Mr. Donahue indicated that if
my client did not go along with his
advances, that she would be let go.
She feared for her job, don't you
see?

STUART

How much?

DAVID
\$250,000 in compensatory damages.

TABITHA
That's ludicrous.

STUART
Ms Albridge signed a mandatory arbitration clause as part of her employment contract.

SUSAN
What does that mean?

STUART
(turning to Susan)
You can't take this to court.

DAVID
(turning to Tabitha)
But we will make our case. An emotionally vulnerable female employee being manhandled by the CEO of a multi-billion dollar company...I'm sure that's something your customers, investors and shareholders don't want to hear or read about.

INT. IT OFFICES CORRIDOR - AFTERNOON

Tabitha walks briskly down the corridor. She texts Claire:
"Delores is making dinner. Come home straight after school, OK?"

Tabitha knocks loudly on IT Manager's door. Several employees on a break stare in the direction of the noise.

IT MANAGER (O.S.)
Come in.

INT. IT MANAGER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Surprised to see the CEO at his door. Gets up with a jolt.

TABITHA
Where's that email dump? What's taking so long?

IT MANAGER
Servers were down most of this morning for an upgrade. My guys are working on it.

INTERCUT IT OFFICES CORRIDOR/MANAGER'S OFFICE

TABITHA
(yelling)
Aren't we in the fuckin' server business?

The staff overhears the heated argument, gossip over coffee.

IT MANAGER
Yes, Tabitha, I'll bring it up to your office within the next half hour.

He looks for a post-it note on his desk, nervously picks it up and reads.

IT MANAGER (CONT'D)
You said all correspondence 2 weeks before and after September 1st?

TABITHA
Yeah, let's start there.

She leaves the office, continues to check her cell.

PING! A text from "NORM": *"All good?"*

Tabitha replies: *"Great. Love you."*

The IT team members continue to stare as she walks away checking her cell. One TOUGH boss.

PING again. Reply from "NORM": *"Me too."*

INT. TESLA - EVENING

Tabitha is on her cell.

INT. BROOKHAVEN NURSING HOME - EVENING

Brookhaven's administrator speaks with staff outside his office. His phone rings. He wraps up the meeting, picks up call.

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR
Brookhaven, Mr. Underwood speaking.

INTERCUT TESLA/NURSING HOME

TABITHA

Mr. Underwood, it's Tabitha Larsen.
You left a message at my office.

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

Yes, Ms. Larsen. A room has finally
become available in the memory care
wing. We would like to move your
mother there as soon as possible.

TABITHA

Is that REALLY necessary? I know
she's not been keeping well, but...

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

Your mother is becoming more
aggressive, unstable. Without a
controlled setting with greater
supervision, she could hurt herself
and others.

TABITHA

I've had something urgent come up
at work. I've just not been able to
get away...

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

She's in good hands here. You know
that.

TABITHA

Yes.

EXT. THE LARSEN HOME - EVENING

Tabitha drives into the garage, parks her car and...

INT. THE LARSEN HOME - EVENING

...walks into the living room.

She sees Claire through the open door of an adjoining room.
Her back is to Tabitha.

KITCHEN/DINING AREA

DELORES, late 30's, the Larsens' maid/nanny, finishes putting
away the dishes. A covered dinner plate sits at banquette.

TABITHA
Thanks for staying late, Delores.

DELORES
(in a thick accent)
It's alright, Ms. Larsen. Claire
finished eating. Your dinner is...

TABITHA
Yes, I see it. Looks good.

Delores picks up her things, heads towards door.

DELORES
Congratulations on the big
promotion. I saw you on the
magazine cover. Mr. Larsen must be
very happy. Very proud.

Tabitha nods her head. Delores leaves.

She opens her tote, takes out a thick folder, and lays it on
the dining table.

Opens her laptop to find the following scrolling ACROSS THE
COMPUTER SCREEN:

*I am your computer, and I'm coming
after you.*

TABITHA
What the hell?

BACK TO COMPUTER SCREEN:

*I have all your credit cards, and
I'm taking them shopping.*

TABITHA (CONT'D)
(in full on panic mode)
No. No. No. Oh my God...

Tabitha randomly presses buttons on the keyboard, but the
computer does not respond.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Somebody's hacked my system. I
have to call I.T.

She is about to pick up her cell to make a call, when she
suddenly hears a JOYOUS BURST OF LAUGHTER from behind.
Tabitha turns around to find...

...Claire enjoying the prank being played on Mom.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
 (full on angry)
 God damn it, Claire. How did you
 get into my computer?

CLAIRE
 Mom, relax...Justin showed me how
 to do it. It's actually pretty
 easy.

TABITHA
 I've got all kinds of confidential
 files related to the company,
 related to employees. I can't have
 you screwing around like this.

CLAIRE
 Justin and I didn't touch any of
 your stuff. It's all there.

TABITHA
 All I hear these days is Justin
 this, Justin that. Don't make him
 do things you don't want to do,
 Claire.

CLAIRE
 It was just a prank, OK? Take it
 easy. Forget it...whatever...I
 liked it better when you were a
 little fun...before you became the
 god damn CEO...

Claire runs up to her room. Tabitha massages the crick in
 her neck.

TABITHA
 Wait, Claire, I didn't mean....

It's too late. She's gone.

KITCHEN/DINING AREA - LATER

Tabitha opens the folder, takes out two binder clipped stacks
 of email correspondence between Zach and Susan.

She writes on a sticky note: "T-0: Sept 1st."

Lays the stacks on either side of the note: one marked
 'Before Sept 1st', and the other 'After Sept 1st.'

Scans the "before" pile. She yawns. Nothing of interest.

Goes to kitchen. Pours herself a glass of wine.

Picks up "after" pile, starts reading the emails aloud.

First one...

TABITHA

*"Thanks for today. I haven't been
able to talk like that with anyone,
especially a man, in a very long
time."*

...a second one....

*"You are a pretty woman. Ted
doesn't deserve you. I would hate
for you to leave Gideon."*

...and a third...

*"Thanks for the birthday flowers.
You didn't have to."*

She picks up another, and then another...sees a pattern.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Gotcha.

Sits back, enjoys several more sips of wine.

INT. ST. ANDREWS CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

Susan and David walk in, take a seat at conference table.

DAVID

Shouldn't we have the arbitration
judge here?

STUART

Before we conference him in, we
thought you might want to see this.

SUSAN

What? What's going on?

STUART

Ms. Albridge, we have obtained a
copy of the email records - between
you and Mr. Donahue since Sept 1st,
the day of the alleged incident.
Can you read this out loud?

He hands her the email.

STUART (CONT'D)
This one's from the 1st.

SUSAN
(reading email)
"Thanks for today..."

She pauses. She continues reading the rest of the email.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
*"I haven't been able to talk like
that with anyone, especially a man,
in a very long time."*

STUART
That doesn't sound like a
distressed woman who was just
harassed earlier in the day.

Stuart hands her another one.

STUART (CONT'D)
This one is from the 5th, several
days after your meeting.

SUSAN
(reading in a whisper)
"I tried to stop by your office..."

STUART
Can you speak louder, Ms. Albridge?

SUSAN
*"I tried to stop by your office,
but you weren't there. I miss
seeing you."*

DAVID
She was scared after the attack. I
don't think she thought about what
she was writing.

STUART
It's not just one or two emails.
It's actually a total of six
written between the 1st and the
9th. And she filed the complaint
on the 11th.

SUSAN
I got out of there as fast as I
could. I can't afford to lose my
job. I've got expenses.
(MORE)

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Day care, rent. I didn't know what Zach might do.

She directly speaks to Tabitha.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
(pleading)
Please, Tabitha. You've gotta believe me. I might have made some mistakes at work, but I am not a liar. You know that.

Tabitha ignores her.

DAVID
Just stay quiet, Susan. We can still fight this.

SUSAN
So I can be laughed at? Just listen to me in those emails. I sound like a lovesick fool. Who's gonna believe me?
(turning to David)
I want out. Just tell me where the hell I should sign.

STUART
(taking out a document)
This is the NDA.

SUSAN
What's that?

STUART
We would hate for your name to go public and be sullied in any way by the press. An NDA ensures that you as well as we here in Gideon keep this settlement confidential. No talking about your case to anyone outside this room, otherwise you could be prosecuted.

DAVID
Susan, wait a minute...

Susan signs on the dotted line. She's fed up.

SUSAN
(giving Tabitha a cold stare)
I will never forgive you for this.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - AFTERNOON

Tabitha returns to her desk, exhales, rubs her temples and eyes. Susan's angry words continue to ring in her ear.

PING! Another text from "MANNY." As she checks the message, she scrolls through ten, twenty, a countless number of texts between her and Manny over the years.

STUART (O.S.)

Ready to go, T?

TABITHA

Yeah, just give me a minute.

This time, she FINALLY replies. Hits SEND. She grabs her trench and tote and heads out the door.

EXT. PATIO OF LOCAL RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Tabitha and Stuart celebrate over a round of drinks. CNN blares in the background.

NEWSCASTER'S VOICE

Tech company Apollo's stock rose nearly 50% today when Apollo's Board agreed to be acquired by Gideon Technologies. Deal is expected to close by next March.

Stuart looks at the TV, then raises a toast to Tabitha.

STUART

Congrats, Tabitha. Looks like the deal is sealed.

TABITHA

I'm glad it all worked out.

STUART

That was brilliant with the emails.

TABITHA

It was all there. I just happened to find the nuggets. I don't understand how a victim can be sweet-talking her harasser.

STUART

That's what we do, right? Throw in reasonable doubt when the company's interests are at stake?

TABITHA
(raising a glass)
Yeah. You bet.

Tabitha walks to a corner of the patio, calls Zach.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Zach, the case is settled. The NDA
is signed.

ZACH
That's fantastic, Tabbie. Take the
day off. You deserve it.

Tabitha glances at the scrolling news headlines on TV.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Did you hear the merger is a go?

TABITHA
Yeah, that's great. Mmmm...

ZACH
What is it?

TABITHA
Listen, you've got to do a better
job interacting with your female
employees.

ZACH
Look at us...you and I get along
great, don't we?

TABITHA
I KNOW how to handle you. But the
younger staff who don't know you as
well, they may misunderstand,
misinterpret your intentions...so,
dial down the charm, alright?

ZACH
Got it. I won't lay it on so thick
next time.

TABITHA
Next time? What do you...?

Zach hangs up.

Incoming call: "STEVE TURNBULL", TechDigest editor.

Tabitha clenches the phone, walks past the happy hour crowd
now gathering on the patio.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
 Hey Steve, yeah, I know...we're
 very excited about the merger...

She walks towards her car, talking up the company PR line,
 but feels a gnawing doubt about Zach for the very first time.

INT. TESLA - EVENING

Tabitha takes out ultrasound envelope from glove compartment
 and puts it in her tote. She says a prayer:

TABITHA
 Angel of God, my guardian dear, To
 whom God's love commits me here,
 Ever this day, be at my side,
 To light and guard,
 Rule and guide.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - EVENING

A mix of college students, and tech professionals enter bars
 and restaurants for after-work drinks and early dinner.

INT. NOVO'S BAR/CAFE - EVENING

A tall and tan man with curly hair and stubby beard is seated
 at a table, relishing his cocktail. An older version of a
 Spanish male model -- sexy to the core.

Tabitha recognizes him right away. It's her ex-boyfriend,
 MANNY, mid-50s. She walks gingerly towards him. He jumps out
 of his chair with excitement.

MANNY
 Tabbie? Is that really you?

TABITHA
 Manny.

They hug. She melts in his warm, tight embrace.

MANNY	TABITHA (CONT'D)
(pulling out chair for	A Tom Collins.
her to sit)	
I ordered your favorite...	

MANNY (CONT'D)
 I can't believe it. C E O. You
 know, I always thought that's why
 you broke it off with me.

TABITHA
What do you mean?

MANNY
When we were together, you were
always talking about the next job,
the next promotion. And I wanted us
to settle down, have our own little
bebes. Maybe you thought I was
holding you back...

The server comes over with a menu. Tabitha takes a big gulp
of her cocktail.

MANNY (CONT'D)
(reading the menu)
I'm starving. I flew in late last
night from Rio...had an all-day
shoot. What do you say? Some
tapas, like the good old days?

Tabitha's palms feel sweaty.

TABITHA
No. No. I'm not hungry.

She takes another big gulp, almost finishing the drink.

MANNY
You must have had a tough day.
Another round?
(with a smirk)
You know you OWE me for breaking
off our engagement...

Tabitha's heart races, starts to hyperventilate.

TABITHA
Actually, can we take a walk? I
need some air...

EXT. DOWNTOWN - EVENING

Tabitha briskly walks down the street, steps ahead of Manny.
She makes a right onto a side street.

MANNY
Hold up...hold up.

TABITHA
Manny, I need to tell you
something. About why I broke
things off.

Tabitha slows down her pace.

MANNY

Do you want to sit down somewhere?
Where are we going?

TABITHA

No. I may not get the courage to
say this if I sit down again. It
helps to keep walking.

MANNY

OK.

They cross and reach the opposite sidewalk and start walking
again. She now keeps pace with him.

TABITHA

There is something you need to
know.

MANNY

I know you're married.

TABITHA

(stops, stares at Manny)
Are YOU?

MANNY

(looking into her eyes)
Never found the right woman.
I thought I had but she slipped
away from me.

They keep walking. A parking garage is a few hundred feet
ahead next to a narrow alley. Tabitha stops, deep in
thought.

TABITHA

No, it's something else.

She starts walking again, and in a quick moment, Manny edges
close to her, grabs her hands, and pulls her into the narrow
alley. One smooth sexy move.

Tabitha is pinned against the brick wall, and Manny hovers
over her, with a mischievous smile on his face.

Tabitha starts breathing heavily. She observes Manny's right
arm as he flexes it once, and then twice. Next, he maneuvers
both of his arms, and positions them on the wall behind her
and above her face. Tabitha feels cornered, trapped.

A memory suddenly flashes in her mind. Deja vu. She winces.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Ow....ow....

His body is spread inches from hers. He admires her face.

MANNY

You're still so pretty.

The word "pretty" jolts her. Reminds her of Susan and Zach.

The color drains from Tabitha's face. Manny steps back away from her.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Have you eaten anything today?
God, Tabbie. Let's find a place to
sit...

TABITHA

I need to get to my car...
(pointing to the Tesla)
...over there.

Manny puts his arms around Tabitha's shoulders to help her walk. She recoils.

She staggers ahead of him, places her left hand on car hood for balance, bends her head way down and hurls.

EXT. PARKING LOT - EVENING

Manny watches Tabitha drive away, kicks gravel on sidewalk.

EXT. LARSEN POOL - NIGHT

Tabitha swims, is halfway down pool, when suddenly, she GASPS for air, FLOPS her arms wildly. Takes shortcut to pool side.

Pulls herself up and out of the pool. COUGHS out water.
Removes seat belt. Staggers, collapses on patio chair.

INT. LARSEN HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tabitha sees note on the fridge: *"At concert with J. Don't wait up. Claire."*

Opens fridge, sees boxes of leftovers. Closes it. No appetite tonight.

INT. LARSEN HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pops a few pills with water, moans and groans to sleep.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - MORNING

Another Monday morning. Tabitha plops her stuff on desk.

A thick envelope is on her chair. She opens it to find a stack of correspondence along with a type-written cover letter: *"Server ran a few extra queries. All of Zach's emails. Shred or keep."*

She reads, her curiosity getting the best of her. She turns one page, then another, and another. She pauses, goes back a page. Then skips ahead two pages. Does this over and over again. She feels like she has taken a punch in the gut.

She calls Zach on his cell. No answer.

She picks up her tote, rushes out the door...

INT. BEATRICE HARLOWE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

...into Beatrice Harlowe's office. Beatrice gets up, surprised but pleased to see her.

BEATRICE

Great job, Tabitha. I heard you
settled the harassment complaint.

She puts her hand out for a handshake. Tabitha refuses it. She leans on Beatrice's desk, stares her down.

TABITHA

Was there any REAL competition with
Brad?

BEATRICE

What do you mean?

Tabitha starts pacing.

TABITHA

You and the rest of the Board
decided right after the harassment
complaint was filed that I should
be CEO...I saw the emails between
Zach and all of you...you wanted to
put the right face on this whole
thing in case the story leaked...

BEATRICE

You mean because you are a woman?

TABITHA

Exactly. You thought having a female CEO at the top would signal that Gideon was taking the allegation seriously, that it would be settled fairly, sensitively.

BEATRICE

Well, you handled it perfectly. There were no leaks. I really DID underestimate you.

TABITHA

(yelling now)

This whole thing was a setup. Zach set me up. All of you set me up.

Tabitha winces, touches her stomach. Beatrice approaches Tabitha, stares into her eyes.

BEATRICE

Lower your voice, Tabitha. You're in MY office.

She walks back to her desk.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Anyone who wants to make it to the very top of the business world better be ready to do whatever is necessary.

She turns, faces Tabitha.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

And if that means whoring your pride, your personal sense of fairness and truth to the bigger corporate agenda, so be it.

She sits down, adjusts scarf around neck.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Cause you aren't just Tabitha Larsen anymore. You are the CEO of a multi-billion dollar tech powerhouse. This is what you wanted, right?

Her male assistant knocks, walks in.

MALE ASSISTANT

Here are the client contracts that
require your signature.

He sets the files down on desk, leaves. Beatrice opens top
folder, and starts signing.

BEATRICE

You want to play with the big boys?
Welcome to the Boys Club. And if
you aren't up to it...

She pauses, to maximize the full effect of her words.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

(staring at Tabitha)
...then get out so someone else who
has the GOD DAMN BALLS to do your
job can get it done.

INT. C-SUITE COMPLEX - RECEPTION AREA - AFTERNOON

Tabitha walks towards her office. Reggie follows her.

REGGIE

Tabitha, do you have a minute?

TABITHA

Not the best time, Reg.

Tabitha enters, Reggie closes the door behind them.

REGGIE

Tabitha, I want to talk to you
about the Senior VP Marketing
position. Your old job. Now that
you're CEO, it's open and I
thought...I've worked in the
marketing group for five years,
been head of product management for
the last two...I'm managing people,
important projects, and I think I
deserve...

TABITHA

(interrupting)

Do you know it took me 12 years to
move up within the company to
become a Senior VP, and another
five after that to become CEO?
What makes you think you've paid
your fuckin' dues?

(MORE)

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Don't think just because you won a
big customer account that you're
some kind of a hot shit.

Reggie is visibly shaken. Tabitha storms out, equally shaken
by the raw rage in her voice.

INT. TESLA - EVENING

Tabitha sighs, rubs her temples hard. She has a horrible
migraine. Swallows several pills with coffee.

INT. THE LARSEN HOME - EVENING

Tabitha jiggles her house keys, opens the door to a pitch
dark, quiet home. Suddenly...

CROWD (O.S)
SURPRISE!

The lights go on, blinding her for a second.

TABITHA
What the hell?

Norm approaches.

NORM
Did we surprise you?

TABITHA
I thought you were flying back
tomorrow.

He gives her a peck on the cheek. She fakes a smile.

About ten people are gathered in her living room. Michelle
Golding, her husband and daughter are there, along with a few
acquaintances from the golf club. No real close friends --
not that she has any.

INT. THE LARSEN HOME - LATER

Tabitha downs a shot of vodka, hits glass on table. Next to
it is another glass, already empty.

SEATING AREA

Norm stands behind the sofa chatting with guests. One of his
golf buddies approaches him in a drunken stupor.

GOLF BUDDY

Norm, so how does it feel having
the woman on top, huh?

Tabitha overhears the talk, leaves the bar to confront him.

TABITHA

Oh fuck off, will you?

Several guests stare.

NORM

(embarrassed)

Let's go, old man. I think you've
had too many.

Norm escorts him outside.

BAR AREA - LATER

Tabitha has a few more drinks. Norm notices. She's had more
this one evening than she consumes most weeks.

NORM

Hey, hey, you might want to go easy
on that...are you alright?

TABITHA

(sarcastically)

Of course, honey...

FORMAL DINING ROOM

A big buffet spread. She picks up some fried finger food and
pops it in her mouth. Then, slides her index finger through
the hummus, and licks it off.

TABITHA

Mmm...this is good.

She notices Claire and her friends hanging out in the den
next door -- texting, playing video games, drinking
mocktails.

Tabitha picks up a glass of wine, walks over to them.

FAMILY DEN

TABITHA

Which one of you is Justin?

Claire notices her mom is clearly drunk.

CLAIRE
(pointing to buffet)
Mom, let's go back out there and
get something to eat.

TABITHA
C'mon Claire. The guy is already in
my computer, so why can't I meet
him?

A girl with short purple hair and glasses stands up.

PURPLE-HAIRED GIRL
Mrs. Larsen, it is so great to
finally meet you. This is such an
awesome house.

Tabitha recognizes the girl sitting next to her.

TABITHA
Hey, Beth.

BETH
(standing up)
Way to go, Mrs L. You are now one
of the most famous women in
America.

Next, a lanky young man wearing a leather jacket stands up.

CLAIRE
And Mom, this is Justin.

JUSTIN
Mrs. Larsen, I'm sorry about that
hacking prank.

CLAIRE
Justin, say something nice. My mom
just made CEO.

JUSTIN
(muttering)
Yeah, the one percent.

TABITHA
What did you say?

JUSTIN

Well...it's just that...do you realize you are the 1% while those who work for you are barely making enough to get by? Do you know Gideon and other high tech companies are exploiting their workers...

CLAIRE

Justin, no...no...not now...

JUSTIN

...making them work overtime, offering no paid childcare, hardly any maternity or paternity benefits? We need to...

(pumping his fist)

STAND UP TO POWER...LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTION!

TABITHA

(turning to Justin)

What are you? Sixteen, Seventeen? You hang out here texting with your buddies on your \$800 iPhones in this \$3 million home and talk about how you're going to change the world.

(points at window)

The world out there. Cause you have a deep conviction the system is so fuckin' unfair.

CLAIRE

MOM!

Claire knows it's no use. Her mom is on a roll.

TABITHA

Do you really know what barely making enough feels like? What it's like to not have enough food to feed your family, or clothes for your kids to wear to school? What it feels like to live hand to mouth, scrape by week after week, month after month, year after year? No...how could you? You're too busy ranting on your Twitter pages and Facebook posts. So don't preach to me some intellectual diatribe about the tyranny of capitalism.

(MORE)

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I am the 1% because I worked my butt off every day for the last 30 years to get to where I am today, not like you lazy bums crying foul and just sitting around criticizing business, the government, the whole goddamn society.

CLAIRE

(completely embarrassed)

Oh my God...MOM!

Claire runs from the scene, rushes up the stairs. Half-way up the steps, she stops and yells so all can hear.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I HATE you!

Party guests know a scene when they see one. Several stand around, watching and gossiping in the background, but most leave the party feeling embarrassed for Norm.

Norm barges into the den, calls out to Claire upstairs.

NORM

Claire, get your things, we're leaving. You're staying at Beth's for the weekend.

Norm gives Tabitha a cold stare. No coming back from this.

INT. THE LARSEN HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The house is dark and silent. Tabitha is crouched on the sofa in a fetal position. She gives a low moan.

In front of her are several half eaten hors-d'oeuvres platters, three to four empty wine glasses.

RING! Incoming call from: "MANNY". Lets it ring.

INT. EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

Weekly staff meeting with her direct reports. Brad is present along with her VP of Engineering, VP of Finance, and Melinda, HR Director.

TABITHA

Are the Apollo engineers getting integrated into our team?

VP ENGINEERING

I think we're expecting too much too quickly, Tabitha. They may have great technology but they are young and fairly inexperienced in terms of management.

TABITHA

(bangs hand on table)

We promised the investors we would make this acquisition work. So, go out there to Milwaukee, train them, teach them our processes...

(shouting)

DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.

Tabitha squirms in her seat, feels uncomfortable.

BRAD

The systems integration has begun from the operations point of view. They are on a custom inventory control system, and so we have to get everything onto ours so we can track orders, sales, yadda yadda.

TABITHA

What about redundancies?

MELINDA

Most of that is in finance and operations. We need to downsize.

TABITHA

How many positions?

MELINDA

20. 25.

TABITHA

(turning to Finance VP)

How much of a hit financially?

VP OF FINANCE

A 2 million dollar charge in Q2. We should be OK.

BRAD

We need to find someone to take over Marketing...your old job. FUTURETECH, the biggest industry conference in the whole country is in less than 2 weeks.

(pause)

(MORE)

BRAD (CONT'D)

I think Reggie would be a fantastic candidate. You should promote him.

TABITHA

You do, huh?

Tabitha winces. Puts her hand to her stomach.

VP ENGINEERING

Are you OK?

TABITHA

I think it's food poisoning.
Something I ate over the weekend.
(groaning)
Mmm...SHIT.

Tabitha tries to get up, but she sees the room spinning all around her. Sits quickly back down.

After a minute, she gets back up again, but falls out of the chair, and COLLAPSES onto the floor.

VP ENGINEERING

(turning to Brad)

Quick. Call 911.

Melinda performs CPR. The other staff huddle around her.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Tabitha sits up on a hospital bed. A male doctor approaches.

DOCTOR

We have run the full battery of tests and nothing seems to be wrong. You are a healthy specimen, Mrs. Larsen.

TABITHA

What about the vomiting? The migraines? The fainting spells?

DOCTOR

Well, sometimes the requirements of a new, high stress job like yours can take a physical toll.

TABITHA

I've been with the company for over 15 years, and nothing like this has ever happened.

DOCTOR
Well, you can't rule out...

TABITHA
What?

DOCTOR
Something psychological.

Takes out a business card.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Dr. Suzanne Lorraine is one of the best I know. She has a number of clients like you.

TABITHA
A shrink for CEOs? Really?

DOCTOR
Well, there are unique issues in being in a high-stake, high pressure job. Don't knock it till you try it.

TABITHA
(returning the card)
Thanks, but no thanks.

DOCTOR
(giving card back)
Just keep it. For my sake.

TABITHA
You didn't call my husband, did you?

DOCTOR
No, saw no need since you're fine.

TABITHA
Good. Wouldn't want him to worry.

INT. DR. LORRAINE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Tabitha sits in a modern, light office space with various botanical prints on the walls and an expensive contemporary rug on the floor. Not a typical doctor's office. More like a waiting room in a boutique spa. The glass doors to her right look out into a lush garden with trees and plants.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
(heavy French accent)
Tabitha? OK to call you that?

SUZANNE LORRAINE, diminutive, older woman in her late 60's approaches. A Dr. Ruth for the CEO set. She wears a traditional gray suit, a delicate pearl necklace, and short black pumps.

Tabitha gets up.

TABITHA
I don't think I need your help. My doctor just thought...my migraines, stomach aches could be stress related.

DR. LORRAINE
Mais oui, Mais oui. I understand.
Please sit.

Dr. Lorraine goes to her desk, types something on the computer.

DR. LORRAINE (CONT'D)
So tell me, when did the headaches first start happening?

Clock on wall says 5:30pm.

INT. DR. LORRAINE'S OFFICE - LATER

Clock on wall says 6:00pm.

Tabitha lies on the tufted white couch with her hose-covered legs up on the cushion. Gazes at the ceiling. Dr. Lorraine sits a few feet away.

DR. LORRAINE
These visions you see...of a baby drowning...is that you drowning because of your fear of water or is it Frances, the baby you decided to abort?

TABITHA
When I was nine, ten, I almost drowned...the lifeguard jumped in and saved me just in time.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

But I couldn't...

(pause)

I didn't try to save my baby.

DR. LORRAINE

Why didn't you tell Manny about the baby?

TABITHA

I knew he would want me to keep it. For us to start a family. I wanted something else.

DR. LORRAINE

What?

TABITHA

Manny could care less about financial security, building a career. He wanted to fly to Europe after the engagement...

(snapping her fingers)

...just like that. He bought the tickets, everything. But I couldn't do it. He was reckless, adventurous.

DR. LORRAINE

Is that what attracted you to him?

TABITHA

Yeah, he was so sure of himself, so confident.

DR. LORRAINE

What happened when you saw Manny again at the bar?

TABITHA

I wanted to tell him about the abortion. Get it off my chest.

DR. LORRAINE

But you didn't.

TABITHA

I really don't know what happened. Everything was fine at first...and then...

TABITHA (CONT'D)

He pushed me against the wall.

DR. LORRAINE
Did he push you?

TABITHA
Mmm...it felt that way.

DR. LORRAINE
Go on.

TABITHA
Well his body was just up so close to mine...I thought he was going to kiss me or slide his hands up my dress.

DR. LORRAINE
Has he done that before? Pushed you against a wall and made sexual advances?

TABITHA
No, no, of course not. We were together for 3 years. We never did it in public like that, in an alley. That's crass.

DR. LORRAINE
But you said during that moment, when he had you pinned against the wall, that you had a flashback?

TABITHA
Yeah. You know when you go through something and you forget it, and then something happens that triggers that memory in your mind.

DR. LORRAINE
Yes, Tabitha. They're called repressed memories.

TABITHA
It was the way he bent his elbows...like this.

Tabitha bends her elbows mimicking Manny's action.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Manny played tennis, and I now remember he used to do that...

DR LORRAINE
Before you guys had sex?

TABITHA

Yeah, he was on top of me, and he was real close, and he slid his hands up my dress...

DR. LORRAINE

Where was that?

Tabitha tries to jog her memory.

TABITHA

In our apartment...on the bed.

DR. LORRAINE

What were you doing?

Tabitha goes silent.

DR. LORRAINE (CONT'D)

Tabitha, what were you doing when he was on top of you?

TABITHA

(reliving the memory)

Ah, nothing. Wait...

MEMORY FLASH: Tabitha, half drunk, squirms uncomfortably on the bed. Manny is on top of her, pushes, then removes his condom, continues pushing, oohing, aahing, enjoying the sensation.

TABITHA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I...I could feel him inside me.

Manny flexes his right elbow, once, twice. Tabitha pushes Manny's arms away from her face, but she's not strong enough. He forcefully takes them and pins them above her head.

TABITHA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I said no, Manny. Not like this, Manny. Stop. Stop.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

STOP!

Tabitha sits up with a start. She's sweating, panting. Dr. Lorraine offers a glass of water. Tabitha gulps it down.

DR. LORRAINE

I would like to keep going just a bit longer. Bon?

Tabitha nods.

DR. LORRAINE (CONT'D)
Did you practice protected sex?

TABITHA
Yes, always. Manny used to gripe about it at times, but I didn't want to get pregnant. I was just months away from a promotion.

DR. LORRAINE
You didn't think your company would support you...with a baby?

TABITHA
I'm sure they would have. But I didn't want to...

Tabitha bends her head down, caresses her cross pendant.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
...I didn't want a baby to sidetrack, derail my career.

Dr. Lorraine leans in, speaks softly.

DR. LORRAINE
Cheri, I know this is going to be hard for you to hear. But, I think...I BELIEVE...you may have been raped.

Hearing the word shakes her to the core.

TABITHA
What?!

DR. LORRAINE
You became pregnant and you...you rationalized what happened, so you could have some illusion of control over the situation. Or more likely, you transferred that pain of being assaulted because it was so horrible - into guilt regarding the abortion, and that guilt has been eating away at you all these years.

Tabitha suddenly gets up from couch.

TABITHA
(angrily)
That is bullshit. Pardon my French. I just met Manny the other day.
(MORE)

TABITHA (CONT'D)

How could I not have remembered that? Why would I have agreed to see him if he did that to me?

DR. LORRAINE

It is not unusual for victims of sexual assault and rape to suppress traumatic memories, and even to go as far as reach out and even maintain an ongoing relationship with the harasser, the perpetrator.

She picks up her jacket....

TABITHA

I knew this would be a fuckin' waste of time.

...and storms out of the office.

INT. PHARMACY - EVENING

Tabitha tries to refill a prescription for her anxiety meds.

PHARMACIST

You've reached the maximum number of refills, M'am.

Puts the empty pill bottle back in her tote, walks out.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - EVENING

Drinks several shots of whiskey, one after another.

INT. TESLA - NIGHT

Tabitha opens the glove compartment and removes the white envelope. She stares at the ultrasound, cries inconsolably.

INT. BROOKHAVEN NURSING HOME - NIGHT

MARIA RUSSO, mid-80's, Tabitha's elderly mother, sits on the bed, counting beads on her rosary.

TABITHA

Momma.

MARIA

Is that you, Angie?

She comes close to her mother and gives her a tight hug.

TABITHA

(sobbing)

No Momma, it's Tabitha. Tabitha,
your daughter.

She shows Maria the ultrasound. Maria looks at it, puts it down on the bed, and goes back to praying with the rosary.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Momma, do you remember my baby?
Baby Frances?

MARIA

(looking up at ceiling)

She's in Heaven. We let her go.

TABITHA

You might have let her go, but I
have not been able to let her go,
even after all these years.

MARIA

You were doing great in your job.
You didn't want to get bogged down
with being a mother. I understand.
Jesus understands.

TABITHA

Momma, how do you know what God
understands? How do you know He
has forgiven me?

MARIA

Because it wasn't your fault.
Women often have to endure things
that are cruel and painful and
horrible...and you think no one
hears our pain, our grief, but He
does. The Lord always does, and
the Lord forgives.

ANGIE, Maria's Patient Care Assistant, walks in.

ANGIE

Ms. Larsen, we have to get your
mother ready for bed.

Maria goes back to praying with her rosary.

TABITHA

(kissing Maria on cheek)

Bye, Momma. Take care.

MARIA

Please bring Frances with you next time. I miss seeing her.

INT. THE LARSEN HOME - NIGHT

FOYER

Tabitha stumbles in, hears the TV on louder than usual. She sees Claire and Justin sitting on sofa, transfixed. She hears a very familiar voice:

DONALD TRUMP (O.S.)

I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait.

Tabitha sets down her tote, keys on the foyer table, and...

LIVING ROOM

...stands facing the large screen TV.

DONALD TRUMP (CONT'D)

And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything.

TABITHA

What IS this?

Justin gets up from sofa, faces Tabitha.

JUSTIN

They've been playing this all day on all the channels. Hopefully, it's our October surprise...in a good way.

Tabitha looks over at Claire for a reaction, but she stares straight at the TV. Doesn't acknowledge MOM's presence.

TABITHA

(turning to Justin)

I'm BEAT. Can you make sure the alarm is turned on before you leave?

JUSTIN

Sure thing, Mrs. L. By the way, I'm sorry about the party...

Tabitha walks away, goes upstairs, too exhausted to process anything more.

MASTER BEDROOM

Tabitha tosses and turns, feels the empty pillow next to her.

MEMORY FLASH: A previous encounter between her and Norm.

NORM
(snuggling in bed)
*I know I said I didn't care, but I
would love to have more kids. What
do you say?*

TABITHA
*I can't. I mean...I can't have
children.*

NORM
(surprised)
Really?

NORM (CONT'D)
(embracing Tabitha)
It's alright. We'll be OK.

Tabitha sighs, walks over to medicine cabinet, swallows a few Tylenol with bottled water. She gets back to bed.

Her cell rings in the distance. "MANNY"'s name flashes on screen. The rings fade as Tabitha lulls herself into a deep slumber.

INT. LARSEN HOME - CLAIRE'S ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Tabitha opens door to Claire's room. She is fast asleep.

EXT. ZACH DONAHUE'S RESIDENCE - MORNING

Tabitha drives through a set of private gates, and onto the grounds of an elegant Georgian style home/estate, surrounded by lush gardens, redwood trees, manicured lawn and pool.

She parks the Tesla on the expansive brick paved driveway, pounds on door. A Southeast Asian maid answers.

TABITHA
*I need to see Mr. Donahue. It's
urgent. I am Tabitha....*

She hears loud noises, giggling coming from back of house.
Zach comes to the door.

ZACH
(to the maid)
Rupa, I'll take care of this. You
get back to your other work.

The maid leaves them.

ZACH (CONT'D)
It's the weekend, Tabbie. Spend it
with family. I heard you've been
feeling a bit off...

Tabitha walks right past him and into...

INT. ZACH'S HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

...Zach's office. Zach closes the door behind him. She
fumes in anger.

TABITHA
How could you do this to me? After
all the work I've put in for all
these years? I thought you believed
in me. That I was genuinely better
than Brad. That I deserved to be
CEO.

ZACH
(rubbing his chin)
You absolutely deserved the job.

TABITHA
(rubbing her temples)
I'm not sure about anything
anymore. Maybe the allegations ARE
true. What Susan said. Are they
true, Zach?

ZACH
(pointing a finger)
Tabbie, YOU said Susan is unstable,
unreliable. Remember?

TABITHA
Well, I've learned I am a lousy
judge of people. That's what.

She pauses and examines a family photo on the wall - of Zach,
his wife, Cassie, and his kids, Graham and Laura.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
How's Graham doing with rehab?

ZACH
(rubbing his chin)
Uh, much better. He's here with
us...for the weekend.

Tabitha storms out of his office. As she turns her head towards the laughter, she sees GRAHAM shooting a basketball in the den, surrounded by friends.

Tabitha's doubts about Zach increase.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - MORNING

Tabitha sees Susan talking to movers. A five year old boy draws with chalk on the sidewalk. Tabitha hurriedly parks the car and gets out.

TABITHA
Where are you going?

Susan whispers to the young boy. He crosses the street and plays at a neighbor's stoop.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Is that your son?

SUSAN
(taking out her cell)
What the hell are you doing here?
Are you watching me? Following me?

TABITHA
No. No. I just want to talk to you.

SUSAN
Don't you dare come closer. If you
do, I'm gonna tape this and send
the video to the lawyers.

TABITHA
You have every reason NOT to want
to talk to me. I know.

SUSAN
Haven't you done enough?

TABITHA

Listen to me. I know I might get fired for directly approaching you about the settlement, but things have changed. The situation has changed.

SUSAN

Not for me. People are staring at me at the office. I'm always walking on eggshells. I had a nightmare the other day, I started screaming, and my boy got scared. I have to get away from this place.

TABITHA

I should have believed you.

SUSAN

Too late for that, don't you think?

TABITHA

I didn't understand, Susan. What it feels like to be violated, to be helpless.

(pause)

But I do now.

SUSAN

What made you suddenly see the light?

TABITHA

(speaking quickly)

My ex-boyfriend sexually assaulted me.

She walks away from Susan, disgusted with the words coming out of her mouth.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

(facing Susan)

OK, I said it. I said it, Goddamn it. Shit. Shit.

Susan is shocked, completely taken aback.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

And I only realized it now, after five years.

(MORE)

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I got pregnant, aborted my child,
and never realized that the father,
the man I thought I loved and who I
thought loved me, raped me without
my consent. He took advantage of
me.

The words pour out of her like a deluge.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

SUSAN

The NDA is signed, for fuck's sake.
You and your lawyer royally screwed
me over...made me feel like shit.
Like my side of the story didn't
matter.

TABITHA

I'll hire an outside firm and
launch an official investigation
into your complaint and Zach's
misconduct.

SUSAN

Why do you still need an
investigation if you believe me?

TABITHA

I do. I do believe you. But I have
to do this the legal way. I'm
accountable to the Board, the
shareholders.

SUSAN

What about your accountability to
hard working employees like me?
Where's my fuckin' fair shake?

TABITHA

I will see about changing the terms
of the settlement. I promise you
that.

SUSAN

It's not always about money,
Tabitha. I just don't want Zach to
continue doing this to other women.
He has to be stopped.

TABITHA

What do you mean, other women?

SUSAN
Yeah...there are others.

TABITHA
Who? How many?

Susan looks back towards her apartment.

SUSAN
I gotta go see if they have loaded
up all the boxes.

Tabitha grabs Susan's hand.

TABITHA
(pleading)
Susan, please. We can make sure
this doesn't happen to anyone ever
again.

SUSAN
(pulling away)
Aren't you the CEO? The buck stops
with you, right?
(pointing)
You go do something about it.

TABITHA
Gimme a name. Something.

SUSAN
I can't. I can't divulge the
women's names without their
permission. You know that. So,
excuse me...but I gotta go.

Susan walks up the stairs to her apartment, leaving Tabitha
in anguish.

INT. TESLA - AFTERNOON

Tabitha dials Manny's number.

MANNY
Tabbie, is that you? I left so many
messages...I know I shouldn't have
come on like that...it's just
seeing you...

Tabitha interrupts, explodes in anger.

TABITHA

Manny, you raped me. And I got pregnant.

MANNY

WHAT?!

TABITHA

I had an abortion. I couldn't tell you. I was so ashamed of myself.

MANNY

Oh my God...

TABITHA

I didn't remember before. But I do now. You...you...you BASTARD! I'll expose you. On social media, on your blog. Your clients will find out.

MANNY

(calmly, confidently)

Wait, wait a minute. Think of what you're saying, Tabbie. No one is going to believe something that happened five years ago. And if I really did assault you, how come you've been texting me all these years? And how come you invited me for drinks at Novo's? Huh?

Tabitha is stunned. Can't believe her ears.

MANNY (CONT'D)

So you see...if you come at me with my texts, I'll come at you with yours. And I'll destroy you. Your high-powered career will be over just like that.

CLICK! Manny hangs up.

INT. SHELLIE'S DESK - MORNING

Tabitha walks right past Shellie without saying a word. Shellie knows something is OFF....

SHELLIE

You look horrible.

TABITHA
(despondently)
I know. I know.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - LATER

Shellie is at the Vita-mix blender, making a smoothie.

SHELLIE
Did you see the news? The Access
Hollywood tape?

TABITHA
Yeah. Disgusting.

She hands her the drink.

SHELLIE
Well, all the bad press has to make
a difference at some point.

Tabitha pauses, trying to process the words. A LIGHTBULB GOES
OFF. She quickly dials a number on her cell.

TABITHA
Hey, Steve. Yeah, I know it's
early. How would you like to score
the scoop of the decade?

INT. EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM - AFTERNOON

Tabitha sits across from Steve Turnbull. A small camera crew
is behind him. In the middle of her first CEO press
interview.

TABITHA
I am here to say it can happen to
any woman out there. Just because
you're well-off or educated doesn't
mean it can't happen to you.

INT. MARKETING DEPT BREAKROOM - AFTERNOON

Lauren, Reggie and others eat lunch and watch.

TABITHA
I was assaulted several years ago.
By an old boyfriend.

Shocked faces, jaws drop.

INT. BETH'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Beth calls Claire who's putting her books away.

BETH
Hey, your mom's on TV.

They both jump on the bed, closely listen.

TABITHA
Sexual harassment is real, and we,
as leaders in the high tech
industry, must take it seriously.

INT. NORM'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

A view of the Charles River Zakim Bridge. Norm stands over a set of blueprints and listens intently...

TABITHA
We have a 100% zero tolerance
policy regarding sexual harassment
at Gideon. We will provide
sensitivity training, employee
support...

INT. C-SUITE COMPLEX - BREAKROOM - AFTERNOON

Shellie and Cindy, Zach's assistant, grab cups of coffee and watch with bated breath...

TABITHA
...and effective immediately, there
will be an employee hotline for
anonymous reporting of all
incidents of concern.

INT. POSH SILICON VALLEY TOWNHOME - EVENING

Beatrice Harlowe, dressed in a silk robe, plays with her white Persian cat, while watching the news...

TABITHA
...the political environment today
necessitates that we, as senior
management, serve as positive role
models and that we take our
responsibilities to our employees
very seriously. And I recommit
myself to doing so at Gideon
starting today.

Beatrice makes a call.

BEATRICE
Brad, are you seeing this?

INT. EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Back to the interview. Steve cues her to stop.

STEVE
That's a wrap. Great job, Tabitha.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - AFTERNOON

Melinda, HR Director, and Tabitha review a set of files. Zach knocks, walks in carrying a gift bag.

ZACH
You guys look busy.

MELINDA
We can discuss these later.

She picks up all the files, and quickly leaves the office, WITHOUT making eye contact with Zach.

ZACH
That was pretty powerful stuff you said back there, Tabbie. I had no idea you were...

TABITHA
I'm trying my best to deal with it...I just thought the right thing to do was to promote a culture of transparency, openness on these matters especially with the upcoming merger...as YOU said, I have to think about Gideon's brand, image in the industry.

ZACH
Of course. Of course. Here...

He hands her the gift bag.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Happy birthday. Open it.

Tabitha tears the wrapping paper. It is a Coffee Table book: Journeys Through the Italian Countryside.

ZACH (CONT'D)

I know it has been on your bucket list for a long time. I feel bad you and Norm had to cancel your vacation last year...because I needed you here.

TABITHA

I doubt I'll be able to go anytime soon anyway.

ZACH

About the statement to the press...

TABITHA

You obviously have nothing to worry about, Zach, since you didn't...

ZACH

No. I'm not worried. Let me know how things develop, alright? I would like to help if I can.

TABITHA

Of course, I will.

INT. TESLA - MORNING

Tabitha drives down Highway 580 through open wide fields. An unusually warm day for fall. She removes her jacket and tosses it in back of car.

On the cell with Stuart, Gideon counsel.

TABITHA

Stuart, is this the only one that still has a local address?

STUART

Yeah. I know you're on this crusade, but I am not sure...

CLICK! Tabitha hangs up on him.

EXT. MODEST RANCH HOME - STOCKTON - MORNING

The home is one of hundreds in a suburban middle class community. A far cry from her EXCLUSIVE neighborhood.

Tabitha knocks. An elderly African American woman answers.

TABITHA

Excuse me, M'am. I'm looking for Vanessa. Vanessa Wright.

ELDERLY WOMAN

She don't live here no more. Why you askin'?

TABITHA

I'm Tabitha Larsen, CEO of Gideon Communications.

She hands her a business card.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Vanessa worked for us in the finance department and then quit after six months. I just want to talk to her.

ELDERLY WOMAN

About the harassment?

TABITHA

You know about that?

ELDERLY WOMAN

You wanna come in?

INT. DINING ROOM/KITCHEN - MORNING

Tabitha sits, sips a cup of lukewarm coffee.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Vanessa is my granddaughter. I took her in after her momma suddenly died a few years back. You know I can't be talkin' to you...some DNA business...

TABITHA

I think you mean NDA. I understand. I just want to ask Vanessa a few questions...

ELDERLY WOMAN

Like I said, she not here no more. She was real excited about that job, until that scoundrel came on to her. She got scared. She used to come home cryin' poor thing and I told her, "You report it. You tell 'em what happened."

TABITHA

What was she scared of?

ELDERLY WOMAN

Gettin' fired. Gettin' hurt. She told me, "Grammaw, no one gonna believe someone like me." But when your lawyers gave her the money to settle, she couldn't say no. She wanted a fresh start.

TABITHA

M'am, I just found out about Vanessa's case and that she signed this hush agreement. It was before I became CEO. I want to make our company a better place for good people like Vanessa. Like I said, I just want to talk to her. If she gets in touch, please have her call me.

Tabitha gets up from table, walks towards door.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Thanks for the coffee.

ELDERLY WOMAN

You know, Vanessa was smart as a whip...not just sayin' that cause she's my granddaughter. She could do all this math in her head. It's your loss. Forgive my language...but I hope that BASTARD got fired.

Tabitha manages a half smile. Stands on porch steps, scratches off another name on a list.

TABITHA

(under her breath)

SHIT.

INT. LARSEN HOME - EVENING

Tabitha enters, puts down mail on foyer table.

TABITHA

Claire...honey, I'm home.

She looks through the mail. A high-end travel magazine catches her eye. Leafs through the colorful pages.

Goes upstairs to Claire's room, opens the door. No sign of Claire.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Looks for Claire's notes on fridge. Nothing.

Calls her cell. Goes straight to voicemail. Thinks of calling Justin, but she DOESN'T have his number.

Her heart starts to race.

Rushes out to the backyard...

EXT. LARSEN HOME - CONTINUOUS

...scans the pool...the outdoor gardens...

TABITHA
Claire? Claire?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Calls Michelle Golding.

INT. MICHELLE GOLDING'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Michelle Golding, early 40's, stands in kitchen, picks up the phone. Her kids scream at dinner table. Doesn't faze this stay-at-home mom.

TABITHA (O.S.)
Michelle, is Claire there?

MICHELLE
No. Let me check with Beth.
(yelling)
Beth, Beth...

INT. THE LARSEN KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Tabitha waits - for what seems like an eternity.

MICHELLE (V.O.)
No, Beth hasn't seen her since school. Have you checked with her new boyfriend? They're always together...

Tabitha hangs up. She calls Norm.

TABITHA
(now in utter panic)
Norm, listen, Claire's gone. I've
looked everywhere. She's run away.

NORM
Calm down, calm down. Did you check
her usual spot? She goes there
sometimes to think, blow off steam.

Tabitha thinks. And thinks. She has NO idea where her
daughter likes to hang out.

TABITHA
Norm, what IS Claire's thinking
spot?

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Tabitha arrives at the edge of a local lake.

She sees Claire shrouded in moonlight, sitting at the edge of
a dock, tossing rocks into the water. A heavy drizzle begins.

Tabitha runs, climbs up the steps. Claire is just twenty
feet away from her, but Tabitha CANNOT move an inch.

TABITHA
(shouting)
Claire. Claire.

The rain is really coming down now.

CLAIRE
Did Dad tell you to come here?

Claire knows of her mom's fear of water.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Don't move. I'm coming to you.

She runs to Tabitha, and they both hurry to the car.

INT. TESLA - NIGHT

Claire and Tabitha wipe their wet faces with paper towels.

CLAIRE
(starts crying)
Justin and I had a big fight. God,
he can be such a prick...

TABITHA
What happened?

CLAIRE
He wants to have sex. I don't think
I'm ready. All this sex stuff in
the news...and with what happened
to you...I think it's all getting
to me. I'm so confused...

She takes Claire's hands in hers.

TABITHA
It's alright. We'll figure it
out...together.

Tabitha wants to hold on to this mother-daughter moment as
long as possible. It FEELS so good.

INT. TABITHA'S CEO SUITE - MORNING

Melinda, Gideon's HR Director, walks in with a note.

MELINDA
I received this through the
employee hotline. You should check
it out.

INT. PENINSULA HOTEL FRONT DESK - MORNING

A five star boutique hotel in the heart of Silicon Valley.

TABITHA
(handing a business card)
I'm with Gideon Communications.

The attendant looks up the name on the computer.

ATTENDANT
Please wait, M'am. I'll be right
with you.

He returns in a few minutes with another gentleman.

MANAGER

Hi, I am Phil, the hotel manager.
I see your company's lease on the
corporate apartment upstairs is up
for renewal. We would love to keep
your business. Shall we discuss
renewal?

TABITHA

I am new. Can I have a look around
the suite?

The attendant opens the door to a luxurious, beautifully
furnished corporate apartment.

ATTENDANT

And here is the main seating area,
as you can see very spacious...

She follows the attendant to the back of the suite.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

And here is the bedroom, in case
any of your business clients want
to spend the night...

Tabitha stares at the bed. The attendant continues to talk...

MEMORY FLASH: *Muffled sounds of Manny grinding and pushing.*

Tabitha covers her ears...

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

...and we can arrange catering for
meetings, parties...whatever you
require...

The noises in her head get louder and louder until...

TABITHA

STOP! STOP!

ATTENDANT

Ms. Larsen? Are you alright?

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Tabitha sits at bench, scans the faces of the passing runners
and walkers for some kind of sign. Finally, an attractive
woman in her early 20's approaches.

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm Sofia. Sofia Delgado. From
Operations.

TABITHA

Brad Davenport's department?

SOFIA

Yes.

TABITHA

Please sit. Thanks for meeting me.

She fidgets on bench, not sure how to start the conversation.
Tabitha puts her at ease.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

You said you wanted to talk...about
what happened at the Peninsula
hotel.

SOFIA

Yes. That is where Zach would
entertain customers after work,
sometimes weekends.

TABITHA

Did you meet him at the hotel?

Sofia nods.

SOFIA

He would ask me to join him. He
said I was his special girl...

TABITHA

I just came from there. Why don't
you tell me what happened...

She gently leans in.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

...and take your time.

INT. C-SUITE COMPLEX - RECEPTION AREA - AFTERNOON

Tabitha glances at watch, walks briskly. Zach's assistant,
Cindy stops her.

CINDY

Did you find what you wanted?

TABITHA

What?

CINDY

You know, at the Peninsula.

AHA! She realizes CINDY is the one who had called in the tip on the employee harassment hotline.

TABITHA

(whispering in her ear)

Yes, Cindy. Thank you very much.

INT. ST ANDREWS CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Five female employees sit around the conference room table -- all brought together today for one purpose only.

Tabitha enters, scans the room. Sofia Delgado, the young woman from the park, is noticeably absent.

Tabitha is dejected, but makes her case anyway.

TABITHA

Thank you all for coming today.
Over the last week, I have learned
of several incidents involving
sexual harassment, even assault.
Some of these episodes took place
here at work, others at the
Peninsula Hotel.

The women exchange glances, size each other up.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I am not here to make you recount
every painful detail about what you
went through or to tell you not to
file a formal complaint against the
company.

Woman #1 starts to choke up. Woman #2 consoles her.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I just want to confirm.

WOMAN #2

Confirm what?

TABITHA

That Zach Donahue, former Gideon CEO, and current Gideon Chairman, harassed each and everyone of you. Can I have a show of hands?

No hands. Tabitha starts to sweat, takes a sip of water.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I have spent the better part of my life at this company trying to build a career...over many many years....during the early days, I was the only female employee, and almost always, the only female employee working directly with Zach...if you don't include his executive assistants.

WOMAN #3

So, you must know what it feels like...to be uncomfortable around him?

Tabitha's thrown off guard.

TABITHA

Well, I've interacted with plenty of male customers...yeah, they sometimes said a crude joke, or flirted, but I just sucked it up to "that's just how men behave."

WOMAN #5

So, you don't really GET what we're talking about here, do you? You haven't gone through what I've gone through..

She looks around at the other women.

WOMAN #5 (CONT'D)

...what we all have endured.

TABITHA

No, not with Mr. Donahue. You're right about that. But I WAS assaulted by an old boyfriend, and I didn't even realize what he had done to me...until I was triggered...I had to see a psychiatrist to figure all this out about myself...so, yes, I do get it. I really do get it.

One hand goes up -- Woman #1. A potential crack...

Tabitha turns and directly speaks to the other women.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Look, I know you're scared. You're scared you might lose your jobs, that you won't be believed.

WOMAN #3

My husband told me to get a lawyer. And to not to talk to anyone inside the company without a lawyer present.

WOMAN #4

Yeah, me too. I have a meeting with a lawyer on Monday.

TABITHA

Well, that was good advice. Gideon has made out-of-court settlements with several women, hoping to keep them quiet.

ALL

(in shock and dismay)
What?!

TABITHA

Yes, and as the new CEO, I don't want to keep sweeping these under the rug.

WOMAN #3

What do you want?

Sofia walks into the conference room. She's restless.

TABITHA

I want to convince the Board that Zach has had a pattern of sexual harassment, misconduct, and that for the good of the company, and for the good of all the hard working employees, both male and female, that he cannot continue to work here.

Tabitha smiles at Sofia, motions her to take an empty seat the table. Sofia takes a letter out of her pocket.

SOFIA

I got this today. It is a letter of reprimand about my work performance...it says if I don't improve, I could be fired. It's signed by Brad Davenport himself.

TABITHA

(reading letter)

They cannot take retaliatory action just because you came forward. This is illegal. I will fix this. I promise. But I need you to sign here...

(pointing to the document)

so I can take your statements to the Board.

WOMAN #2

Why will the Board listen to you? Isn't Zach on the Board?

TABITHA

The evidence is too overwhelming. They have to take action.

Three more hands go up -- Women #2 and #3, and #4.

SOFIA

I want my privacy. Can you promise me that?

TABITHA

I will try.

SOFIA

Who's gonna to believe me when they find out that I agreed to have sex with him even after he raped me? They'll say it's my fault, and that if I was really a victim, I would have never agreed to see him again.

WOMAN #5

What are you saying?

SOFIA

Yeah. I continued to meet Zach, even after I was raped.

WOMAN #5

I thought I was crazy...I thought I was the only one.

The remaining hands go up. Tabitha hands out the documents. They all sign, and then start talking amongst each other, sharing stories that they have not had the courage to tell anyone for a long, long time.

INT. EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM - MORNING

Meet the all-powerful Gideon Board of Directors -- Beatrice Harlowe, NORM SIMPSON, TOM PURCELL, LARRY BRECKENBRIDGE, Zach Donahue (Gideon Chairman) and Tabitha (Gideon CEO). Full house.

After customary small talk, they take a seat. Tabitha hands out the signed affidavits -- to everyone, except Zach.

TOM
What the hell is this?

All leaf through the pages. Norm and Larry read more closely. All eyes quickly fixate on Zach. He gets up.

ZACH
(seething in anger)
Tabitha, can I have a word with
you? In private? NOW?

She rubs her chin, taps her pointer finger on table.

TABITHA
No, let's talk here.

Zach recognizes the gesture. She NOW has the upper hand.

NORM
Tabitha, how did you manage to...?

LARRY
(interrupting)
I thought we had settled all the
outstanding complaints and had no
more liabilities. You said the
women fabricated everything...

ZACH
They did. These are all lies.

TABITHA
(holding up the papers)
These are the facts. These are
real women, with real allegations.
I promised them their statements
would be taken seriously by us.

BEATRICE
How many are disgruntled employees?

TABITHA
What?!

BEATRICE
How many of these women knew they
were going to get fired for poor
performance and just wanted to
benefit financially before they
headed out the door?

Tabitha thinks of Susan.

NORM
Let's not judge until we at least
read their statements.

Tom gets up, approaches Zach.

TOM
Why couldn't you keep your god damn
dick in your pants?

Tom pushes his chair. Zach gets up, pushes back.

ZACH
Why don't you...?

TABITHA
I will call Security if you both
don't sit down RIGHT NOW.

BEATRICE
Can you imagine the
headlines...Gideon employees
talking about being harassed,
assaulted, my god...we will have to
pay out millions of dollars...the
stock will nosedive.

TOM
Exactly...and Apollo will claim we
kept this away from them during the
merger negotiations.
(staring down Zach)
They will renege on the deal. And
it will be your fault.

Tom and Zach go back to their seats.

TABITHA

I will convince Mark at Apollo. I will tell him this is a great partnership. That we are going to clean up our act.

ZACH

(to Tabitha)

You backstabber.

NORM

What's your plan, Tabitha? What do you propose we do?

ZACH

(to Tabitha)

It's simple. We as the Board need to stand behind what I said in the press conference. 100% zero tolerance. We have to walk the talk.

Zach explodes in anger, pounds his fist on table.

ZACH (CONT'D)

You're gonna to fire me? Is that it, YOU BITCH?

DEAD SILENCE IN THE BOARD ROOM. Tabitha stands frozen.

ZACH (CONT'D)

You wouldn't even be here in this meeting if it wasn't for me. If I hadn't handed you this job on a fuckin' silver platter.

LARRY

Hey, hey, let's take it easy with the language.

ZACH

(yelling, out of control)

You on her side too, Larry? All of you on her side now? I made this bloody company. I made you.

(pointing)

I made all of you. Rich and happy. And we had a great ride. You're gonna to screw me over because of some stupid women and what they said I did to them?

TABITHA
Either Zach steps down from this
company or I will. That's my final
decision.

Shocked glances bounce around the room.

Tabitha calls Security.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
(on phone)
Yes, two guards...right away.

Zach continues his rant.

ZACH
These women wanted a way to move up
the corporate ladder, to make more
money. There is nothing I did that
they did not want from me...it was
all consensual, you hear me?

Finally, an admission of guilt.

The two guards enter the room...

ZACH (CONT'D)
Wait. Guys, guys. This is not how
we're gonna end it, is it? Let's
figure something out...

...and whisk Zach away.

ZACH (CONT'D)
(turning to Tabitha)
You have no idea who you're dealing
with, Tabbie. I will take you
down.

The Board members continue to stare, reeling in shock.

INT. BROOKHAVEN DINING AREA - EVENING

Claire and Maria sit at a private table in the corner.
Maria's dinner plate is cleared. Tabitha approaches.

TABITHA
(chuckling)
Did I miss the Thursday chicken
platter special? I was looking
forward to it.

MARIA
How was your big meeting?

CLAIRE
I'm sure Mom kicked butt.

TABITHA
Zach...I've never seen him like
that. I still can't believe he...

CLAIRE
How do you expect a sexual predator
to react after he's exposed?

Hearing Claire say the words jars Tabitha.

Maria whispers something in Claire's ear. She gets up and
talks to one of the attendants.

A few moments later, the attendant returns with three plates
of apple pie a la mode, and some birthday balloons.

ATTENDANT
(looking at Maria)
As you ordered, Mrs. Russo.

TABITHA
Mom, you remembered.

MARIA
You lucked out. Apple pie a la
mode just happened to be the
Thursday dessert special.

CLAIRE
(affectionately)
Oh, Grandma.

Claire puts her arm around Maria's shoulder and brings her
face close to hers. A family moment. Tabitha's touched.

EXT. GIDEON PARKING LOT - MORNING

Another Monday morning. Tabitha parks her Tesla, gets out,
checks her cell.

EXT. GIDEON MAIN ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

She swipes her company badge. Door doesn't open.

Tries again. No go.

She waves to Wayne behind the glass doors. He leaves his post, approaches her.

TABITHA
Wayne, my card is not working.
Must be some kind of glitch. Can
you call upstairs?

WAYNE
I'm sorry Ms. Larsen.

TABITHA
Sorry?

WAYNE
They told me not to let you in.
I'm sorry. Here...
(pointing to a bin)
Please put your laptop and any
electronic files in here.

TABITHA
There must be some mistake. You're
kidding, right?

Two security guards come to the door. The enforcers.

It's a punch in the gut. Tabitha realizes what is happening.

The first few of the Gideon rank and file arrive at work.
Tabitha can't escape their glances. Reggie gives her a
SMIRK, and walks right past her, not saying a thing.

Tabitha puts her laptop in bin, and walks towards car.
Completely humiliated.

INT. TESLA - PARKING LOT - MORNING

Tabitha, confused and desperate, calls Beatrice Harlowe.

INT. BEATRICE HARLOWE'S TOWNHOME - MORNING

Beatrice is in her bathrobe, working at her laptop. Her cat
purrs nearby. Her cell RINGS...

BEATRICE
Tabitha?

INTERCUT TESLA/TOWNHOME

TABITHA
Have I been fired?

Silence. Then...

BEATRICE

Do you remember what I asked you in
our first meeting?

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Do you want to be a...

TABITHA

...a top dog in a man's
world?

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Zach is the top dog. He founded
Gideon, he built Gideon, he IS
Gideon. You were a valuable right
hand to him for many years, but...

TABITHA

(interrupting)

Tell me something...woman to woman,
what he did...doesn't it bother
you? Repulse you?

BEATRICE

Look, it was always she said, he
said. There was never any hard
evidence...

(pause)

...and don't start with this holier
than thou attitude. You've been
wanting to be CEO since the day you
joined the company - for the money,
the prestige, the power. You
settled the suit with Susan
Albridge for far less than she
asked for. Why? For Zach. For the
good of the company.

Tabitha sighs, taking it all in.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Why were you quiet all these years?
Are you saying you didn't notice
anything? Come on...I don't believe
it. You've known him longer than
any of us. Maybe you saw
something, heard something...and
you just didn't want to come
forward because it would have meant
getting off the damn CEO track.

Tabitha feels the pang of guilt at the pit of her stomach.

TABITHA

I thought as the CEO I could make a difference.

BEATRICE

You wanted to be CEO, and you acted like the CEO, but you were never REALLY CEO. Do you understand, Tabitha?

CLICK!

Tabitha clutches the cell, dazed and shocked. Plops her head on wheel, stares through the windshield at a throng of employees walking past their cars for another day at work.

INT. TESLA - LATER

Tabitha drives home. Her cell RINGS.

TABITHA

Tabitha Larsen speaking.

A woman cries on the phone.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Who's this?

SOFIA

It's Sofia. Sofia Delgado.

TABITHA

What happened?

SOFIA

They let me go. They told me to collect my things, to not come in tomorrow.

Tabitha hangs up, calls the other women who had also signed affidavits. All fired on the same day as Tabitha. A purge.

INT. LARSEN HOME - EVENING

Tabitha opens the fridge, takes out a bottle of vodka. Reads Claire's note: *"7pm screening of Norma Rae. Will be home by 11. I think."*

Tabitha walks upstairs with the bottle and glass, shuts the bedroom door tightly behind her.

MASTER CLOSET - LATER

Tabitha, dressed in a lingerie slip, sits on a chair in the master closet. Disheveled hair, bloodshot eyes.

An open pill bottle, several pills, and an almost empty vodka bottle lie on a small table before her.

She picks up cell, calls Norm. It goes to voicemail.

TABITHA

Norm, they fired me. I wanted you to hear it from me. I know you think I've been keeping secrets from you..but I didn't know I was raped...god, RAPED...I can't even say the word...I got pregnant and I had an abortion...poor Frances...I know you wanted to have kids, but I just couldn't...not after having killed Frances.

She pauses to catch her breath.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

You're right...I AM selfish...I've always been selfish...cared about nothing but my career...my FUCKIN' EXHAUSTING LIFE-CONSUMING career...

Her grief turns to rage.

She picks up several hangers with expensive suits, throws them wildly on the floor. Hurls shoes, expensive handbags. Empties jewelry drawers and tosses contents onto counter.

She continues rambling into NORM's voicemail.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

I am an awful mother, awful wife. I hate myself.

She picks up the vodka glass, gulps down the drink.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

(sobbing into the cell)

I am sorry. So sorry.

She collapses in chair.

FOYER

Claire and Justin stumble in, his hands all over her. He's ready for some action.

CLAIRE

Shhh...my mom will wake up.

LIVING ROOM

They jump onto the sofa -- full on smooching. Claire laughs out loud.

INT. LARSEN HOME - MORNING

Tabitha, barefoot and still wearing her slip, walks across the open living/kitchen area...

LIVING ROOM

...walks past Justin who's asleep on the couch...

KITCHEN

...past Claire who is making breakfast...

DINING ROOM

Tabitha opens the sliding doors that lead to backyard...

FOYER

...as Claire looks through the mail from previous night.

BACKYARD

Tabitha is FIFTY feet away from the edge of the pool...

INTERCUT FOYER/BACKYARD

Claire finds a small brown package in the mail.

Tabitha is TWENTY feet away from the edge of the pool...

MEMORY FLASH: Tabitha holds a small baby dressed in a white baptism dress. Has Tabitha's brunette hair, green eyes.

Tabitha places her in water in a baptism ritual. At that moment, the picture of the ultrasound flashes in her mind.

Tabitha is TEN feet away from the edge of the pool...

MEMORY FLASH: A male lifeguard rescues a young Tabitha from drowning.

LIFEGUARD

I got you. Stop kicking me. I got you. Stop. Stop.

MEMORY FLASH: Cries of Tabitha yelling "STOP. STOP" as Manny hovers on top of her.

Tabitha STOPS. She NOW STANDS at the edge of the pool.

CLAIRE

(carrying the package)

Mom, Mom...

She runs upstairs.

MASTER BEDROOM/CLOSET

Claire sees the mess. Panicked, she rushes downstairs.

LIVING ROOM

CLAIRE

Mom, mom...?

She shakes Justin hard.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Justin, get up. Something is wrong. Oh my God...

Justin, still half asleep, gazes out the window....

JUSTIN

Isn't that your mom outside by the pool?

BACKYARD

The pool looks as vast as an ocean to Tabitha. She takes a step forward, ready to jump. At that very moment, she hears Claire...

CLAIRE
(shouting at top of voice)
Mom, Susan Albridge sent you a
package.

Tabitha freezes. Takes a few steps back from pool. Turns
around and faces Claire.

TABITHA
Susan?

INT. THE LARSEN KITCHEN - MORNING

Tabitha, Justin and Claire are huddled around the laptop.

The three are transfixed by what they see on the screen.
Tabitha looks over at Claire. Their eyes meet. They know
what they must do.

INT. GRAND BALLROOM - LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER - MORNING

10,000 square foot ballroom packed with tech industry
pundits, reporters, fans. FUTURETECH signage everywhere.

A twenty-something computer geek speaks from the stage.

ANNOUNCER
And now, it is my pleasure to
introduce someone who is no
stranger to FUTURETECH...

INT. TECH SUPPORT AREA BEHIND STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Shellie hovers over a laptop manned by a technician.

SHELLIE
I just emailed you the
slides...some last minute edits...

TECHNICIAN
Now? He's already up there...

SHELLIE
Better hurry then. He gets awfully
mad if his presentation isn't just
right.

TECHNICIAN
(sweating)
Alright, alright....

The technician downloads a Powerpoint file with an embedded key-logger file that captures all the keystrokes technician makes on laptop.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE GRAND BALLROOM - MORNING

A figure, dressed in Casual Friday khakis/shirt and baseball cap, walks down corridor, looks down at cell.

INT. CAFE ACROSS FROM CONVENTION CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Justin types commands in a black dialog box on his laptop. Claire sits next to him, mesmerized.

Incoming call from "SHELLIE." Claire picks up.

SHELLIE (V.O.)

Ready.

INTERCUT GRAND BALLROOM/HALLWAY/CAFE

ANNOUNCER

His visionary thinking led him to found Gideon Communications nearly 20 years ago when the Internet was just a blip on our radar. His company has revolutionized...

Steve Turnbull rounds a corner, walks to rendezvous point.

STEVE

Tabitha, is that you?

The figure in khakis turns around. It is TABITHA!

TABITHA

Did you make the call like I asked you to?

STEVE

Yeah.

He hands her a press badge.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You know they'll skewer you if they see you in there.

TABITHA

Can't be any worse than what they've already done to me.

She wears the press badge around her neck, opens the doors...

Reggie snaps a few selfies with guests. Satisfied with himself, he approaches Brad standing on the floor just below the stage. Brad is fixated on the stage...

ANNOUNCER

Last month, Gideon announced it will acquire Apollo Technologies, making it the largest next-gen provider for the booming on-line content world....

JUSTIN

Now, I just need to access the laptop that has the presentation. Give me a minute...mmm...
(clicking cursor)
DONE!

CLAIRE

So that's it?

JUSTIN

Yep.

CLAIRE

(kissing Justin on cheek)
Did I tell you you're amazing?!

Justin gives a smirk, enjoying the moment.

ANNOUNCER

Please help me welcome Gideon founder and Executive Chairman, ZACH DONAHUE.

Standing ovation from the assembled crowd.

Zach walks on to the stage. Waves to his screaming fans -- a rock star for computer nerds looking to make it big.

Tabitha makes her way along the back wall...

ZACH

Thank you, thank you.

Tabitha is anxious. Her cell RINGS...ring tone too loud. She quickly lowers it.

TABITHA

Yeah?

JUSTIN (O.S.)
We're in. When you say the word,
Operation Norma Rae is a go.

Reggie glances at the figure in khakis across the room,
standing alone, leaning against the wall. Something FAMILIAR.

Tabitha looks up to the ceiling, makes a sign of a cross.

It hits Reggie like a wallop. The figure is TABITHA!

He whispers in Brad's ear. Brad makes a call.

A slide presentation starts to play on the big screen. Zach
hits his clicker, starts his speech.

Two security guards make their way towards Tabitha. About
300 feet away. Tabitha notices them.

ZACH
Ten years from now, who knows how
many Internet behemoths we will
have besides Facebook and Amazon?
Who knows...

The guards close in on Tabitha.

Tabitha calls Justin.

TABITHA
Now...do it now.

The presentation screen SUDDENLY goes black. Murmurs among
the audience.

ZACH
(looking up at screen)
What's going on?

JUSTIN
Shit, I can't upload the video.

CLAIRE
What?!

JUSTIN
Something's wrong. I don't know...

Tabitha overhears Justin and Claire's conversation on the
phone.

TABITHA
(in a forced whisper)
What the hell is going on?

Claire gets up, runs out of the cafe, crosses the street, and enters the convention center.

Tabitha is escorted out by two security guards...

INT. MAIN CONVENTION FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Claire sneaks into a side door, runs across the large convention floor teeming with industry exhibits, bumping and hitting patrons along the way....

INT. GRAND BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

...and finally makes her way to the presentation stage.

Zach has his back to the audience, gazes at the black screen...as...

...Claire approaches the microphone.

CLAIRE
(nervous)
Uh...uh..
(clearing her throat)
My mom used to be the head of this
company - the CEO -

Tabitha halts, turns around.

TABITHA
(to the guards)
Let me go. That's my daughter...

The guards release her.

CLAIRE
My mom is not here on this stage
right now talking to you because
she was fired. She was fired for
telling the truth. She was fired
for standing up to power even
though I know she had one of the
most powerful jobs in the world.
A couple of years from now, I will
be out there on my own...and it is
scary.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I may have a boss that takes advantage of me because of my gender or I may end up working at a place that does not treat women fairly, and...and I don't think I should have to put up with that...and I don't think any woman anywhere should have to put up with that. I am proud of my mom for having the courage to speak up on behalf of the female employees at Gideon whose voices were silenced. My mom, Tabitha Larsen, may no longer be CEO. But she has won my respect and my heart, and I love her.

A security guard gets ready to pull Claire away when...

...a woman in the audience stands up and starts clapping. Then another woman...then another...and another...

The whole ballroom explodes in APPLAUSE.

SECURITY GUARD

(escorting her to back)

Come on outside, Miss...

Claire looks at presentation screen. Still black. Then, suddenly, the VIDEO starts to play. JUSTIN did it.

Claire is pushed out. The exit door closes behind her.

ZACH turns toward the audience. He approaches the podium to continue his talk, when he suddenly hears a VOICE FROM THE PAST...

CUT TO VIDEO:

YOUNG WOMAN

I thought you said customers would be here.

ZACH

Yeah they should be here soon. On their way from the airport to Gideon's private suite here. I'll introduce you to them. Being our new Asia financial analyst and all.

Zach takes a drink, and accidentally spills it on his shirt.

ZACH (CONT'D)
 Shit! That was clumsy of me.
 They're going to be here any moment
 now. Hon, can you go to the
 bedroom closet and get me a clean
 shirt? Any one will do...there
 should be several, all dry cleaned.

The woman walks towards the bedroom. The door closes behind
 her. She turns around scared.

CUT TO BALLROOM:

FEMALE REPORTER
 (on phone)
 Are you seeing this, Carl?

CARL
 Yeah, everyone is seeing it...it is
 streaming live...

FEMALE REPORTER
 Right now?

CARL
 Yeah, stay on the story.

Zach goes backstage and yells at the trade show staff.

ZACH
 Who the hell is broadcasting this?

STAFF
 It's streaming, Mr. Donahue.

ZACH
 What the fuck are you talking
 about?

STAFF
 Look, look right here.

He stares at Youtube screen.

10,000 views.

In seconds...

100,000 views.

INT. GIDEON OFFICES - AFTERNOON

Large groups of employees watch on their cell phones. We see their reactions of shock, surprise.

ZACH (O.S.)
You are a very pretty woman, you know that?

YOUNG WOMAN (O.S.)
Aren't you married?

ZACH (O.S.)
What does that have to do with anything?

INT. BEATRICE HARLOWE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Her assistant opens the door while she's on a call.

MALE ASSISTANT
It's urgent. You've gotta see this.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - AFTERNOON

Random strangers watch the video while crossing the street.

VIDEO:

ZACH pushes his victim onto the bed. He starts laughing.

ZACH
(whispering in her ear)
I'll say you agreed to meet me here. Come on now...don't fight this...

He kisses her breasts, partially still covered by her dress.

YOUNG WOMAN
No, please don't. Please don't.

BALLROOM:

Two police officers make their way towards ZACH.

VIDEO:

ZACH removes belt, unzips his pants, and pushes against her.

ZACH
Come on, you know you want this...

BALLROOM:

A white collar woman looks away in disgust. A few Hispanic maids standing in the back talk among themselves in Spanish.

VIDEO:

ZACH is now on top of his victim. She pushes him back with her hands, he takes control again, she pushes against his face, he takes her arm, raises it and pins it behind her on the bed. He pushes in harder and harder.

YOUNG WOMAN
Stop. Stop. STOP.

BALLROOM:

Tabitha looks away in disgust. She relives the traumatic moment with Manny all over again.

VIDEO:

The doorbell rings. ZACH gets up from bed, zips up his pants, chooses a shirt from the closet and wears it.

ZACH
If you say a word about this to anyone, you can forget about coming to work tomorrow. Or finding a job anywhere. And you losing your job won't do much good to your Grandma, will it?

BALLROOM:

The laptop now shows 1 million Youtube views.

VIDEO stops.

The police officers handcuff Zach and walk him out.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Zach notices a figure wearing a baseball cap. They exchange glances. The figure removes the cap. Zach realizes it is TABITHA! He is interrogated by officers while...

...Tabitha, standing tall and proud, walks right past him....

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - CONTINUOUS

...and out of the building. Claire runs towards her mother and gives her a big bear hug. Tabitha looks past her, and beams at Justin.

TABITHA
(pumping her fist)
STAND UP TO POWER. LONG LIVE THE
REVOLUTION!

Justin beams back at his fellow revolutionary, pumping his fist with equal gusto.

THREE MONTHS LATER**INT. ST. XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - MORNING**

Several families are seated for a special Church liturgy.

Claire and Justin sit in the front pew. Maria and Angie sit behind them.

The altar is covered with mementos, photos. Tabitha holds a small gilded box decorated with a cross - a family heirloom. She gently folds ultrasound image in half, places it inside the box, leaves it on altar.

As Tabitha takes her seat next to Claire, she sees Norm walk in, take a seat at the back of the church. Tabitha nods, smiles. He nods, smiles back.

The main priest speaks.

PRIEST
"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them", said Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. These words allow us to hope there is a way of salvation for these children who all died without the blessed rite of Baptism.

Claire lays her hand on top of Tabitha's.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
For those parents present who still grieve over the death of their child, let them be comforted in the knowledge that their child dwells with God.

Tabitha rests her head on Claire's shoulder.

EXT. ST. XAVIER'S CHURCH - LATER

Norm heads towards his car. Tabitha goes to him.

TABITHA
Thanks for coming, Norm. How's
Boston?

NORM
It's good. Busy. Hey, I heard
you've started your own company.

TABITHA
I have no idea if it is going to
work. It's a risky bet.

NORM
Good for you, Tabbie.

TABITHA
Claire has Friday off. It's a PD
Day for the teachers at school. She
wants to go up to the lake.

Claire approaches them. Tabitha puts her arm around Claire's
shoulder.

NORM
Keep reminding your mom:
NO WORKING VACATIONS!

She nods. Norm gives her a big hug.

NORM (CONT'D)
I'll see you in a few weeks, OK
honey?

EXT. LAKE - AFTERNOON

Idyllic setting with green grass, trees and blue water.

Maria sits in a lawn chair, praying with her rosary. Angie
sits on a beach towel, relaxing with a book.

INT. LAKE COTTAGE - AFTERNOON

Tabitha sits in front of a laptop, a big logo of her new
company, BUCKET LIST JOURNEYS, fills the screen.

On a videoconference with her small staff made of several former Gideon employees, including Sofia Delgado.

TABITHA

Wine excursion in Tuscany, a cruise down the Yangtze, what other travel destinations do you think our clients would enjoy?

SOFIA

We brainstormed a list...shall I email it to you?

Claire stands at the doorway, wearing a swimsuit, holding a towel.

TABITHA

(speaking to the screen)

Yeah, sounds good....

Tabitha notices Claire, signaling her to come and join them outside. Tabitha motions Claire to wait...she's ALMOST done...

EXT. LAKE - AFTERNOON

Claire walks down the dock towards Justin.

CLAIRE

(shaking her head)

She's not coming. She never knows when to quit.

Justin sees Tabitha standing behind Claire.

JUSTIN

Are you sure?

Claire turns, surprised to see Mom!

CLAIRE

Mom, I put a chair over there for you...next to Grandma.

Justin creeps up, pushes Claire into the water.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

HEY...

He jumps in after her. They play in the water.

EXT. LAKE - LATER

Tabitha stands on the wooden dock, dressed in a swimsuit.

Her swim belt lies on the floor. Makes a sign of the Holy Cross. Takes a deep breath, runs across the dock, and jumps in.

SPLASH!

THE END