

Jack Daniels on the Rocks

By Michael Zielinski

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FADE IN:

1 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

JACK DANIELS, white, good-looking, tall and trim with an impressive head of hair in his 40s, is giving his closing argument to the JURY.

JACK

My client Mary is 20 years old with four children by four different fathers. She's not the virgin Mary. And she's not a murderer.

He turns sideways and points to his client, MARY PAXTON, a white, skinny, trembling blonde who is sobbing and sitting next to Daniels' paralegal RAVEN WILLIAMS, a stunning regal Black woman in her 30s.

He turns again to the jury and casually paces back and forth in front of them. The jurors' eyes toggle back and forth as if they're watching a tennis match.

JACK

As you heard, her latest lover of the month tripped over one of her children's rubber duckies while lunging at Mary with a butcher knife. He tragically fell on top of the knife, accidentally committing suicide.

Jack returns and sits next to Raven at the defendant's counsel table. She leans over and whispers in his ear.

RAVEN

Far be it from me to second-guess the living legend, but if the jury swallows that crock of shit, I'll buy you a Lamborghini.

2 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - NIGHT

Jack, Raven and his Latino secretary/receptionist LUNA LOPEZ, pretty and built in her 20s, are sitting at a large conference table.

JACK

When can I expect delivery of my Lamborghini?

RAVEN

When Braxton runs out of murderers,  
rapists, drug dealers and church  
organists.

LUNA

Church organists?

RAVEN

Before you joined our practice Jack  
won an acquittal for a church organist  
who chopped up the pastor's wife into  
pieces and hid them in the church  
belfry.

LUNA

Mercy! How did you pull that off?

JACK

Nit picking the DNA evidence. By the  
time I was shredding it, the murderer  
could've been Jack the Ripper.

3 INT. JACK'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jack is shampooing, showering and singing People Are Strange,  
sounding an awful lot like Jim Morrison of The Doors.

JACK

(Singing loudly)

People are strange

When you're a stranger

Faces look ugly

When you're alone

Women seem wicked

When you're unwanted

Streets are uneven

When you're down

When you're strange

Faces come out of the rain

When you're strange

JACK (CONT'D)  
No one remembers your name

When you're strange.

4 INT. BLIND SARAH'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Jack, casually dressed in black jeans and a white sweater, is standing at the bar and listening to the PIGS OF DECEPTION. Rather, listening to their lead singer PORK CHOP, porky, bald, white and in his 50s, in the midst of an awful coughing fit while the band stands mute.

Pork Chop, still coughing, walks over to the bar and orders a glass of water. While drinking the water, Jack approaches him.

JACK  
You OK, Pork?

PORK  
(Raspy)  
I'll live. Too damn many Marlboros and shots of whiskey.

JACK  
Want me to step in for you the next set?

PORK  
Fuck no. The last time you did the Pigs of Deception wanted to replace me with you. But since you legally changed my name to Pork Chop pro bono, let me return the favor.

JACK  
What?

PORK  
Coffee Mate is looking for a lead singer.

JACK  
Coffee Mate?

PORK  
(Coughing while laughing)  
A knockoff on Cream. Get it?

JACK

Eric Clapton, Ginger Baker and Jack  
Bruce reborn.

PORK

Coffee Mate covers Cream as well as  
other classic rock staples. They even  
do some Doors, perfect for your  
Morrison-like voice.

JACK

I'm interested.

PORK

Toad is the band leader. I'll text you  
his number.

JACK

Thanks.

PORK

Why the hell a hotshot lawyer wants to  
be in a cover band is a riddle I can't  
solve.

JACK

Just say I've got an itch I want to  
finally scratch.

PORK

Porkers like me sometimes get an itch  
that we can't reach to scratch.

5 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

Jack is standing next to his client, BONNIE LEHMAN, a saucy,  
sexy white brunette in her 40s with plenty of curls and a  
revealing low-cut top at her murder arraignment. The  
presiding judge is SUSAN BURKE, an attractive white blonde  
with a stylish cut in her 50s.

JUDGE BURKE

How does the defendant plead?

BONNIE

Not guilty, your honor.

JACK

We request that Miss Burke be released  
on bail, your honor.

JUDGE BURKE

Of course. I need a shampoo, cut and blowout. Bail is set at a million dollars.

BONNIE

Come on, Susie. That's excessive.

JUDGE BURKE

Your honor.

BONNIE

Your honor.

JUDGE BURKE

Your beauty salon is high volume and big bucks. You can afford bail.

JACK

Thank you for granting bail, your honor.

Judge Burke bangs her gavel.

6 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Jack and Bonnie are sitting on a bench in a courthouse hallway.

BONNIE

You better get me off or you too will need to find another hair stylist.

JACK

I'll do my best.

BONNIE

Do you want to know if I drowned my husband Sam in the bathtub?

JACK

Since there is no physical evidence that you did, he could have fallen asleep in the tub. Or was drowned by a mistress or a disgruntled client or the mailman.

Bonnie smiles mischievously.

BONNIE

It could have been anyone. But not a  
(MORE)

BONNIE (CONT'D)  
mistress. Sam was too religious for  
that. That's why I loved him.

JACK  
Since you absolutely adored your saint  
of a husband, you had no motive to  
kill him. It's all about creating  
doubt in the jurors' minds.

BONNIE  
I'm going to hold a Saint Mother  
Teresa holy card in one hand and a  
rosary in the other while in court.

JACK  
For God's sake, please don't pull them  
out of your cleavage.

7 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - NIGHT

Jack is sitting at his office desk, talking on the phone.

JACK  
Toad?

TOAD (V.O.)  
Speaking.

JACK  
I'm Jack Daniels.

TOAD (V.O.)  
Pals with Jim Beam?

JACK  
And Johnnie Walker.

TOAD (V.O.)  
Tom Collins?

JACK  
Yes. And Brandy Alexander.

TOAD (V.O.)  
You didn't call me to play the name  
game.

JACK  
I hear Coffee Mate is looking for a  
lead vocalist.

TOAD (V.O.)  
We are. What do you sing?

JACK  
People tell my voice reminds them  
somewhat of Jim Morrison. So  
definitely The Doors.

TOAD  
Who else?

JACK  
The Stones, Zeppelin, Cream, The  
Animals, Springsteen, Van Halen,  
AC/DC, Aerosmith, Bon Jovi.

TOAD (V.O.)  
That works. We practice tomorrow night  
at 8.

8 EXT. TOAD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jack, wearing an expensive suit, climbs the steps to the front porch of a worn, semi-detached home in a working-class neighborhood and rings the doorbell.

Answering the door is TOAD, a stubby white guy with short legs, several facial warts, a perpetual grimace and greasy brown hair in his 40s.

JACK  
I'm Jack Daniels. Sorry I'm late. Got  
hung up in the office.

TOAD  
Bernie Silverstein. Everybody calls me  
Toad. Come in and meet the band.

9 INT. TOAD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jack steps into the house and Toad escorts him through the dimly lit, sparsely decorated house with cheap furniture and down a flight of stairs to an unfinished basement.

The Coffee Mate bandmates are with their instruments next to a gas furnace and water heater and under exposed pipes wreathed with cobwebs.

TOAD  
This is Jack Daniels, our wannabe  
vocalist.



JACK

Sorry I'm overdressed. All my tank tops and torn jeans are in the wash.

TOAD

That's Bones McKinney on bass. He always wears the pained expression of a guy watching his Jaguar catch fire in the driveway.

BONES MCKINNEY, a 6-foot-6-inch white string bean with a crew cut in his 30s, nods to Jack.

BONES

You a funeral director?

JACK

Defense attorney.

BONES

Being bad is better than being good because while the good sleep better, the bad enjoy the waking hours much more.

JACK

If you get too bad, I'll represent you.

TOAD

On the drums is Pudge Klumpf, whose ample stature gives credence to the theory that bulldozer beats tulip.

PUDGE KLUMPF, a chrome-domed, 300-plus-pound bear of a white man in his 30s with piercings in his ears, eyebrows and nose along with thick arms polluted with tattoos and an unlit cigar stuck in his mouth, rises from his drum throne and rips a loud, long fart.

TOAD

If Pudge went swimming in Loch Ness, the monster would get out. He's so massive he wasn't born, he was founded.

TOAD

And on rhythm guitar is Ziggy Zmroczek, who blinks more frequently than an airport tower and has an epic masturbation addiction.

ZIGGY ZMROCZEK, a short, nervous, pale mouse of a white man in his 40s with long, thinning blond hair and a scraggly ponytail, smiles and grabs his crotch.

JACK

Toad, by process of elimination, I assume you play lead guitar.

TOAD

Just like Clapton.

JACK

Let's rock.

Jack walks over in front of the band and grabs a mic.

TOAD

Cream, Sunshine of Your Love.

Coffee Mate and Jack start playing.

JACK

(Singing)

It's getting near dawn

When lights close their tired eyes

I'll soon be with you, my love

Give you my dawn surprise

I'll be with you, darling, soon

I'll be with you when the stars start  
falling

I've been waiting so long

To be where we're going

In the sunshine of your love

Toad holds up his right hand and the band stops playing.

TOAD

Satisfaction, the Stones.

The band resumes playing.

JACK

(Singing)

I can't get no satisfaction

I can't get no satisfaction

'Cause I try, and I try, and I try,  
and I try

I can't get no, I can't get no

When I'm drivin' in my car

And the man comes on the radio

He's tellin' me more and more

About some useless information

Supposed to fire my imagination

I can't get no, oh, no, no, no

Hey, hey, hey, that's what I say

I can't get no satisfaction

I can't get no satisfaction

Toad holds up his right hand and the band stops playing.

TOAD

Highway to Hell, AC/DC.

The band resumes playing.

JACK

(Singing)

Livin' easy, lovin' free

Season ticket on a one-way ride

Askin' nothin', leave me be

Takin' everything in my stride

Don't need reason, don't need rhyme

Ain't nothin' I'd rather do

Going down, party time

JACK (CONT'D)

My friends are going to be there too,  
yeah

I'm on the highway to hell

On the highway to hell

Highway to hell

I'm on the highway to hell

Toad holds up his right hand and the band stops playing.

TOAD

Damn righteous. And now Mr. Jim  
Morrison voice clone, Light My Fire,  
Doors.

The band resumes playing.

JACK

(Singing)

You know that it would be untrue

You would know that I would be a liar

If I was to say to you

Girl, we couldn't get much higher

Come on baby, light my fire

Come on baby, light my fire

Try to set the night on fire

Toad holds up his right hand and the band stops playing.

TOAD

Fucking awesome, dude! You're hired!

BONES

Badass, brother. Badass.

PUDGE

I just shit my pants.

ZIGGY

I feel like jerking off.

BONES

Sound like fucking Jim Morrison.

PUDGE

Just don't croak from a heart attack  
in your bathtub before your first gig  
with us.

10 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - DAY

Jack, Luna and Raven are sitting at their conference table,  
drinking coffee. Legal documents and notepads are on the  
table.

JACK

Guess what I did last night?

RAVEN

What you do every night. Prepare for a  
case or browse the Pennsylvania  
criminal crude.

Jack smiles mischievously.

LUNA

Go out on a date? You've haven't been  
with anyone since your wife died four  
years ago.

JACK

Not a date.

RAVEN

Then what?

JACK

Joined a classic rock cover band named  
Coffee Mate.

LUNA

You did what?

JACK

You heard me. I'm their new vocalist.

RAVEN

Are you crazy? That's going to screw  
with your credibility as a crackerjack  
criminal defense attorney.

JACK

We'll see. This is something I've wanted to do for years. But Kate thought it would screw my legal career.

RAVEN

She was right.

LUNA

Coffee Mate?

JACK

A Cream knockoff.

LUNA

Cream?

JACK

Cream was a British supergroup. Eric Clapton. Ginger Baker. Jack Bruce. Check out Sunshine of Your Love and White Room on YouTube.

RAVEN

When's your first gig?

JACK

Tomorrow night at Blind Sarah's Tavern.

LUNA

I'll be there. Just hope you're not more out of place than the village idiot at a Mensa convention.

RAVEN

I've got to see it, too. Just hope Kate isn't looking down from heaven.

11 INT. BLIND SARAH'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Coffee Mate is performing on stage before an appreciative packed house. Raven and Luna are sitting at a large rear table, smiling and grooving to the music. Jack is wearing a black leather shirt and pants and looks every bit the rock star.

JACK

(Singing)

Well, show me the way

JACK (CONT'D)  
To the next whiskey bar  
Oh, don't ask why  
Oh, don't ask why  
Show me the way  
To the next whiskey bar  
Oh, don't ask why  
Oh, don't ask why  
For if we don't find  
The next whiskey bar  
I tell you we must die  
I tell you we must die  
I tell you, I tell you  
I tell you we must die  
Oh, moon of Alabama  
We now must say goodbye  
We've lost our good old mama  
And must have whiskey, oh, you know  
why

The band stops playing. Jack, bathed in sweat, is beaming as he bows to the AUDIENCE that is applauding and screaming.

JACK  
Thank you. Thank you so much. We are  
Coffee Mate. Hope to see you all again  
soon.

Jack and his bandmates are smiling and laughing as they high five and fist bump with PATRONS as they weave their way through the tables and join Raven and Luna at their table in the back near the bar.

PUDGE  
Jack, you must be a fucking rock star.  
(MORE)

PUDGE (CONT'D)

You've got two girlfriends.

LUNA

Not his girlfriends. We work for him.

RAVEN

He doesn't know it yet, but we're getting paid to be here.

JACK

What did you think?

RAVEN

Don't quit your day job because I need the money. But you were freaking incredible.

LUNA

I watched The Doors on YouTube and when I closed my eyes tonight, you were Jim Morrison singing.

TOAD

Jack, you're the best thing ever to happen to Coffee Mate.

BONES

Amen, brother.

ZIGGY

I had an erection the whole set.

A young WAITRESS approaches their table.

JACK

Six pitchers of Budweiser for the guys, two espresso martinis for the ladies and I'll have Jack Daniels on the rocks.

TOAD

Of course you will.

ASHLEY DUPREE, a beautiful, slim, long-legged white blonde in her early 30s with skin as smooth as silk on satin, walks up behind Jack and pours some Perrier mineral water from her glass down the back of his shirt. Startled, he whirls around.

JACK

What the fuck?



Upon seeing the comely Ashley, his frown instantly turns into a smile.

ASHLEY

Chill, dude. I was just screwing with you.

BONES

Damn, the vocalists always get the girls who want to screw with them and screw them.

ASHLEY

Hush, Mr. Skelton Man. I'm not a groupie. Just want to know Jim Morrison Junior here.

JACK

You'll have to settle for Jack Daniels.

ASHLEY

For real?

JACK

On my birth certificate. My folks were drunk on Jack Daniels when they conceived me in the back of a beat-up Ford.

ASHLEY

No wonder you became a rock god. I'm Ashley Dupree. My friends call me Ash.

The waitress delivers the drinks. Raven nods to Luna and they stand up.

RAVEN

Give our martinis to Ash. We've got to work tomorrow.

LUNA

Believe it or not, tomorrow's schedule is relatively light. Jack, we won't expect you until noon. Nice to meet you, boys.

They smile and walk away. Toad gets up.

TOAD

Guys, let's mingle with the patrons  
(MORE)

TOAD (CONT'D)  
and find our own groupies.

BONES  
Follow the leader.

Toad, Bones, Pudge and Ziggy all walk away, carrying the pitchers of beer with them.

JACK  
Sit down, Ash. My thoughtful friends  
left us alone.

She sits down seductively.

ASHLEY  
I wasn't kidding. I'm not a groupie.  
You won't be getting lucky tonight.

JACK  
Already been lucky tonight. Always  
wanted to be a rock vocalist.

ASHLEY  
What's your day job, dude?

JACK  
Criminal defense attorney.

ASHLEY  
I imagine you dazzle jurors by piling  
on the shit.

They both laugh.

ASHLEY  
You should sing your closing arguments  
to juries.

JACK  
Perhaps next time. What do you do?

ASHLEY  
I'm a hair stylist. I see you're not  
wearing a wedding ring. Is it in your  
pocket?

JACK  
It's on my wife's right ring finger. I  
put it on her just before they closed  
the coffin.

She frowns and puts a comforting hand on his shoulder.

ASHLEY

That sucks. So sorry.

JACK

Breast cancer.

ASHLEY

You got kids?

JACK

Nope. We were too busy working. She was a CPA.

ASHLEY

I'm not seeing anybody. You?

JACK

I am now.

ASHLEY

Me, too.

She leans in close to him.

JACK

Here's looking at you, kid.

ASHLEY

I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

JACK

What in heaven's name brought you to Blind Sarah's tonight?

ASHLEY

A bible reading.

JACK

What bible reading? This is a bar, not a church.

ASHLEY

I was misinformed.

JACK

Apparently.

ASHLEY

We'll always have Blind Sarah's.

JACK

We'll have to watch Casablanca with some popcorn.

ASHLEY

We'll butter the popcorn. And each other.

JACK

What would Bogart and Bergman think?

12 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTHOUSE - DAY

Jack is standing, waiting for an elevator. Next to him is SUSAN, a petite white brunette in her 30s.

SUSAN

You rock pretty good, Jack.

JACK

Susan, were you at Blind Sarah's Tavern last night?

SUSAN

(Giggling)

Me and three other assistant district attorneys.

JACK

Didn't you guys have trial prep?

SUSAN

Not as much fun as listening to you and Coffee Mug.

JACK

Coffee Mate, a Cream knockoff. Get it?

SUSAN

Wouldn't know. Drink my coffee black. So, what's up with the rock singer bit?

JACK

Always wanted to try it. Figured I'd better do it before they have to wheel me on stage.

SUSAN

No worries. Some rockers are older than dinosaurs.

JACK

Do you think my side hustle will screw with my day job?

SUSAN

You get people off. Keep doing that and prospective clients won't care if you spend your evenings standing naked atop a flagpole, whistling at the moon.

The elevator door opens and stepping out is BUBBA, a heavy-set 40-something Black sheriff's deputy.

BUBBA

Jack, you and your band do great covers.

JACK

Was the whole damn town at Blind Sarah's last night?

BUBBA

Blind Sarah's attracts a rough crowd. You should hand out your business card between sets.

SUSAN

(Laughing)

That's a great idea, Bubba.

13 INT. THE NUT BAR RESTAURANT - DAY

JUDGE NATHAN HAWTHORNE, white, stern and thin in his 60s, is sitting alone eating lunch at a table. He arches an eyebrow when he sees Jack, wearing an expensive suit, walk in holding hands with Ashley, wearing jeans and a short blouse that displays glimpses of her breasts and flat tummy.

Jack notices the Stirling County judge and walks over to say hello.

JACK

How are you today, Judge Hawthorne?

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

I've had better days. Presiding over a  
(MORE)

JUDGE HAWTHORNE (CONT'D)  
civil trial that's so boring my gavel  
keeps nodding off.

Ashley laughs loudly.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE  
I'm not known for my sense of humor. I  
appreciate your laughter.

JACK  
This is Ash. Ashley Dupree.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE  
Are you a trial lawyer?

ASHLEY  
Heavens know. Too much legal crap to  
read. Talk about boring.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE  
What do you do?

ASHLEY  
Beauty stylist. You get to sit on your  
job while I'm on my feet all day. Mind  
if we join you for lunch?

Without waiting for an answer, Ashley plops down on the chair  
next to the judge. Jack shoots a pained look at Ashley and  
the judge shoots an annoyed look at Jack.

ASHLEY  
I've never seen a judge without his  
black robe.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE  
The judicial code allows us to wear  
civilian clothes when not in the  
courtroom.

JACK  
We don't want to bother you, Nathan.  
We can get our own table.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE  
It's okay.

Jack sits down slowly, like a condemned man sitting on the  
electric chair.

ASHLEY

Judge, did you know that Jack is the lead vocalist for a local rock band?

Surprise registers on the judge's face. He smiles faintly as he arches both his eyebrows above his glasses.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

My, my. I obviously don't know Jack as well as I thought I did. I'll have to come hear you sometime.

ASHLEY

Really? I figured a judge would have as much interest in classic rock as a blind man would in rainbows.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

I wasn't an old fart my whole life, my dear.

JACK

I'm hoping to keep my evening hobby separate from my day job.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

Might be difficult with your enthusiastic publicist here.

JACK

She doesn't know me as an attorney.

ASHLEY

I've never been arrested or indicted.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

Well, if you ever do, Jack's the guy you want representing you.

ASHLEY

Did you ever represent a pedophile priest, Jack?

Jack gives her an annoyed look while the judge arches an eyebrow again.

JACK

Uh, no. Ash, do you mind freshening up in the ladies' room while the judge and I have a quick legal discussion?

Ashley looks hurt and immediately arises and walks away.

JACK

My apologies. I'm not going through a midlife crisis. I've always wanted to be a vocalist in a rock band. So I did. And met Ashley.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

No apologies needed. Although I do believe golf or tennis would be a more fitting hobby for a prominent trial attorney.

JACK

Understood. But singing is a passion I've squelched for too many years.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

It's a small town. Try hard to separate your avocation from your vocation. Perception can be a damaging thing.

JACK

Hopefully intelligent people can discern what's a hobby and what's an occupation.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

One must be happy in their personal life. So best of luck. Your friend is delightfully impulsive. Give her my apologies. I must get back to the courthouse.

JACK

I'll pick up your lunch for having the patience to sit with us.

The judge smiles as he arises.

JUDGE HAWTHORNE

Bribery is frowned upon. My lunch already is on my tab. I enjoyed the refreshing conversation.

He walks away. A few moments later Ashley returns and sits at the table.



ASHLEY

The judge left? Was it me?

JACK

Had to get back to work. He said  
you're delightfully impulsive.

ASHLEY

I embarrassed you, didn't I?

JACK

A little. But since we're new together  
and you're adorable, I'll cut you some  
slack.

ASHLEY

Our next lunch date will be with my  
unprofessional circle. I can be myself  
and you can be your dorky self.

She laughs, shells a few peanuts, pops the peanuts in her  
mouth and tosses the shells at him. Then leans over and  
kisses his forehead.

ASHLEY

Oh, Jack is Jack and Ash is Ash. But  
this time, the twain shall meet.

JACK

Never in my life has a lunch companion  
of mine paraphrased Rudyard Kipling.

ASHLEY

Poets stir souls. Lawyers vacuum  
souls.

JACK

And poets make peanuts.

He grabs a couple peanuts, shells them, pops the peanuts in  
his mouth and tosses the shells at Ashley.

14 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - DAY

Jack and Raven are sitting at the large conference table,  
which is carpeted with trial prep paperwork.

RAVEN

You look like shit.

JACK

Late night. After band practice, was up until 3 prepping for today's murder trial.

RAVEN

An 18-year-old punk kills a beloved barber with six kids in an armed robbery. The jury won't have any sympathy for that devil.

JACK

The kid is a cockroach. But no murder weapon was found. His fingerprints were not on the barber shop cash register. Only one eyewitness.

RAVEN

I guess the prosecution will be wailing on desolation row.

15 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

REV. SOLOMON GRAYBILL, a distinguished-looking Black minister in his 70s, is sitting in the witness stand. Jack is questioning him.

JACK

Pastor Graybill, do you wear glasses?

REV. GRAYBILL

Some of the time.

JACK

You're not wearing them now. Could you please put them on.

The pastor pulls his glasses out of his suit pocket and puts them on. He smiles.

REV. GRAYBILL

Hey, aren't you the guy who sings in a rock band? I saw you at The Bucket of Blood.

JACK

I am. I admire a man of the cloth who knows there's good music outside of hymns.

REV. GRAYBILL

I didn't go there for the music. I went there because that's where the sinners are.

JACK

I see. The question is how well you could see the night you thought you saw Eddie Rodriguez fleeing the barber shop.

REV. GRAYBILL

I saw just fine. I had my glasses on. The young man I saw was Eddie Rodriguez. He's sitting over there.

The pastor points to EDDIE RODRIGUEZ, a thin Latino teenager sitting next to Raven at the counsel table.

JACK

I see. Do you have another pair of glasses on you?

REV. GRAYBILL

I do. My reading glasses. The glasses I'm wearing now are for distance.

JACK

Please swap glasses.

The pastor removes his glasses, puts them in his suit pocket, pulls out his reading glasses from his shirt pocket and puts them on.

JACK

How do see the defendant now?

REV. GRAYBILL

To be honest, he's quite fuzzy.

JACK

Reverend, can you swear to God that you were in fact wearing your glasses for distance when you were standing across the street and claimed to see Eddie Rodriguez fleeing the barber shop?

REV. GRAYBILL

Uh. I cannot.

JACK

So, it could have been Eddie Rodriguez  
or Alex Rodriguez or just about  
anybody?

REV. GRAYBILL

I suppose so.

JACK

No further questions, your honor.

REV. GRAYBILL

Keep on rocking, counselor.

16 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTHOUSE - DAY

Jack, Eddie and Raven are sitting on a bench outside the  
courtroom.

RAVEN

It took the jury only an hour to  
acquit you.

EDDIE

(Laughing)

Lucky me. The only eyewitness was  
blind without his proper glasses.

JACK

Don't gloat. I just did my job. And  
days like today, I hate my job.

RAVEN

How did you know he uses two pairs of  
glasses?

JACK

Went to his church services Sunday.  
When preaching he wore one pair and  
when reading from the Bible he wore  
the other.

EDDIE

You're a clever dude.

JACK

It wouldn't hurt to get your sorry ass  
to church next Sunday and beg God for  
forgiveness.

17 INT. BIXLER'S HIDEAWAY INN - NIGHT

Jack and Coffee Mate are on stage at Bixler's Hideaway Inn, a rough-and-tumble bar tucked away in rural Stirling County, basking in the applause from an overflow crowd of PATRONS.

Rushing up on the stage is police officer BUTCH DONOVAN, a big, strapping white guy in his 40s. He walks up to Jack and grabs the mic from him.

JACK

What's going on, Butch?

DONOVAN

Sorry, Jack, but we have to interrupt.  
Ladies and gentlemen, the district  
attorney's office is shutting the  
place down, effectively immediately.  
Please exit the premises. Now!

PUDGE

(Bellowing)

Bullshit! We're here to rock!

Pudge pounds on his drums for emphasis.

The police officer whirls around, stomps over to Pudge and glares into in his face as three other COPS, brandishing nightsticks, bound up on stage.

DONOVAN

Knock it off, drummer boy, or we'll  
arrest you.

PUDGE

Go ahead! My lawyer Jack here will get  
me off.

JACK

Knock it the hell off, Pudge. Shut up.  
We're packing up and getting out of  
here.

The BAR OWNER, a bald, pudgy white guy in his 60s, comes on stage and screams at Officer Donovan.

BAR OWNER

Tell the fucking DA we aren't a  
nuisance bar! We don't serve minors or  
turn a blind eye to drug trafficking.

DONOVAN  
Tell it to the judge.

BAR OWNER  
Hey, Jack. Want to represent me?

JACK  
No, thanks. I'm not mixing my day job  
with my night job.

Officer Donovan turns to Jack as Coffee Mate starts packing  
up its gear.

DONOVAN  
You really need to be doing this,  
Jack?

JACK  
Sometimes I wonder.

DONOVAN  
You should.

18 INT. GROCERY SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Ashley, wearing cutoff jean shorts and a revealing tank top,  
and Jack, in a dark suit, are in the produce department. She  
picks up a large cucumber.

ASHLEY  
(Giggling)  
This looks just like you last night,  
Jack.

At that precise moment a well-dressed, silver-haired white  
WOMAN in her 60s is walking by pushing a cart. Upon hearing  
Ashley and spotting Jack, she stops dead in her tracks, her  
face frozen in shock. Jack looks mortified. Ashley's smile  
instantly turns into a grimace.

WOMAN  
(Scolding)  
Kate must be rolling over in her  
grave, Jack.

JACK  
How are you, Judy?

WOMAN  
I was fine. Now I'm nauseous. Looks  
like your grieving period is long  
(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

gone.

With that, the woman quickly walks away.

ASHLEY

Oh my God! Was that who I think it is?

JACK

Yep. My former mother-in-law. She teaches Sunday school.

ASHLEY

Goddamn.

19 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - DAY

Ashley, wearing a tight skirt, even tighter top and high heels, walks into the office and approaches Luna and Raven, who are standing near the receptionist desk.

ASHLEY

Morning, ladies. Jack in?

LUNA

He's meeting with clients in his office.

Raven giggles.

ASHLEY

What's so funny?

RAVEN

Have a seat and check out these clients. Their boss is here almost as much as we are.

Ashley walks over to a chair in the reception area and sits down. She starts filing her nails. Raven walks into her office while Luna sits at her desk.

Then Jack's office door opens and filing out are four scantily clad stunning women, a Black BLONDE, a white BRUNETTE, a BLACK and a LATINO. Trailing them is a Black PIMP wearing an expensive suit and sporting a Rolex watch and several diamond rings on his fingers and diamond studs in his earlobes.

PIMP

It was lovely to see you again, Luna.

LUNA  
Is Jack taking good care of your girls?

PIMP  
As always, he's on the case.

The women pause as the pimp walks over to Ashley.

PIMP  
My, my! What do we have here? A freelancer?

LUNA  
Leroy, Ashley isn't a working girl. She's Jack's girlfriend.

PIMP  
My sincerest apologies, young lady.

ASHLEY  
(Laughing)  
What's the starting salary?

PIMP  
Depends on how good you are.

ASHLEY  
I could give your associates a tutorial in how to please a man.

PIMP  
Lucky Jack. Have a blessed day.

He snaps his fingers and the girls follow him out the door.

Luna erupts in laughter. Chuckling, Raven walks out of her office.

LUNA  
Leroy Jones keeps us busy with a parade of girls facing prostitution and drug charges.

Jack's office door opens and an amused Jack walks into the reception area.

ASHLEY  
Does Leroy pay you by cash, check, credit card or donate his lovelies to you pro bono?



JACK

Ask Luna. She keeps the books.

LUNA

I request that Leroy pay us in cash.  
I'm afraid his checks might bounce  
more frequently than a basketball in  
an NBA game.

20 EXT. BRAXTON MARRIOTT HOTEL - NIGHT

Jack, wearing an immaculately tailor pinstriped suit and red tie, and Ashley, wearing a form-fitting white dress that is showing too much cleavage and exposing her back low enough to display the Daffy Duck tattoo just above her ass, walk up the steps into the hotel entrance.

JACK

I see you dressed the part for the  
Stirling County Bar Association  
dinner.

ASHLEY

You know how I dress makes you hotter  
than a bowl of Texas chili. Think  
they're serving chicken-fried steak?

JACK

Rubber chicken. Lukewarm at best.

ASHLEY

Hope none of the other women are  
wearing a dress like mine.

JACK

I imagine they all are. Just like all  
the men are wearing motorcycle  
jackets.

21 INT. BRAXTON MARRIOTT HOTEL - NIGHT

Jack and Ashley are sitting at a table of four with BERT HINNERSHITZ, a distinguished-looking white man in his 60s, and his white wife BERTIE HINNERSHITZ, matronly with stiff hair dyed shoe-polish black in her 60s who's wearing a gaudy floral evening gown.

JACK

Ashley, Bert is the managing partner  
of Hinnershitz, Klusewitz, Abramowitz  
and Mazurkiewicz. And his wife Bertie  
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)  
is quite active in charitable causes.

ASHLEY  
That's quite a mouthful for a law  
firm. But at least all the names  
rhyme.

BERT  
We had an O'Brien but he retired. What  
do you do, young lady?

ASHLEY  
I do hair. Bertie, I can do wonders  
with your hair.

BERTIE  
My hair is fine as is.

ASHLEY  
So it's Bert and Bertie? A pure  
coincidence or did you intentionally  
marry a person with the same name?

BERTIE  
(Stiffly)  
My given name is Beatrice.

A WAITER delivers their meals and they begin dining in  
awkward silence. A silence that suddenly is interrupted by  
Bertie's loud burp.

ASHLEY  
Holy shit! What the hell's hidden in  
your mashed potatoes?

Bertie looks stricken.

BERTIE  
(Angrily)  
Excuse me?

ASHLEY  
At least you didn't rip ass.

JACK  
I'm mortified by my girlfriend's lapse  
into insanity. Knock it off, Ash.

ASHLEY  
Just trying to loosen things up.

BERT  
(Chuckling)  
Apparently something broke loose in my  
wife's stomach.

BERTIE  
(Sharply)  
Dear!

ASHLEY  
Please don't be embarrassed, Bertie.  
It's not like you were excavating your  
left nostril and flicking a boogie  
into your husband's salad.

Surprisingly, Bertie laughs loudly. As does Bert. Ashley  
joins in the laughter. Jack does not.

BERT  
Jack, your girlfriend is a hoot.

BERTIE  
Quite entertaining.

ASHLEY  
Jack tells me I need a better filter.

BERT  
Nonsense.

ASHLEY  
Sometimes I'm more down to earth than  
a worm.

BERT  
That's a great one-liner.

BERTIE  
Perhaps I'll hire Ashley to emcee one  
of my charity balls. They can be  
dreadfully dull.

ASHLEY  
You two are so distinguished and  
accomplished. It's a treat to discover  
you're normal human beings as well.

BERTIE  
It feels good to let my hair down.  
Come to think of it, I want you to do  
my hair.

ASHLEY

Wonderful. And speaking of wonderful, you should hear Jack sing with his rock band.

BERT

Really, Jack? Surprises me.

ASHLEY

Jim Morrison come back to life.

BERTIE

I'd love to book your band for my upcoming fundraising ball for breast cancer awareness. And Ashley can emcee.

JACK

We'd, uh, be honored.

BERT

And I thought F. Lee Bailey was a rock star as a criminal defense attorney.

ASHLEY

What band was he with?

BERTIE

(Laughing loudly)

The Legal Beagles.

Jack, Ashley and Bert all join in the laughter, with Bert leaning over and giving his wife a kiss on the forehead.

BERT

The four of us will have to do dinner again.

ASHLEY

How about tomorrow night?

Jack gives Ashley a withering look.

JACK

You forgot we're meeting friends for some axe throwing tomorrow night.

ASHELY

How could I forget?

22 EXT. BRAXTON MARRIOTT HOTEL - NIGHT

Jack and Ashley are walking toward his car in the parking lot.

ASHLEY

You're pissed at me, right? Your eyes were throwing daggers at me and you brought up axe throwing, our breakup exit plan.

JACK

I wish you had more respect for me when socializing with my associates. Rein yourself in when circumstances and context dictate.

ASHLEY

In plain English, you're saying I shouldn't act like a brat.

JACK

Precisely.

ASHLEY

But dinner ended on a high note.

JACK

You could charm a starving dog off a meat wagon.

He takes her in his arms and kisses her passionately.

ASHLEY

Want to spank me when we get home?

JACK

Among other things.

23 INT. BIG BOOGER'S INN - NIGHT

Jack and Coffee Mate are on stage performing Riders On The Storm before a raucous AUDIENCE at Big Booger's Inn.

JACK

(Singing)

Riders on the storm

Riders on the storm

Into this house we're born

JACK (CONT'D)  
Into this world we're thrown  
Like a dog without a bone  
An actor out on loan  
Riders on the storm  
There's a killer on the road  
His brain is squirming like a toad  
Take a long holiday  
Let your children play  
If you give this man a ride  
Sweet memory will die  
Killer on the road, yeah  
Girl, you gotta love your man  
Girl, you gotta love your man  
Take him by the hand  
Make him understand  
The world on you depends  
Our life will never end  
Gotta love your man, yeah  
Riders on the storm  
Riders on the storm

As soon as Jack and Coffee Mate finish the set, HEATHER MISSIONIS, a pretty white brunette in her 20s, bounds on stage holding a WBRA Channel 19 microphone. Standing right in front of the stage is a VIDEOGRAPHER filming them.

HEATHER  
Folks, I'm Heather Missonis and we're live on the 11 o'clock news on WBRA Channel 19. As you heard, Jack Daniels and Coffee Mate can really rock.

JACK

You're very gracious, Heather. My  
Coffee Mate bandmates are very  
talented musicians.

HEATHER

Jack, your voice sounds so much like  
Jim Morrison of The Doors. But it's  
also awesome on all the other rock  
classics you cover.

JACK

Thanks so much.

HEATHER

Tell me why the most prominent  
criminal defense attorney in town is  
moonlighting as a rock vocalist.

JACK

Helps relieve the stress of my day  
job.

Heather walks over to Toad.

HEATHER

Your name?

TOAD

Toad.

HEATHER

Just Toad?

TOAD

One name's enough. Like Elvis. Bono.  
Cher.

HEATHER

Tell me about Jack.

TOAD

His ego is so enormous he won't even  
talk to us off stage.

Pudge, Bones and Ziggy walk over to Heather.

PUDGE

Jack's too important of a man to even  
practice with us.

BONES

Criminals are our groupies. They don't want to sleep with us. They want Jack to represent them.

ZIGGY

Jack's a lawyer? I thought he was a janitor at the courthouse.

JACK

(Laughing)

The guys are messing with you, Heather.

HEATHER

Why the name Coffee Mate?

TOAD

Black coffee tastes like crankcase oil.

HEATHER

Whatever your name, you guys are incredible. We shot footage of your set and we'll be featuring that on our website and on our YouTube channel.

24 INT. BREAKFAST HUT - MORNING

Jack, Toad, Pudge, Bones, Ziggy and Ashley are having breakfast.

TOAD

That TV segment and the online footage has been like rocket fuel. We've gotten almost two dozen regional bookings over the new few months.

JACK

Cool it a bit on the bookings. My legal career is pretty damn demanding. And the WBRA segment brought me about a dozen more clients.

BONES

C'mon, Jack. Think of us. Coffee Mate could be lucrative for us.

BONES

I solder wires in a factory.



PUDGE

I slaughter pigs in a meat manufacturing plant.

TOAD

I work the front desk in a gun gallery.

JACK

Some of my clients probably shop there.

ZIGGY

I sort guitar strings in a music store.

BONES

Our shit jobs are why we need Coffee Mate to hit it big.

TOAD

Except for music, we all work as well as a Styrofoam hammer.

ZIGGY

My only Plan B if music fizzles out is doing porn for the nearly blind.

JACK

I want Coffee Mate to succeed as much as you guys. Just need a balance.

TOAD

Dealing with a lot of shit at work from the TV and online exposure?

JACK

Everybody at the courthouse is busting my balls like walnuts. I was hoping to ease into music. WBRA put an accelerator into those plans.

BONES

Thanks to Ashley here.

Jack gives Ashley a surprised look.

JACK

Ashley?

ASHLEY

I was just doing my job as the group's publicist to give WBRA the lawyer by day, rocker by night story angle.

JACK

Who made you publicist?

TOAD

I did. She was giving me a wedgie and wouldn't let go until I agreed.

ASHLEY

Not bad work for a dollar a week.

25 EXT. HOT AIR BALLOON - DAY

Jack and Ashley, along with the pilot, are sipping wine on a hot air balloon ride, gracefully soaring through the open skies over farmland and suburbia, flying high and low and seeing mother earth from a new perspective.

JACK

A hot air balloon ride symbolizes the real adventure we're traveling together.

ASHLEY

Fitting. And much more romantic than axe throwing.

JACK

(Laughing)

The Vikings thought axe throwing was romantic.

ASHLEY

I'm in this for the long haul. You?

JACK

Of course.

ASHLEY

We have our differences in age, temperament and career focus. I see them as positives.

JACK

It sounds trite. But you and I do complete each other.

ASHLEY

We're as yin and yang as it gets.

JACK

You center me. Ever since my wife died, my whole existence had been my job. Buried her and then buried myself in work.

ASHLEY

Understandable.

JACK

My wife was a fellow workaholic as a CPA. But we always found time for us, time that was sublime. I never imagined being with anybody else.

ASHLEY

I must be the polar opposite of her.

JACK

I find that appealing. I could never replace her. I wasn't looking for her clone.

ASHLEY

I'm many things. Kate's clone sure isn't one of them.

JACK

I never would've pursued singing if she were still alive. She was convinced that moonlighting as a rocker would sabotage my legal career.

ASHLEY

Singing was a passion you could no longer button up.

JACK

The stakes are high for me. I knew going in that singing rock covers in clubs could blow up on me.

ASHLEY

No matter. You've totally bought into the stakes of wrestling with a professional career tug of war.

JACK  
Couldn't have done it without you. And  
I realize the risks of being in a  
relationship with someone as free  
spirited as a wild bronco.

She smiles and puts him in a headlock.

ASHLEY  
Calling me a horse's ass, huh?

He kisses her gently.

ASHLEY  
Do you believe I used to be shy and  
buttoned up?

JACK  
You?

ASHLEY  
My best friend in high school was so  
cool, so free spirited, so impulsive,  
so happy. I mimicked her behavior and  
soon it became part of my DNA.

JACK  
I'll have to meet her sometime.

ASHLEY  
Sadly, she passed. And now every day I  
honor her memory by galloping through  
life like an untamed colt.

26 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

Waiting for the court to be called into session, Jack and  
Raven are sitting at the defendant's counsel table.

Ashley walks into the courtroom and grabs a seat behind Jack  
and Raven.

ASHLEY  
Glad I made it in time.

RAVEN  
What are you doing here, Ash?

ASHLEY  
I used to work for Bonnie. I can't  
imagine she's a killer. But once I  
(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
thought she was going to kill a fellow  
stylist in the shop.

RAVEN  
Why?

ASHLEY  
A fucking dye job went bad and a  
regular customer wound up with fucking  
orange hair instead of brown the  
morning of her daughter's wedding.

JACK  
Please lower your voice and lose the  
f-bombs, Ash. You're in a courtroom.

ASHLEY  
Sorry.

Two SHERIFF DEPUTIES escort Bonnie Lehman into the courtroom  
and she takes a seat at the table with Jack and Raven. Bonnie  
does a double take when she spots Ashley.

BONNIE  
Surprised to see you here, Ash.

ASHLEY  
I'm dating Jack.

Bonnie laughs.

BONNIE  
Talk about the odd couple. You doing  
Jack's hair now?

ASHLEY  
Only if you get the gas chamber.

BONNIE  
I'm being optimistic that won't  
happen.

ASHLEY  
Well, if it does, sell the salon to  
Jack and I'll operate it.

BONNIE  
Are you a vulture circling overhead?

JACK  
Ladies, please knock it off.

Judge Susan Burke enters the courtroom.

COURT BALIFF  
All rise.

EVERYBODY in the courtroom stands up as Judge Burke sits down. Everybody then sits down.

JUDGE BURKE  
Your closing argument, Mr. Daniels.

Jack stands up and walks over to address the JURORS. Ashley taps Raven on the shoulder and she turns around.

ASHLEY  
(Whispering)  
Isn't he handsome?

RAVEN  
Shush!

JACK  
Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,  
Bonnie Lehman is not responsible in  
the death of her beloved husband. He  
slipped getting into the tub, banged  
his head on the back of it, and  
drowned while his devoted wife  
fervently prayed her nightly rosary in  
their bedroom.

27 INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Ashley are lying in bed, watching Casablanca on his large screen television mounted on the wall.

ASHLEY  
Bonnie hated her husband. Bitched  
about him all the time. Can't believe  
the jury found her innocent.

JACK  
The power of prayer.

ASHLEY  
You know she was an atheist?

JACK  
Must have had a conversion on the Road  
to Damascus.

ASHLEY  
Huh?

JACK  
Never mind.

He smiles and kisses her gently. They watch the closing  
romantic scene of Casablanca while parroting the lines.

ASHLEY  
When I said I would never leave you.

JACK  
And you never will. But I've got a job  
to do, too. Where I'm going, you can't  
follow. What I've got to do, you can't  
be any part of. I'm no good at being  
noble. But it doesn't take much to see  
that the problems of three little  
people don't amount to a hill of beans  
in this crazy world. Someday you'll  
understand that.

Ashley feigns crying as Jack places his hand under chin and  
raises it so their eyes meet.

RICK  
Here's looking at you, kid.

28 EXT. BRAXTON STREET - DAY

Jack and Ashley are walking down a city street when a long-  
haired white BIKER in his 30s, outfitted in a black leather  
riding jacket, biker-styled jeans and gloves, pulls over his  
Harley.

BIKER  
Haven't seen you Ash since I went to  
prison.

ASHLEY  
How long you've been out?

GUY  
A month. I thought you'd visit me.

ASHLEY

State prisons creep me out.

GUY

I see you upgraded when it comes to men. Who's the suit?

ASHLEY

A criminal defense attorney.

GUY

Damn. Wish I had him instead of that pipsqueak public defender.

ASHLEY

Next time.

GUY

Hell, if I don't soon get a job, I might have to rob another bank.

ASHLEY

If you get caught, call me and I'll set you up with Jack here.

GUY

In the interim, have fun screwing my ex-girlfriend, counselor.

The guy revs his engine and drives off.

ASHLEY

We were only together for a couple months. He's actually a nice guy. But personal hygiene isn't his strong suit.

JACK

I appreciate the potential referral.

ASHLEY

Having money in his pocket isn't his strong suit, either. I got sick of being his sugar momma.

JACK

He's perfect for a public defender.

29 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

Jack is back in court at the witness stand, questioning his



client TINO MARTINEZ, a muscular Latino in his 20s who is accused of rape.

JACK

Tino, your gay lover Jose Chacon testified he was bed with you in his apartment when the alleged rape of a 17-year-old girl took place across town.

TINO

He was telling the truth, bro.

JACK

I hope so. Perjury is a crime. You have testified that you're gay.

TINO

Yes. But I don't like spreading that around. Being gay ain't popular in my culture.

JACK

Are you bisexual?

TINO

No way, man. I've never been sexually attracted to a woman.

Just then Ashley, wearing a form-fitting shocking pink dress that she somehow had shoehorned herself into, walks into the courtroom and saunters to a seat. She catches Tino's eye.

TINO

(Blurts out)

Sweet Lord! Check that out!

EVERYBODY, Jack included, in the courtroom turns to the back and sees Ashley looking hot in her seat.

JACK

Tino, that young lady caught your attention. You just testified that women don't appeal to you sexually.

TINO

It's not her that got me excited. It's the dress!

JACK

The dress?

TINO

I want to be a fashion designer. That dress is hot, man.

JACK

No further questions.

Jack turns, his eyes spouting hot lava at Ashley.

Jack is sitting next to Tino at the counsel table and whispers in his ear.

JACK

How long have you wanted to be a fashion designer?

TINO

Not until the moment I saw that smoking hot dress.

JACK

You'd better pray the jury believes it's been your lifelong ambition.

30 INT. JACK'S FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Ashley are sitting together on a large sofa in his well-decorated family room.

ASHLEY

I appreciate you not screaming at me because I know you must be livid.

JACK

I might be screaming if the jury hadn't swallowed my client's claim that his dying ambition is to be a fashion designer.

ASHLEY

They found him innocent?

JACK

Yep. The kid has charisma.

ASHLEY

Charm and charisma are the keys to life.

JACK

Please never walk into my courtroom  
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)  
again wearing something so sexy. What  
were you thinking?

ASHLEY  
I just wear what I wear and don't even  
think.

JACK  
That's it. You never think.

ASHLEY  
I had no idea your defense was built  
on him being gay.

JACK  
No excuse for that dress in a  
courtroom.

ASHLEY  
I don't belong in your world.

She bolts off the sofa. He springs up as well.

JACK  
You're right. All relationships have a  
do or die moment. The lawyer in me no  
longer can walk on eggshells waiting  
for you to do something outrageous.

ASHLEY  
The lawyer in you is a tight-assed  
fuck.

JACK  
Jack the rocker loves your irreverent  
style and attitude. Jack the attorney  
recoils from it. The civil war raging  
inside me is over. We're done.

ASHLEY  
(Screaming and crying)  
You're a classic Gemini! Fucking two-  
faced!

She gives him the finger and walks out.

31 INT. ASHLEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ashley is combing her hair in front of her bedroom vanity.  
Her tastefully decorated bedroom is tidy.

Ashley arises and walks into the bedroom of her roommate, LILY LOISELLE, a reed-thin Black redhead with plenty of tats and a sloppy bedroom chocked with piles of dirty laundry and boxes.

Lily is sitting on the edge of her bed leaning over her nightstand, snorting a line of cocaine. She looks up when Ashley, who has tears in her eyes, enters the room.

LILY

You crying?

ASHLEY

Allergies.

LILY

You're full of shit. You don't have allergies.

ASHLEY

Jack broke it off with me.

LILY

That relationship was fucked from the start.

ASHLEY

You've never even met him.

LILY

Why? We live in different worlds. Same for you. You just won't admit it.

ASHLEY

He thinks I'm too impulsive. Have no filter.

LILY

Putting a filter on you is like putting a filter on a Chesterfield cigarette. It fucks with the taste.

ASHLEY

He has a split personality. The uptight lawyer, the laidback rocker.

LILY

Ash, you've got to learn your place.

ASHLEY

Yeah. My place. Living with my coke  
(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
snorting, sloppy as a pig roommate.

LILY  
(Angry)  
I'm fucking sick of you busting my  
balls about my coke and not being Miss  
Tidy Neat Freak like you.

ASHLEY  
You're a pig and a coke junkie.

LILY  
(Yelling)  
Shut your mouth, bitch, or I'll hurt  
you bad.

ASHLEY  
(Laughing)  
The only time you get laid is when  
you're trying to score coke from some  
guy.

LILY  
(Loudly)  
Fuck you!

Lily, in a rage, jumps off her bed and throws a lamp at  
Ashley, who quickly dodges it. Lily angrily points a finger  
at her.

LILY  
I warned you, you cunt!

32 EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Lily opens Ashley's Honda SUV and tosses a dime bag of  
cocaine on top of the back seat. She quietly closes the door  
and walks to the rear of the car, where she picks up a  
baseball bat and cracks both taillights.

33 INT. DOLPHIN LOUNGE - NIGHT

The Coffee Mate band is sitting at a table, drinking after  
their final set of the evening. CY BERG, a white guy in his  
50s with long brown hair and a mustache, approaches their  
table.

CY  
May I join you folks?

BONES

Is the next round on you?

CY

Of course.

He signals the WAITRESS, who walks over to their table.

CY

Another round of whatever these folks are drinking and I'll have your most expensive bourbon on the rocks.

TOAD

A fan of ours?

CY

Yes. And a potential partner.

PUDGE

You a manager?

CY

Record producer. Cy Berg's the name.

JACK

Berg Records?

CY

You guessed it.

ZIGGY

I just got a chubby.

BONES

Shut the fuck up, Ziggy. Show some class.

TOAD

Our apologies, Mr. Berg.

CY

It's Cy. No problem. I've worked with foul-mouthed musicians my entire adult life.

TOAD

You interested in Coffee Mate?

CY

Didn't drive down from Manhattan to  
(MORE)

CY (CONT'D)

just hang out in the Dolphin Lounge.  
Hope I don't have to shoot my way out  
of here.

TOAD

How did you hear of us?

CY

Listened to clips on YouTube. You guys  
are good. Very good. Jack has a great  
voice. Thought I'd check you out in  
person.

BONES

Did we pass the audition?

CY

Yes and no.

TOAD

What's that mean?

CY

I love your sound. But I don't work  
with strictly cover bands. Do you have  
any original material?

TOAD

We do. I've written over 30 songs. We  
do covers on stage because that's what  
audiences want to hear.

BONES

We're always rehearsing our originals.

JACK

They're damn good. Toad is quite  
talented.

CY

Good to hear. My secretary will be in  
touch about you coming to my recording  
studio in Manhattan to do some tracks  
for a possible CD.

PUDGE

Fucking awesome!

BONES

Fucking damn!

TOAD  
Fucking incredible!

ZIGGY  
Fuck me!

JACK  
Enough fucking, guys.

TOAD  
Thank you, Cy.

JACK  
Please give us a little lead time on  
the recording session so I can clear  
my calendar.

CY  
Jack, must be a real nut buster to  
balance lawyer with rocker.

34 EXT. BRAXTON INTERSECTION - NIGHT

Ashley drives her Honda SUV through a yellow light in downtown Braxton. A police car suddenly appears in her rearview mirror, lights flashing and siren blaring. She pulls over to the curb. The police car pulls right behind her, siren silenced but lights still flashing.

Bounding out of the police car is Officer SAM DEMPSEY, a tall and imposing white man in his 40s. He walks up to the Honda and Ashley rolls down her window.

ASHLEY  
Officer, I know the light was still  
yellow when I drove through the  
intersection.

DEMPSEY  
That's not why I pulled you over. Both  
your rear taillights are out.

ASHLEY  
They are?

DEMPSEY  
Registration, driver's license and  
proof of insurance, please.

Ashley grabs her purse from the front passenger seat, searches through it, finds her driver's license and hands it



to the cop. As he inspects it, she pops open the glove compartment, pulls out her registration and insurance cards and hands them to the cop.

DEMPSEY

I recognize you. You're Jack Daniels' girlfriend. Saw you two together at some clubs.

ASHLEY

What's that have to do with this traffic stop?

DEMPSEY

Please step out of the vehicle.

ASHLEY

It's that necessary? I promise to get the taillights fixed tomorrow.

DEMPSEY

Get out of the car. Now.

ASHLEY

All right, damn it.

She gets out of the car.

DEMPSEY

Put your hands on the hood while I search your vehicle.

ASHLEY

You've got to be kidding me.

DEMPSEY

Do it!

She complies. He opens the rear passenger door, pulls out a flashlight and shines it in the car. He immediately spots the dime bag of cocaine lying on the rear seat.

DEMPSEY

My, my. What do we have here?

ASHLEY

What?

DEMPSEY

Looks like a dime bag of cocaine.

ASHLEY  
I don't do coke.

DEMPSEY  
Doesn't matter. It's in your  
possession. You're under arrest.

ASHLEY  
My fucking roommate is a fucking  
cokehead. She must have planted it.

DEMPSEY  
Tell it to the judge.

35 INT. JACK'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jack is sitting at his breakfast bar, having a bowl of Wheaties. Suddenly he hears his front door open. He quickly stands up as Ashley, angry and in tears, storms into the kitchen.

JACK  
Ash, what's wrong?

ASHLEY  
I know you dumped my ass but I need to  
talk to Jack the lawyer.

JACK  
I'm all ears.

ASHLEY  
I got arrested for cocaine possession.  
I swear that bitch Lily planted it in  
my Honda after breaking both my  
taillights.

JACK  
Did you confront her about it?

ASHLEY  
I wanted to talk to you first.

JACK  
How much coke was in your car?

ASHLEY  
A bag.

JACK  
A dime bag is about a half gram.  
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Anything less than one gram of cocaine is a misdemeanor in Pennsylvania.

ASHLEY

Beats the shit out of a felony.

JACK

But even on the first offense, you could face a year in prison plus a \$5,000 fine.

ASHLEY

I need a lawyer. You in?

JACK

What kind of question is that?  
Absolutely.

He walks over and goes to hug her. She steps back.

ASHLEY

You slid us into past tense like shoving a drawer closed.

JACK

Got it. Want a cup of coffee?

ASHLEY

To die for.

He pours her a cup and they sit next to each other at the breakfast bar.

ASHLEY

After our breakup I went home and picked a fight with Lily. I really pissed her off. I know she framed me.

JACK

Who was the cop who arrested you?

ASHLEY

Sam Dempsey.

JACK

Fuck!

ASHLEY

What?

JACK

Sullen Sam Dempsey hates my guts.  
About a dozen times over the years  
I've gotten clients acquitted on  
felony arrests he made.

ASHLEY

Uh-oh.

JACK

Sullen Sam would love to nail me on  
something.

ASHLEY

He recognized me as your girlfriend.

JACK

We're likely dealing with a vengeful  
cop in a rush to judgment to nail your  
ass.

ASHLEY

Should have told him you were my  
former boyfriend.

JACK

Should have.

ASHLEY

The great Jack Daniels had better win  
this case. I've heard a women's prison  
is just one big clam bake.

JACK

You should move out of Lily's  
apartment.

ASHLEY

Where would I crash?

JACK

Here.

ASHLEY

Wouldn't that be awkward?

JACK

Nah. You sleep in the guest bedroom  
and I'll lock my bedroom door.

ASHLEY

Afraid I might rush in and jump your bones?

JACK

(Laughing)

Afraid I might let you if you do.

ASHLEY

A good thing your name isn't Will Power.

36 INT. JACK'S FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Jack is sitting on a recliner and Ashley is sprawled on a sofa.

JACK

Was Lily there when you moved your stuff out?

ASHLEY

Thankfully, no.

JACK

Is all your shit in my bedroom?

ASHLEY

In the guest bedroom. I'm not setting foot in your bedroom.

JACK

Are we eating dinner separately?

ASHLEY

If dining in, yes. I'll eat surf and turf in the dining room while you eat crow in the kitchen.

JACK

Very funny.

ASHLEY

If dining out, we eat together because you're picking up the tab.

JACK

If we're not a couple, I should charge you rent. And not offer my legal services pro bono.

ASHLEY

You should. But you won't.

JACK

Why?

ASHLEY

Because you still love my ass.

JACK

Among other body parts.

37 INT. JACK'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jack is showering but not singing. Suddenly a nude Ashley slips into the shower and startles him.

JACK

You almost gave me a heart attack.

She looks at his groin and smiles.

ASHLEY

Your penis doesn't shrivel in the shower. Rather, it's growing. Would be a shame for friends to waste an erection.

JACK

Definitely a shame.

They embrace hungrily and kiss passionately.

38 INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Ashley are cuddling in bed.

ASHLEY

Guess our breakup is shot to shit.

JACK

Guess so. I'm stuck on you.

ASHLEY

Like dogshit stuck to a shoe?

JACK

Precisely.

ASHLEY

When you're in lawyer mode, I'll try  
(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
to behave myself. But when you're in  
rocker mode, look out for my unbridled  
self.

They start kissing.

39 INT. TOAD'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

The Coffee Mate band members are sitting on folding chairs,  
drinking bottles of beer.

BONES  
Toad, the more we rehearse your  
originals the more I admire your  
ability as a songwriter.

PUDGE  
They smack of Cream, Blind Faith, The  
Yardbirds, even a little Led Zeppelin.

ZIGGY  
And The Doors, The Who and Deep  
Purple.

TOAD  
All those bands share a comparable  
sound.

JACK  
I loved our session tonight.

BONES  
Now that we're no longer just a cover  
band, perhaps we should change our  
name.

PUDGE  
Coffee Mate with its play off Cream  
does sounds like a cover band.

ZIGGY  
We're playing original material now.  
How about The Originals?

BONES  
Not original.

PUDGE  
The Caterpillars?

BONES  
The Assassins?

ZIGGY  
The Hijackers?

TOAD  
Are you guys nuts?

BONES  
What do you prefer? The Toadstools?

PUDGE  
I got it! Jack Daniels on the Rocks!

JACK  
No fucking way. We're a band, not a solo act with backing musicians.

PUDGE  
Hell, your voice and your profile are our ticket.

BONES  
The rest of us are as dumb as rocks, so it's no stretch for us to be the Rocks.

TOAD  
Jack Daniels on the Rocks is born.

JACK  
I still vote for Toad and the Stools.

TOAD  
Clear your schedules for the second Monday of next month. Cy Berg booked us that day for a recording session.

BONES  
Shit, all of us can just knock off work that day. All of us but one.

Jack is checking his phone.

JACK  
Great. My schedule looks good for that day.

ZIGGY  
Karma. Destiny. Predestination.



PUDGE

Meaning?

ZIGGY

The gods are with us.

TOAD

Which gods?

ZIGGY

All of them. The Greek, Roman and Viking gods. Plus the Christian god.

BONES

Aren't there three of them?

TOAD

We'll take all the divinity we can get.

40 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - DAY

Jack, Raven and Luna are sitting at their conference table.

LUNA

We got a date for Ashley's trial. The second Monday of next month.

JACK

What?

LUNA

Second Monday of next month. No problem for your schedule.

JACK

My legal schedule. Our band is going to be in Manhattan that day at Cy Berg's recording studio.

RAVEN

That's incredible. His record label is the best.

JACK

If we kick ass with our original material, we might get a recording contract.

RAVEN

I'll see if the court will move  
(MORE)

RAVEN (CONT'D)  
Ashley's trial date.

JACK  
Thank you.

LUNA  
What happens if you cut an album and  
it does well?

JACK  
I'll still be practicing law. Your  
jobs are safe.

RAVEN  
Hope your toes are nimble enough to  
walk the tightrope between law and  
rock.

JACK  
The band will be a great marketing  
tool for our practice.

LUNA  
How so?

JACK  
We've got a new name. Jack Daniels on  
the Rocks.

Luna laughs, Raven growls and Jack winces.

RAVEN  
God help us.

41 INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ashley is sitting on the bed, brushing her hair. Jack is on  
the floor, alternating pushups with sit-ups.

ASHLEY  
Save some energy for wrestling with  
me.

JACK  
Always got energy for that.

ASHLEY  
My favorite way to burn calories.

JACK

We couldn't move your trial date back.

ASHLEY

Shit.

He stands up from the floor and walks over to her, giving her a hug.

JACK

I'll be in court with you that day.

ASHLEY

What about the band in the New York recording studio that day?

JACK

I explained the situation to Cy Berg and he agreed we could send him a video of us performing our original material.

ASHLEY

How's your band members with that?

JACK

Fine. They realize we weren't going to record an album that day anyway. It was just an audition.

ASHLEY

They probably will be more relaxed performing their originals in Toad's basement.

JACK

We already did it. It went awesome. The guys are jacked. Toad sent Cy the video today.

ASHLEY

What did Cy Berg think of the new band name?

JACK

Loves it. He's already thinking of possible sponsorship deals with the Jack Daniels people.

ASHLEY

Booze is a better sponsorship fit for  
(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
a rock band than Coffee Mate.

JACK  
I don't know. Geezers need coffee to  
stay awake at concerts.

ASHLEY  
So limit your appearances to brunches  
at old folks' homes.

JACK  
(Laughing)  
Screw you.

ASHLEY  
A perfect idea.

She pulls him down on top of her on the bed.

ASHLEY  
Is it ethical to be screwing your  
client?

JACK  
I won't tell the judge if you don't.

ASHLEY  
Who will you screw if I'm in prison?

JACK  
You're not going to prison.

ASHLEY  
I'm scared shitless.

JACK  
Trust me. I'll get you off.

ASHLEY  
Starting now.

She kisses him hungrily.

42 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

Ashley, looking quite professional in a business suit, is  
sitting between Jack and Raven at the defendant's counsel  
table.

Sitting at the other counsel table is assistant district

attorney LEE STOUTD, an imposing white ex-Marine with a crewcut in his 40s.

Sitting on the judge's bench is DAVID BADGER, Black, stern and distinguished with white hair in his 60s.

JUDGE BADGER

Your opening statement, Mr. Stoutd.

Stoutd rises and erectly walks over to face the JURY.

STOUTD

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, this is a simple case. Ashley Dupree was pulled over because both her taillights were broken. And Officer Sam Dempsey found a dime bag of cocaine lying on her backseat. That is indisputable. Whatever hysterics and nonsense her boyfriend...

Jack springs to his feet and interrupts Stoutd in mid-sentence.

JACK

Objection!

JUDGE BADGER

Sustained. Be careful, Mr. Stoutd.

STOUTD

Whatever drama her attorney brings to the courtroom cannot change the simple fact that an illegal drug was found in Miss Dupree's possession. Game, set and match.

Stoutd turns and strides back to his counsel table.

JUDGE BADGER

Mr. Daniels.

Jack arises, and smiling, walks over to the jury box.

JACK

Good morning, folks. This is not a tennis match. It is a courtroom where you and you alone will decide whether a young lady is unjustly found guilty of a crime she emphatically did not commit. The defense will prove to you

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)  
beyond the shadow of a doubt that  
Ashley Dupree was framed.

Jack walks confidently back to the counsel table and smiles  
at Ashley.

JUDGE BADGER  
Please call your first witness, Mr.  
Stoudt.

STOUDT  
Your honor, the prosecution calls  
police officer Sam Dempsey.

Dempsey arises from one of the back benches and walks to the  
witness stand. The COURT CLERK is holding a bible and Dempsey  
puts his right hand on it.

COURT CLERK  
Do you swear to tell the truth, the  
whole truth, and nothing but the  
truth, so help you God?

DEMPSEY  
I do.

The clerk withdraws, Dempsey sits down and Stoudt approaches  
the witness stand.

STOUDT  
Officer Dempsey, why did you pull over  
Miss Dupree?

DEMPSEY  
Both of her real taillights were  
broken.

STOUDT  
Then what?

DEMPSEY  
During the traffic stop, I looked  
inside her car and a bag of cocaine  
was lying on her rear seat.

STOUDT  
The car was registered in her name?

DEMPSEY  
Yes.

STOUDT  
No further questions.

Stoudt returns to his table.

JUDGE BADGER  
Mr. Daniels.

Jack arises and walks over to the witness stand.

JACK  
Hi, Sam.

DEMPSEY  
Jack.

JACK  
We've done this dance several times  
before.

DEMPSEY  
We have.

JACK  
Think you'll win one for a change?

JUDGE BADGER  
I warn you, Mr. Daniels. Strike that  
question.

JACK  
Officer Dempsey, it was a routine stop  
for broken taillights. But once you  
noticed that Ashley Dupree is my  
girlfriend because you had seen us  
together in clubs, you asked her to  
step out of the vehicle and you  
escalated matters into a witch hunt.  
Correct?

DEMPSEY  
Incorrect. I merely noticed the dime  
bag of coke.

JACK  
You saw it while looking at her  
driver's license, registration card  
and insurance card. Do you have  
exceptional vision, Officer Dempsey?

DEMPSEY

I'm not an eye doctor.

JACK

You were going out of your way to find something, anything to get back at me for having a number of acquittals in cases in which you were the arresting officer, correct?

Stoudt jumps up.

STOUDT

Objection!

JUDGE BADGER

Sustained. Strike that question. Behave yourself, Mr. Daniels.

JACK

As the defense will establish, someone planted that coke in my client's vehicle. Was that someone you, Officer Dempsey?

DEMPSEY

Fuck you!

Enraged, Dempsey arises and jumps on top of Jack, who shrugs him off. Dempsey throws some wide punches at Jack, who nimbly pulls back from them and counters with a left hook to the head, followed by a right cross to the chin that crumples Dempsey to the floor.

Judge Badger slams his gavel three times. Two SHERIFF DEPUTIES rush in, pick up and escort Dempsey from the courtroom.

JUDGE BADGER

Court is recessed until this afternoon. Mr. Daniels, see me in my office. Now!

43 INT. JUDGE BADGER'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Judge Badger is sitting behind his desk. His judicial robe is hanging from a nearby clothes tree. Jack approaches the desk.

JUDGE BADGER

You just had to turn my courtroom into a circus, didn't you?



JACK

I simply asked the question. Sam hates my guts. You know it. Everybody in the courthouse knows it.

JUDGE BADGER

You baited him and the dumb son of a bitch fell for it. You wanted to discredit him in front of the jury no matter the cost.

JACK

Cost?

JUDGE BADGER

I'm holding you in contempt of court and fining you a hundred bucks. That's not even tip money for you. Next time jail time.

44 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

Jack is addressing the judge.

JACK

The defense calls Lily Loisel.

Lily, wearing a black dress that hangs from her thin frame, stands up and walks to the witness stand. Her eyes are glazed and her greasy hair looks like it hasn't been washed in a month.

The COURT CLERK is holding a bible and Lily puts her right hand on it.

COURT CLERK

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

LILY

Yep.

JUDGE BADGER

The witness should say I do.

LILY

Do what?

JUDGE BADGER  
(Sharply)  
Tell the truth.

Lily exhales audibly.

LILY  
I do.

The clerk withdraws, Lily sits down. Her eyes shoot daggers at Ashley sitting at the counsel table. Their eyes lock and Ashley gives her the finger.

LILY  
Hey, Ashley gave me the freaking  
finger.

JUDGE BADGER  
The witness will behave herself or be  
held in contempt of court. Control  
your witness, Mr. Daniels, or I'll  
hold you in contempt for a second time  
in this trial. Meaning jail time.

Jack approaches the witness stand.

JACK  
Miss Loisel, you and Miss Dupree  
shared an apartment, correct?

LILY  
You know that we did.

JACK  
You two did not part on amicable  
terms, correct?

LILY  
We had a fight over you. She was  
pissed off because you dumped her.

JACK  
Then what?

LILY  
Miss Neat Freak was complaining that  
I'm sloppy around the apartment. She  
said very mean things to me.

JACK  
Not only about your sloppiness but  
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)  
also your cocaine addiction, correct?

LILY  
I'm not addicted. I don't need it. I  
just enjoy it.

JACK  
You were so pissed off by your fight  
you broke the rear taillights on  
Ashley's Honda and planted a dime bag  
of cocaine on her back seat, correct?

LILY  
Says who?

JACK  
Forensics. Your fingerprints are on  
the bag of cocaine, not Ashley's. Her  
taillights were broken by blunt  
trauma. Small particles of taillight  
glass were imbedded in the baseball  
bat you left at the scene. Your  
fingerprints are on the bat, not  
Ashley's. Did you frame her?

LILY  
(Angry)  
Fuck no! It's all lies.

JUDGE BADGER  
Miss Loisel, you're in contempt. I'm  
fining you a hundred dollars. Mr.  
Daniels, you'll spend a day in jail  
for not controlling your witness.

Jack whirls around and stares at the judge.

JACK  
You can't be serious, your honor.

JUDGE BADGER  
Two days in jail sound serious to you,  
Mr. Daniels?

LILY  
Judge, you might as well throw me in  
jail with him. Fat chance of squeezing  
a hundred bucks out of me.

JUDGE BADGER  
A day in jail for Miss Loiselle.

JACK  
No further questions.

Just then Ashley stands up at the counsel table, removes her suit coat and scrawled with red lipstick on her blouse is NOT GUILTY.

Judge Badger slams his gavel down so hard it snaps.

JUDGE BADGER  
Now two days in jail for Miss Dupree  
for contempt.

The jurors all nod to one another and the JURY FOREMAN, a heavyset Black bald guy in his 50s, stands up.

JURY FOREMAN  
Your honor, no need for jury  
deliberations. We unanimously find the  
defendant not guilty of all and any  
charges.

45 INT. TOAD'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jack and the band are rehearsing prior to going to New York to record their album. Ashley, who had been sitting off to the side in a folding chair, walks up and takes the mic from Jack.

ASHLEY  
Do you guys want to hear my little  
surprise?

TOAD  
What's up, girl?

ASHLEY  
Can you dudes play Me and Bobby McGee?

TOAD  
Been sometime.

BONES  
Hell, I can play that song in my  
sleep.

ASHLEY  
Let's fucking do it!

Jack steps aside and with a bemused look on his face, listens to Ashley and the band.

ASHLEY

(Singing)

Busted flat in Baton Rouge, waitin'  
for a train

When I's feelin' near as faded as my  
jeans

Bobby thumbed a diesel down, just  
before it rained

And rode us all the way into New  
Orleans

I pulled my harpoon out of my dirty  
red bandana

I's playin' soft while Bobby sang the  
blues

Windshield wipers slappin' time, I's  
holdin' Bobby's hand in mine

We sang every song that driver knew

Freedom is just another word for  
nothin' left to lose

Nothin', don't mean nothin' hon' if it  
ain't free, no-no

And feelin' good was easy, Lord, when  
he sang the blues

You know feelin' good was good enough  
for me

Good enough for me and my Bobby McGee

Toad emphatically waves off the music. They're all slack-jawed in amazement. Except for Ashley, who has an incandescent smile. Jack runs up, kisses her on the lips, and hugs her.

JACK

How the hell could keep your amazing  
talent from us?

TOAD

You're the closest thing I've ever  
heard to Janis Joplin.

ASHLEY

My vocal teacher told me I have a  
three-octave range. And like Joplin, I  
can use raspy growls, wails and  
screams.

JACK

I can't believe you never told us.  
Fuck Jack Daniels on the Rocks. We're  
back to Coffee Mate. With two lead  
vocalists.

ASHLEY

But this is your dream, Jack.

JACK

Singing duet with you now is a bigger  
dream.

ASHLEY

Now I have a new career focus. But can  
I juggle beauty stylist with rock  
singer?

JACK

Mocking me won't get your laid.

ASHLEY

Wanna bet?

TOAD

Goddamn! We have Jim Morrison and  
Janis Joplin in our band.

ZIGGY

Imagine the possibilities.

TOAD

I am. I'm calling Cy Berg tomorrow  
telling him that Ashley now is part of  
the band.

PUDGE

A band named Coffee Mate.

TOAD

Coffee Mate or not, we're still  
(MORE)

TOAD (CONT'D)

recording our song Jack Daniels on the  
Rocks.

BONES

Damn right.

JACK

You know the lyrics, Ash?

ASHLEY

Fuck yeah. You sing it in the shower  
all the time.

With the band's lead guitar, rhythm guitar, bass and drums  
laying down a throbbing, repetitive, percussive sound, Jack  
and Ashley embark on their maiden duet performance.

JACK AND ASHLEY

(Singing)

Babe, you know what you need

Yeah, girl, you know what you need

Don't be shy, my lovely lady

Don't be coy, my lovely lady

You just gotta know, you just gotta  
know

Babe, you need a shot of Jack

Yep, a shot of Jack Daniels

Then a glass of Jack Daniels on the  
rocks

Babe, we've had our ups and downs

Yeah, girl, we've had our hills and  
valleys

But you and I know things are gonna  
plateau

Gonna level out, my lovely lady

Gonna straighten out, my lovely lady

With a shot of Jack

JACK AND ASHLEY (CONT'D)

With a shot of Jack Daniels

Then a glass of Jack Daniels on the  
rocks

Babe, you know what you need

Yeah, girl, you know what you need

Don't be shy, my lovely lady

Don't be coy, my lovely lady

You just gotta know, you just gotta  
know

Babe, you need a shot of Jack

Yep, a shot of Jack Daniels

Then a glass of Jack Daniels on the  
rocks

Toad waves the band off, then with great theatrics, walks  
over to Jack and Ashley, bows and kisses their hands.

TOAD

Gentlemen, we're performing with rock  
royalty. We're a fucking slam dunk to  
ace the recording session and kick ass  
on tour.

46 INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

Coffee Mate is recording its first album. In the studio with  
the band is Cy Berg, a SOUND ENGINEER, a SOUND EDITOR, a  
SOUND MIXER and a RECORDING STUDIO TECHNICIAN operating  
state-of-the-art recording software equipment.

CY

OK, gang. Great work. Last track.  
Coffee Mate.

The band plays a bluesy rocking accompaniment to Jack and  
Ashley's vocals.

JACK AND ASHLEY

(Singing)

Morning coffee, morning coffee



JACK AND ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I need you like my morning coffee

But my coffee is incomplete

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

ASHLEY

(Singing)

Coffee Mate in my coffee

Go together like you and me, babe

Coffee Mate in my coffee

Go together like you and me, babe

Morning coffee, morning coffee

I need you like my morning coffee

But my coffee is incomplete

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

JACK

(Singing)

I stir Coffee Mate in my coffee

Like you stir the love in me

I stir Coffee Mate in my coffee

Like you stir the love in me

I don't like my coffee black

Because it ain't my coffee without  
Coffee Mate

Ain't my coffee without Coffee Mate

Just like my music ain't music without  
Coffee Mate

JACK AND ASHLEY

(Singing)

I can't rock on without Coffee Mate

Morning coffee, morning coffee

I need you like my morning coffee

But my coffee is incomplete

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

ASHLEY

(Singing)

Coffee Mate and coffee

Go together like you and me, babe

Coffee Mate in my coffee

Go together like you and me, babe

Morning coffee, morning coffee

I need you like my morning coffee

But my coffee is incomplete

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

JACK

(Singing)

I stir Coffee Mate in my coffee

Like you stir the love in me

I stir Coffee Mate in my coffee

Like you stir the love in me

I don't like my coffee black

Because it ain't my coffee without  
Coffee Mate

Ain't my coffee without Coffee Mate

JACK (CONT'D)

Just like my music ain't music without  
Coffee Mate

I can't rock on without Coffee Mate

Life without you is like coffee  
without Coffee Mate

JACK AND ASHLEY

(Singing)

I need you like my morning coffee

But my coffee is incomplete

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

Some folks prefer cream in their  
coffee

But for us, Coffee Mate is the only  
choice

The music ends.

CY

That's a wrap. You guys were fucking  
incredible. Your first concert is in  
three weeks in Philadelphia. Rock on!

TOAD

Thanks, man.

JACK

We appreciate your faith in us.

CY

I just scored a major sponsorship from  
Coffee Mate for the tour.

ASHLEY

I'd better start drinking coffee  
instead of tea.

CY

As long as your pipes keep singing  
like that, I don't care if you drink  
Southern Comfort with your breakfast.

ASHLEY

Janis Joplin loved Southern Comfort.  
And once smashed a bottle of it on Jim  
Morrison's head.

PUDGE

We should end every concert that way.

ASHLEY

Works for me.

47 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - DAY

Ashley walks into the office and up to Luna, sitting at her  
receptionist desk.

ASHLEY

Hey, Luna. Jack in?

LUNA

He's in court.

ASHLEY

I thought we'd do lunch. What trial?

LUNA

A rape trial. Jack hopes it wraps up  
today so he can prep more for your  
concert tour.

ASHLEY

Do you know the defendant's name?

LUNA

Biff Stephens. Jack got him off once  
before for rape. He said, she said  
trials often go the way of the better  
attorney.

ASHLEY

Biff Stephens is a fucking monster.  
Was Mary Lou Johnson the victim in his  
first rape trial?

LUNA

Give me a minute. I'll look it up.

Luna turns to her desktop and searches for documents  
detailing past cases.

LUNA  
Found it. Mary Lou Johnson.

Ashley looks stricken.

LUNA  
You OK? You're ghostly pale.

Ashley suddenly turns and bolts out of the office.

48 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

BIFF STEPHENS, a good-looking white guy with surfer blond long hair and broad shoulders, is standing next to Jack facing the jury. The JURY FOREMAN, a skinny Latino with thinning hair in his 50s, is about to announce the verdict as Ashley storms into the courtroom.

JURY FOREMAN  
We the jury find the defendant not guilty.

Upon hearing the verdict, Ashley shrieks and, crying hysterically, rushes up to Jack, as Raven, Stephens, JUDGE MARGE TAYLOR, JURY, BALIFF, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY and SPECTATORS are transfixed.

Ashley pounds Jack on the chest a few times while bawling.

ASHLEY  
(Hysterical)  
How could you? How could you set a monster free?

JACK  
(Soothing)  
Not here, Ash. Not here.

ASHLEY  
Mary Lou Johnson was my best friend, my inspiration. She was raped four years ago by the same monster you just got acquitted and Mary Lou soon committed suicide.

JACK  
Oh my God! Were you at that trial?

ASHLEY  
I was in Atlanta, taking care of my mother after she fell and broke her  
(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

femur.

She collapses in his arms.

The judge bangs her gavel.

JUDGE TAYLOR

The jury has rendered its verdict. The jury is dismissed. Court is adjourned.

49 INT. JACK'S FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Ashley are sitting on a large sofa. She is crying.

ASHLEY

How can you live with yourself?

JACK

My job is to provide a strong legal defense and ensure the prosecution meets its burden of proof. My job is not to know or decide guilt.

ASHLEY

But what if you know your client is guilty?

JACK

Defending a guilty client can be a difficult dilemma and you must weigh the ethical implications of your actions.

ASHLEY

And just how do you do that?

JACK

By maintaining client confidentiality, avoiding false statements and balancing my duty to my client with my duty to the legal profession.

ASHLEY

It's OK with you that Biff Stephens is out on the street, ready to pounce on his next victim?

JACK

There was questionable DNA evidence in both cases I represented him. There

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)  
also was some question whether both  
were consensual, not rape.

ASHLEY  
Bullshit! Mary Lou swore to me when we  
talked on the phone that she was  
raped.

JACK  
They were dating for nine months. That  
was a mitigating factor.

ASHLEY  
Suddenly your boyfriend forces himself  
on you and that's just fine and dandy,  
huh?

JACK  
I didn't say that.

ASHLEY  
Would you have the same attitude if it  
were Kate or me who was raped?

JACK  
That would be personal, not  
professional. And don't forget that  
defense attorneys often defend the  
innocent. Like in your case.

She suddenly stands up and looks away from him.

ASHLEY  
Every time I look at you I think of  
Mary Lou. I can't keep seeing you.

JACK  
Including singing together in Coffee  
Mate?

ASHLEY  
I'll bow out. It's your dream.

JACK  
The guys and Cy Berg won't be happy.

ASHLEY  
They don't have a broken heart. I've  
got to start packing up my things.

JACK

Where will you go? Lily's?

ASHLEY

Nope. She's living with Sam Dempsey.

JACK

Then where?

ASHLEY

Not telling you. Don't ever contact me again.

JACK

Don't be silly, Ash.

She starts crying and rushes out of the room.

50 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - DAY

Jack is sitting with Raven and Luna at their conference table.

RAVEN

Ashley left you, huh?

JACK

She couldn't reconcile that her boyfriend got the guy charged in her best friend's rape acquitted.

RAVEN

She can't grasp the importance of a defense attorney in our judicial system?

JACK

Unfortunately no.

RAVEN

You still going to balance the law and the music in your life?

JACK

Ash broke my heart. But not my spirit. Lawyers and vocalists aren't polar opposites. They're both performing for the audience.



51 INT. TOAD'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

The Coffee Mate guys are sitting on folding chairs, drinking bottled beers. Nobody is smiling.

TOAD

Guys, we're fucking ready for the tour. Tonight's session was great.

BONES

So, why is everybody looking so glum?

PUDGE

We're damn good without Ashley. But with her and Jack, we're freaking sensationally incredibly fantastic.

ZIGGY

She was so much fun. She kept us loose.

PUDGE

I don't know why the hell she can't perform with us even if you two broke up.

BONES

Dynamics of the heart, dude.

PUDGE

Toad, you're the band leader. Call her and beg her to come back.

TOAD

Already did. Said she can't even stand looking at Jack, let alone sing with him.

BONES

She could sing blindfolded.

ZIGGY

Kind of kinky.

TOAD

The good news is Cy is going to release our album with Ashley on it.

PUDGE

If the album does well, perhaps that'll entice her to come back.

JACK  
Wishful thinking, guys.

ZIGGY  
Jack, any chance you can start dating  
some other chick who sings like Janis  
Joplin?

JACK  
Good night, gentlemen. I'm going home  
to cuddle in bed with the PA criminal  
code.

ZIGGY  
You serious, Jack?

52 INT. HOT HEADS BEAUTY SALON - DAY

Ashley is dyeing a plump middle-aged white WOMAN's hair in  
the Hot Heads Beauty Salon.

WOMAN  
Thanks for pinch hitting for Martha.

ASHLEY  
All the stylists are helping cover her  
clients.

WOMAN  
Must have been a nasty car accident.

ASHLEY  
She's lucky she only suffered a broken  
leg. But that sucks, too.

WOMAN  
My hair must look great tonight. Going  
to a big fundraising dinner with my  
husband.

ASHLEY  
Doing my best.

WOMAN  
Perhaps you've heard of my husband. He  
owns Big Dick's Condom Emporium out on  
Highway 69.

ASHLEY  
Sorry. I don't shop for condoms.

WOMAN

Your boyfriend should. Ask for the King Rattlesnake condoms. They can lit your clit and then some.

ASHLEY

Good to know.

WOMAN

Of course, Big Dick is fortunate not to be in prison.

ASHLEY

Really?

WOMAN

He was arrested for murdering his mother. I hated the old witch but nobody deserves to be beheaded by a guillotine in this day and age.

ASHLEY

Definitely not.

WOMAN

Big Dick didn't do it. His younger brother Little Petey did it and cleverly framed Big Dick. The cops and the DA thought they had Big Dick dead to rights.

ASHLEY

They didn't?

WOMAN

Little Petey was clever as hell manipulating things that implicated Big Dick. Thank God we had a wonderful attorney who got Big Dick acquitted and Little Petey arrested.

ASHLEY

Who was the lawyer?

WOMAN

Jack Daniels. He was masterful grilling Little Petey on the witness stand. I'm surprised the tiny twerp didn't also confess to beheading King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

ASHLEY

Why did Little Petey behead his  
mother?

WOMAN

Said she always treated him unfairly  
because he didn't measure up to Big  
Dick.

ASHLEY

I guess in some cases size does  
matter.

WOMAN

Damn, right. Big Dick and I have a  
shot of Jack Daniels every night in  
honor of the marvelous attorney who  
saved Big Dick's ass.

53 INT. THE FILLMORE PHILADELPHIA CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

Coffee Mate is performing on stage before a large CROWD.

JACK

(Singing)

Morning coffee, morning coffee

I need you like my morning coffee

But my coffee is incomplete

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

Coffee Mate in my coffee

Go together like you and me, babe

Coffee Mate in my coffee

Go together like you and me, babe

Morning coffee, morning coffee

I need you like my morning coffee

But my coffee is incomplete

Incomplete without Coffee Mate

JACK (CONT'D)  
Incomplete without Coffee Mate

The band pauses for a moment to shift songs.

JACK  
(Singing)  
Babe, you know what you need  
  
Yeah, girl, you know what you need  
  
Don't be shy, my lovely lady  
  
Don't be coy, my lovely lady  
  
You just gotta know, you just gotta  
know  
  
Babe, you need a shot of Jack  
  
Yep, a shot of Jack Daniels  
  
Then a glass of Jack Daniels on the  
rocks  
  
Babe, we've had our ups and downs  
  
Yeah, girl, we've had our hills and  
valleys  
  
But you and I know things are gonna  
plateau  
  
Gonna level out, my lovely lady  
  
Gonna straighten out, my lovely lady  
  
With a shot of Jack  
  
With a shot of Jack Daniels  
  
Then a glass of Jack Daniels on the  
rocks

The band stops playing and basks in a standing ovation.  
Suddenly Ashley appears on stage, races over to a startled  
Jack and rips the mic from his hands.

ASHLEY  
Just like you folks, I need my shot of  
Jack.

Toad cues the band to resume playing.

JACK AND ASHLEY

(Singing)

Babe, we've had our ups and downs

Yeah, girl, we've had our hills and valleys

But you and I know things are gonna plateau

Gonna level out, my lovely lady

Gonna straighten out, my lovely lady

With a shot of Jack

With a shot of Jack Daniels

Then a glass of Jack Daniels on the rocks

The band stops playing and a smiling Ashley kisses Jack on the lips as the crowd screams its approval.

54 INT. THE FILLMORE PHILADELPHIA BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Jack and Ashley, surrounded by Toad, Bones, Pudge and Ziggy, are laughing, kissing and hugging. Two STAGE HANDS hand them glasses and pour champagne into them.

TOAD

A toast to the return of Ashley!

BONES

What brought you back? Jack or the boys in the band?

ASHLEY

(Laughing)

Definitely you guys. Hell, I don't need a shot of Jack Daniels. I prefer Southern Comfort.

PUDGE

Hell, I don't care if you fuck Jack. Just keep singing with him.

ZIGGY

And if you're not screwing Jack, why  
(MORE)

ZIGGY (CONT'D)  
not give ol' Ziggy here a shot?

ASHLEY  
Sorry, Ziggy. I've decided that even though he's a lawyer, Jack's not a scumbag.

JACK  
Appreciate that, Ash. Love you.

ASHLEY  
Words don't mean shit. Prove it. Marry me!

JACK  
I thought you'd never ask.

ASHLEY  
Yes or no?

JACK  
Yes.

ASHLEY  
Good answer.

She leaps into his arms. Startled, he stumbles back a bit but manages not to drop her. She starts laughing.

ASHLEY  
Didn't mean to snap your spine, old man.

55 INT. JACK DANIELS LAW OFFICE - DAY

Jack is working at his desk when Braxton mayor ALBERT SWANSON, a balding, thick-chested barrel of a white man in his 60s, barges in. Trailing right behind is Luna.

LUNA  
Sorry, Jack. He zoomed right past me.

JACK  
It's OK, Luna. Mayor, what can I do for you?

Luna exits his office and the mayor plops down on a chair facing Jack's desk.

ALBERT

My son Luke, who is a Lutheran pastor, was arrested this morning for the murder of Fred Driscoll's daughter.

JACK

The mayor's son is accused of murdering the police chief's daughter? Wasn't she shot to death two years ago?

ALBERT

Three years. Luke never even met the woman. The police never found the murder weapon, a handgun. There's no physical evidence linking Luke to the murder. The cops are scapegoating him.

JACK

What evidence do they have?

ALBERT

Evidently the only evidence is the testimony of a cokehead who claims he saw the fatal shooting.

JACK

Does your son know him?

ALBERT

His parents are members of Luke's congregation and Luke counseled him a couple times.

JACK

Anything else?

ALBERT

This murder rap is politically motivated. Fat Fucking Driscoll is a crooked police chief.

JACK

Driscoll has a sterling reputation.

ALBERT

Bullshit! Driscoll is doing this to me, to Luke, because I'm about to blow the whistle on him and fire his ass.



JACK

For what?

ALBERT

I have concrete evidence that Driscoll has been receiving huge kickbacks from several top drug dealers in town for looking the other way.

JACK

And he discovered that you're on to him?

ALBERT

Bingo. My son is in a pile of shit that he didn't jump into. He was shoved into it. And you're the only guy who can shovel him out.

JACK

I'll be up front about this. I'd love to take the case. But I'm also on a concert tour and getting married.

ALBERT

A fucking concert tour? You a goddamn rock singer?

JACK

I am.

ALBERT

Get the fuck out.

JACK

I'll give your son the best defense I can under the circumstances.

ALBERT

So you're a part-time lawyer now?

JACK

My primary focus is my law practice.

ALBERT

Your sole focus would be much better. But you're the best damn lawyer in town. And I could bring in some out-of-town hotshot but he wouldn't know the politics of this town.

JACK  
I'll do all I can for Luke.

ALBERT  
Thank you. Unlike his crusty old man,  
he truly is a saint who's engaged to a  
fellow saint.

JACK  
Sounds like your grandkids are going  
to be heavenly.

56 INT. JACK'S FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Ashley are cuddling on the couch.

JACK  
The next couple months are going to be  
a challenge.

ASHLEY  
Sure will be with your practice, the  
concerts and the wedding planning.

JACK  
And now there's more.

ASHLEY  
What?

JACK  
I have a blockbuster murder trial on  
my hands.

ASHLEY  
(Sharply)  
Turn it down!

JACK  
I'm still a litigator. And this is one  
case I can't turn down.

ASHLEY  
We can't have you juggling a murder  
trial with our concerts and our  
wedding.

JACK  
The mayor's son has been arrested for  
the murder of the police chief's  
daughter.

Ashley sits bolt upright, an astonished look on her face.

ASHLEY

Luke Swanson? Arrested for murder? No fucking way!

JACK

You know him?

ASHLEY

We dated for a few months three years ago. We weren't a match. He's a Lutheran minister who's such a straight arrow Robin Hood could've pulled his bow.

JACK

A regular Eagle Scout, huh?

ASHLEY

Christ, he was an Eagle Scout. I heard he's engaged to his assistant pastor.

JACK

A woman I assume.

ASHLEY

She must not have my sex drive. I broke it off with Luke because he doesn't believe in premarital sex. And while a great guy, he's boring as sin.

JACK

Not all sins are boring.

ASHLEY

You have to save him. If you miss a couple concerts, so be it. I'll sing solo. There's no way in hell that Luke is a murderer.

JACK

The murder happened three years ago on March 12.

ASHLEY

Hell, I still was dating him then. I saved one picture of us as a keepsake because people who know me find it hysterical I once dated a minister.

JACK  
I find it implausible.

Ashley is scrolling through images on her phone.

ASHLEY  
Here it is!

She shows Jack the picture of her and Luke smiling over a lobster dinner at Seafood Shanty.

JACK  
What's the date of that photo?

ASHLEY  
Oh, God! March 12.

JACK  
Damn. The murder happened early that evening.

ASHLEY  
That clinches it! No way Luke killed her. He was with me the whole evening and night.

JACK  
I thought he didn't believe in premarital sex?

ASHLEY  
We spent the whole night in bed with me begging him to fuck me and him praying for me.

JACK  
Would you testify to that in court?

ASHLEY  
Fuck yeah. Makes me look like a slut but I'll do anything to save a guy who was trying to save my soul.

JACK  
Thank you.

He kisses her gently on the forehead and she falls back into his arms.

ASHLEY  
More and more, my faith in good  
(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
defense attorneys is being restored.

JACK  
I just have to balance the trial with  
the tour.

ASHLEY  
You can lawyer up and rock out. The  
Coffee Mate guys deserve that.

JACK  
And the wedding planning?

ASHLEY  
No worries. I'll handle all that. Just  
don't shit a brick when you see the  
total nut of our nuptials.

57 INT. TOAD'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jack, Ashley, Toad, Pudge, Bones and Ziggy are sitting on  
folding chairs, drinking bottles of beer.

TOAD  
Can't believe you're missing the  
Toronto and Montreal concerts.

PUDGE  
Anti-Canadian?

JACK  
Ashley can sing solo those two nights.

ASHLEY  
Cy Berg is OK with it. He understands  
that Jack has Braxton's trial of the  
century on his hands.

BONES  
I don't like politicians or cops.  
What's the big deal about another  
murder?

ZIGGY  
Hell, it wasn't even a mass murder.

TOAD  
I get it that the mayor's son is  
accused of fatally shooting the police  
chief's daughter. But this tour is our  
(MORE)

TOAD (CONT'D)  
ticket to the big time.

PUDGE  
And you missing out on two concerts  
could be derailing our trip to the  
top.

ASHLEY  
(Laughing)  
You're overrating Jack. Nobody will  
miss him.

58 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY

Sitting on the bench is JUDGE ALICE COOPER, an attractive white blonde in her 40s. Sitting at the defendant's table with Raven and Jack is LUKE SWANSON, a handsome white man with thick brown hair in his 30s and wearing a black suit with clerical shirt and collar.

Sitting behind the prosecutor's table is police chief FRED DRISCOLL, white, fat and shaggy-haired in his 50s. Sitting behind the defendant's table is Mayor Swanson. They exchange angry glances and give each other the finger.

LUKE  
I have faith in the Lord, but I'm  
nervous.

JACK  
I feel good about this. Just trust in  
the Lord. And me.

JUDGE COOPER  
Your witness, Mr. Daniels.

Jack stands up.

JACK  
The defense calls Billy Joe Belmont,  
your honor.

BILLY JOE BELMONT, white, short and skinny with unkempt brown hair in his 30s and wearing a cheap blue suit and a wrinkled white tee shirt, walks up to the witness chair. The COURT CLERK is holding a bible and Belmont puts his right hand on it.

COURT CLERK  
Do you swear to tell the truth, the  
(MORE)

COURT CLERK (CONT'D)  
whole truth, and nothing but the  
truth, so help you God?

BILLY JOE  
I do.

The clerk withdraws, Belmont sits down and Jack casually  
walks over to the witness stand.

JACK  
Mr. Belmont, did you witness Luke  
Swanson fatally shoot Danielle  
Driscoll?

BILLY JOE  
(Sniffling)  
Yes, sir.

JACK  
Where?

BILLY JOE  
(Sniffling)  
Don't remember. That was three years  
ago.

JACK  
Was it on a city street, on a country  
road, in a parking lot or perhaps in  
church?

BILLY JOE  
(Sniffling)  
I think it was a city street.

JACK  
Which one?

BILLY JOE  
Don't know.

JACK  
Are you testifying on behalf of the  
prosecution because you're a Dudley  
Do-Right?

BILLY JOE  
(Snorting)  
Dudley who?

JACK  
Why did you come forward as an  
eyewitness after three years?

BILLY JOE  
(Snorting)  
Been busy.

JACK  
Or was it because...

Jack starts singing a cappella.

JACK  
(Singing)  
If you want to hang out  
You've gotta take her out  
Cocaine  
If you want to get down  
Get down on the ground  
Cocaine  
She don't lie, she don't lie, she  
don't lie  
Cocaine

The JURY, SPECTATORS, COURT REPORTER, CLERK and BAILIFF are  
laughing.

District attorney VINCE SHEMANSKI, a mountain of a white man  
with a crewcut in his 50s, leaps to his feet.

SHEMANSKI  
(Screaming)  
Objection! He's leading!

JUDGE COOPER  
Sustained. Knock off the singing, Mr.  
Daniels. By the way, you sound more  
like Jim Morrison than Eric Clapton.

More laughter by the jury, spectators, court reporter, clerk  
and bailiff.



JACK

I'll rephrase, your honor. Mr. Belmont, is it true that you decided to come forward as an eyewitness after a stranger offered you a large amount of cocaine for free?

BILLY JOE

Well, uh, that was a big factor.

JACK

No further questions.

JUDGE COOPER

Any more witnesses, Mr. Daniels?

JACK

The defense calls Ashley Dupree, your honor.

Ashley, wearing an expensive black business suit, walks over to the witness stand while the district attorney leaps to his feet.

SHEMANSKI

Objection! This woman was not on the witness list.

JACK

My apologies to the district attorney. I wasn't sure Miss Dupree could be here today. Her flight from Montreal was delayed by bad weather.

SHEMANSKI

Your honor, this woman is Jack Daniels' girlfriend.

JUDGE COOPER

Is that true, Miss Dupree?

ASHLEY

Of course. Everybody who follows music in this town knows that. Jack and I are vocalists for Coffee Mate.

JUDGE COOPER

A strange name for a band.

ASHLEY

A knockoff on Cream, the supergroup.

JUDGE COOPER

I love White Room. Will your relationship with Mr. Daniels influence your testimony?

ASHLEY

Heavens no. I'm my own person. In fact, I tell him what to do.

Everybody in the courtroom, including Judge Cooper, DA Shemanski and Jack laugh.

JUDGE COOPER

I will allow her to testify.

The court clerk is holding a bible and Ashley puts her right hand on it.

COURT CLERK

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

ASHLEY

I do.

The clerk withdraws, Ashley sits down and Jack walks over to the witness stand.

JACK

Miss Dupree, or rather Ashley, you dated Reverend Swanson for a few months three years ago, correct?

ASHLEY

While people who know me as a pagan were astonished, I did.

JACK

In fact, you were out on a date with him on March 12, the night the accused is alleged to have killed Danielle Driscoll, correct?

ASHLEY

I was. Had a delicious lobster dinner at Seafood Shanty. I'm not a religious person but that meal was divine.

JACK

That dinner didn't last the whole  
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)  
evening, did it?

ASHLEY  
No. We went to Luke's house and spent  
the night.

JACK  
You were with him overnight?

ASHLEY  
Yes. But just so you and everybody  
else knows, especially Luke's  
congregation, we didn't have sex. I  
kept begging him for it while he kept  
praying for me.

JUDGE COOPER  
Too much detail, Miss Dupree.

ASHLEY  
Sorry. Luke is a total saint.

Shemanski leaps up.

SHEMANSKI  
Objection! Your honor, the witness is  
speculating that the defendant is not  
a sinner. We're all sinners.

JUDGE COOPER  
Sustained. Miss Dupree, please just  
answer the questions.

ASHLEY  
Apologies. And for the record, I'm not  
a slut for begging him for sex. I'm  
just a healthy girl and he doesn't  
believe in premarital sex.

JUDGE COOPER  
Miss Dupree, just answer the question  
or I'll find you in contempt of court.

JACK  
You have visual evidence confirming  
you were with Reverend Swanson that  
evening, correct?

ASHLEY  
I have a picture of Luke and me at  
(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
dinner that night. I often show it to  
people who are amused I once dated a  
minister.

Shemanski leaps up.

SHEMANSKI  
Objection! Your honor, I make a motion  
to exclude the admissibility of this  
surprise evidence.

JACK  
Your honor, this photo evidence dated  
March 12 proves that the defendant was  
with this witness when the murder took  
place.

JUDGE COOPER  
Please let me see the photo.

Ashley hands her phone to Jack, who walks over and hands it  
to the judge. The district attorney approaches and they all  
look at it together.

JUDGE COOPER  
Overruled. This evidence is  
admissible.

ASHLEY  
(Yelling)  
Hallelujah! Every picture tells a  
story, don't it?

JUDGE COOPER  
I'm holding you in contempt of court,  
Miss Dupree. That'll cost you a  
hundred bucks.

ASHLEY  
Been there, done that. Guess you're  
grouchy because your parents named you  
Alice Cooper.

JUDGE COOPER  
I happen to love his music. Especially  
School's Out. Please control your  
witness, Mr. Daniels.

JACK  
Wish I could, your honor. No more  
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)  
questions.

59 INT. STIRLING COUNTY COURTHOUSE - DAY

Ashley is washing her hands in the ladies' room when SUSAN THOMPSON, a beautiful and built white brunette in her 30s, walks in and approaches her.

SUSAN  
I wanted to thank you. While the jury still is deliberating, I'm confident your testimony will lead to a not guilty verdict.

ASHLEY  
And you are?

SUSAN  
Susan Thompson. I'm engaged to Luke.

ASHLEY  
Holy shit! Luke is a saint for still being a virgin. You're absolutely gorgeous.

Susan laughs heartily.

SUSAN  
We're sick of being saints. Our sex drives have shifted into fifth gear. Not sure how long our prayers can keep the barbarians of lust from breaching the gate.

ASHLEY  
(Giggling)  
There's a time to be a missionary and a time to be in the missionary position.

SUSAN  
The moment Luke is acquitted we're getting a wedding license here at the courthouse and heading straight for a district justice to get married.

ASHLEY  
Two pastors aren't having a church wedding?

SUSAN

That'll come later. Luke and I will be coming much sooner.

ASHLEY

God bless you two.

SUSAN

Jack and you will forever be in our prayers.

ASHLEY

We'll need them. We're a mismatch. I should be with a bartender, not a guy who's a member of the bar. But we love each other.

SUSAN

Love is the most important element in a relationship, bar none.

ASHLEY

I'll drink to that.

60 INT. THE NUT BAR RESTAURANT - EVENING

Jack and Ashley along with Toad, Pudge, Bones and Ziggy are celebrating over dinner and drinks.

ZIGGY

The minister being found not guilty restores my faith in organized religion.

PUDGE

Enough to go to church?

ZIGGY

Yeah, right.

BONES

Our album's sales and downloads are going great.

Ashley raises her glass.

ASHLEY

Here's to Jack's nimble toes for walking the tightrope between litigator and rocker.

They all raise their glasses.

PUDGE

Perhaps Twinkle Toes can get a third  
gig as a ballet dancer.

ASHLEY

Speaking of dancing, I've picked our  
wedding song.

ASHLEY

(Singing a cappella)  
You must remember this

A kiss is just a kiss

A sigh is just a sigh

The fundamental things apply

As time goes by

And when two lovers woo

They still say, I love you

On that you can rely

No matter what the future brings

As time goes by

She stops singing and bows gracefully.

ASHLEY

My life didn't amount to a hill of  
beans until I walked into that saloon  
and met you. Thank you for giving me  
purpose.

JACK

We'll always have Casablanca.

ASHLEY

Here's looking at you, kid.

They kiss tenderly.

FADE OUT:

THE END

