

JAKE & AMANDA

SCENE: JAKE'S OFFICE AT THE HERALD. JAKE AND AMANDA HAVE HAD A SCRATCHY, COMPETITIVE, LOVE / HATE THING GOING FOR YEARS. UNDER IT, HOWEVER, IS A LOT OF MUTUAL RESPECT, EVEN ADMIRATION. BUT THIS TIME ROUND, THERE IS A CLEAR ATTRACTION, WHICH BOTH OF THEM WOULD HOTLY DENY.

AMANDA SITS AT JAKE'S DESK, AS HE ENTERS, MAD As HELL, AND SLAMS THE DOOR BEKIND HIM. HE CAARIES A FEW PAGES OF COPY IN HIS HAND AMANDA DOESN'T LOOK UP, DOESN'T REACT AT ALL.

JAKE

Oh, I get it. Ignore him and he'll go away. Well, not this time, Miss I-Went-To-Vassar- And-Won all the prizes.

AMANDA

It was Smith. And I took all but one.

JAKE

Don't tell me you didn't get Miss Congeniality.

AMANDA

How'd you guess?

JAKE

Awww, what a shame. You mean they gave it to the gorilla at the local zoo instead of you?

AMANDA

What do you want, Jake?

JAKE

I am not going to allow this piece of crap in my newspaper.
(READS THE COPY)

"As the models glide down the runway, the rustle of eastern silks reminds one of dusky evenings amongst the Doges---" who the hell wants to read this?

AMANDA

Our readers. I took a survey.

JAKE

The hell with your survey and the hell with you. And get up from my desk.

AMANDA

It's now my desk. You're never here and I wanted a corner office. I put you down the hall.

JAKE

And I am going to put you out of your misery if you don't stand up and walk out that door quietly. Do not look back, do not pass go---

AMANDA

(RISING WITH FURY. THE TWO ARE NOSE TO NOSE)
I have had it with you, McKinnon! You treat your job like it was a hobby, while your real work seems to be across town holding Vicky's hand---

JAKE

Don't start. Leave Vicky out of this

AMANDA

--when the world knows that all she wants is a fun time with Bobby Reno- -

JAKE

I told you--- (THEY FREEZE, BOTH KNOWING THAT THEY ARE OUT OF LINE. JAKE LET'S HIS HANDS DROP, BUT SLOWLY. EACH HOLDS THE OTHER'S GAZE. THE ATTRACTION THAT THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING, BEGINS TO GROWN)

JAKE

Sorry.

AMANDA

Me too.

JAKE

I lost my head.

AMANDA

I pushed you. Why do I do that? Am I really as obnoxious as you say I am? Don't answer that. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night, and I ask myself, is Jake right about me? When he says I've got frozen margaritas in my veins. And that time you compared me to Attila the Hun. Only meaner. Sometimes, I can't get back to sleep and I lie

there and think and think.

JAKE

About me?

AMANDA

(NOT WANTING TO ADMIT IT) So how's Vicky?

JAKE

I haven't seen her. It's been maybe a ...

AMANDA

She needs her head examined.

JAKE

What do you mean?

AMANDA

She's choosing the wrong guy.

JAKE

Sounds strange coming from you.

AMANDA

Oh, hey, I'm not the president of your fan club. On the other hand, you've got some qualities that some women might like.

JAKE

How about you?

AMANDA

Me? Well, you're not bad looking. Sometimes you make me laugh. You've got guts. Kids and dogs always seem to like you. I think a lot of people misunderstand you. They think you're rough and tough, because that's all you want them to see. You're sort of scared to let the real you come through. The you that has a heart so big, that you get hurt a lot. And then pretend that it didn't happen. Have I got your number?

JAKE

What are you doing tonight?

AMANDA

Going out with you?

JAKE

I thought you'd never ask.