

DOLL WARS

Written by

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Based on a True Story

Bellevue Productions
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INT. FACTORY - CHINA - DAY

SUPER: 2004

Inside a brutal sweatshop, a FACTORY WORKER on an assembly line presses a button and we hear the HISS of machines turning on.

As the line churns, we trace the path of each identical piece of plastic as it gets molded and shaped, while hundreds of WORKERS IN MASKS eke out a dreary existence.

CLOSE ON: the object on the line: Dolls. A piece of machinery methodically pops blonde wigs on each one, then snaps on their pink heels. It only takes a millisecond for us to realize: this is BARBIE. The All American dream girl.

A made in China sticker gets stamped on the bottom of the box.

Over the ubiquitous, grating pop song "Barbie World" by Aqua - we enter...

INT. BIG BOX RETAIL STORE - LOS ANGELES - DAY

- An entire toy section filled with a variety of items: Transformers, Legos, Elmos...gets WIPED AWAY in a swift magical stroke as this year's new Barbies take their rightful place dominating the shelf.

After all, this is early 2000s. Before #metoo, before "Wokeness," there's still only one type of Barbie: blonde, big tits, white.

The song reaches its brutal crescendo, repeating the "come on Barbie, let's go party" line that we all despise.

At the register, JENNIFER KELLER, late 30s, a firecracker, slightly tomboyish lawyer, and the polar opposite of Barbie, talks to a TEENAGED CLERK who's humming along to the song.

JENNIFER

Is this a good one for getting a
nine year old not to hate you?

The Clerk sizes up Jennifer and thinks for a second.

CLERK

All the Barbies put a smile on any
child's face!

JENNIFER

So it's like Zolof for kids.

Off the Clerks confused look, Jennifer hands him a coupon.

CLERK

Actually that coupon is for the older Barbie model, not this newer one that just came out yesterday.

JENNIFER

What's the difference?

CLERK

The newer model has a pink beret.

JENNIFER

Revolutionary. I'll just take the old one.

CLERK

We don't have them in stock anymore. I'm sorry. If you're looking for something on a budget, these are being pulled from our stores.

The Clerk reaches for a Bratz doll off the discount bin next to the register. It's got oversized bulging eyes, an ethnically ambiguous look, and a punk rock outfit. Jennifer sizes up the doll. It sure ain't Barbie.

JENNIFER

I'm not gonna buy a faulty product.

CLERK

Nothing like that. They used to fly off the shelves. Then Barbie sued them into oblivion. Last stop before oblivion: the bargain bin.

Jennifer clocks that.

JENNIFER

A little bit trashy for my taste. No offense.

(to the Clerk)

I'll just stick with Tits McGee, I mean, Barbie.

CLERK

I'm sorry ma'am. Like I said, we can't honor that coupon.

Jennifer smiles at the clerk and goes full lawyer.

JENNIFER

Hey, it's not *your* fault. It's really the company's fault for breaching multiple false advertising laws--

A MANAGER overhears them chatting and the word "law" spoken loudly causes him to inject himself.

MANAGER

(obnoxious)

Excuse me, ma'am. We get a lot of people coming in here trying to scam us.

(sizing her up)

I can see you're *probably* not one of those people, so we will honor the coupon...as a courtesy.

JENNIFER

I appreciate that. But I just want to be clear on something: you're not honoring it as a courtesy. You're honoring it because it's Federal Law. Under both the FTC and California 325F-1-b, your coupon would qualify as a material assertion that is both deceptive and misleading. It's designed to lure people into the store for a doll that isn't stocked. Classic bait and switch. Some people might call *that* a scam.

The Manager and Clerk both look intimidated. Jennifer's phone rings.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Keller Simpson, this is Jennifer Keller.

(listens, then:)

Fuck yes!

All the PARENTS nearby earmuff their kids. Jennifer gives a semi-apologetic shrug.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I'll see you in court at 4.

She turns back to the Employees without missing a beat.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Not to mention you're also running
afoul of the Electronic Transfer
Funds Act and the 28th amendment.

MANAGER

You know what, just take the doll
for free. I'll let corporate know
about the mix-up.

JENNIFER

Thank you. That's too kind! You
shouldn't have!

(whispers to Clerk)

There is no 28th amendment.

She winks at him. He chuckles. Jennifer has a look of self
satisfaction like she just crushed someone in court.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Jennifer rushes through the halls while tugging at a heel
that's out of place. She slows down before reaching the
doorway that's open.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

AMANDA, 20s, youthful and over eager teacher, sits with
Jennifer's nine year old precocious but difficult niece,
SUZIE, and helps her with her homework.

JENNIFER

Knock, knock!

Amanda gets up to greet her while Suzie barely acknowledges
her. Amanda gently pulls her into the corner of the room.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Sorry I was late, court ran long,
traffic was a nightmar--

AMANDA

How are you holding up?

JENNIFER

Getting jerked around on a
settlement. Have a jury closing
tomorrow.

Amanda looks her in the eyes and gently touches her shoulder.

AMANDA

I meant how are you?

JENNIFER

Really, I'm fine. How's she?

AMANDA

Suzie's withdrawing. It's very typical for someone who's experienced such a profound loss at this age. Have you found an activity you two could share, like we discussed?

JENNIFER

She doesn't like Law & Order. And I tried watching something called Drake and Josh, but the character development was shit, and the acting was piss poor.

(then, candidly)

Also, she doesn't like being in the same room as me.

AMANDA

She's tough, like her aunt! I know it's not my place to ask, but is there anyone else who could help out? Anyone who has a little more experience with kids--

JENNIFER

You're right. It's not your place.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jennifer reaches over the backseat and pulls the Barbie out and hands it to Suzie.

JENNIFER

I got you something.

SUZIE

Why?

JENNIFER

Because...I'm trying.

Suzie casually drops the doll on the ground.

SUZIE

I'm never gonna call you mom.

Jennifer tries not to let that sting.

JENNIFER

You know when your mom was a kid,
she had that exact Barbie doll.

Suzie lets her guard down a bit.

SUZIE

What did she want to be when she
grew up?

JENNIFER

First a nurse, then a ballerina,
then a Rockette, then a she settled
on teaching. But her best job was
being a mom.

SUZIE

What Barbie did you have?

JENNIFER

Well, I never liked...er, I never
really played with Barbies.

SUZIE

Why not?

Jennifer pauses to think about her answer for a moment.

JENNIFER

They didn't have a lawyer Barbie.

Suzie picks the Barbie doll back up and cradles it.

SUZIE

I'm calling her Rebecca.

JENNIFER

The best name I've ever heard. Hey,
I have a fun idea. Why don't you
come with me to court tomorrow?

SUZIE

Is this because you can't afford a
baby-sitter?

JENNIFER

It's because I want you to see that
girls can do all kinds of jobs. And
do them better than boys. Plus,
they have a vending machine.

SUZIE
Does it have donuts?

JENNIFER
Does the Pope wear a silly hat?

Suzie laughs.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Don't tell your teacher I said
that.

INT. ISAAC LARIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

ISAAC LARIAN, 60s bushy haired Iranian immigrant with a
unibrow, sits on the ground, playing with a Bratz doll. Bratz
is not just his company, it's his baby, as evidenced by the
framed, blown up poster of him behind his desk. He's on the
cover of "Toy Insider" under title "Look out, Barbie."

ISAAC
We've got two weeks before retrial
and our legal team is not inspiring
confidence.

MAX, his in-house counsel, 40s, stands behind Isaac, talking
to his back. We see that Isaac is playing with JASMIN, his
adorable 9 year old Persian princess.

MAX
Orrick is using a new lead counsel.
They are sending their best
litigators here tomorrow to explain
the new strategy.

ISAAC
Do you really think they are going
to be able to save us?

MAX
You have a better idea?

ISAAC
What about boutique firms?

MAX
We can throw Boies in the mix in a
consulting role.

ISAAC
I don't mean a bunch of people that
moved from Skadden.
(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

You're my in-house counsel and you don't seem to know what our problem is.

MAX

That we just lost a billion dollar case to Mattel and we're about to go under?

ISAAC

No! That our lawyers don't represent me.

(beat)

Max, who am I?

MAX

You're the CEO of one of the best toy companies in the world.

ISAAC

(raising voice)

Bullshit. I'm an immigrant who worked his ass off, failed, failed some more, and then got some lucky breaks. Nobody at Orrick can relate to that.

MAX

They are the best lawyers on earth.

ISAAC

(yelling)

These so called best lawyers allowed Mattel to win a case claiming they own all of my intellectual property. How can they claim that? The design was based on my daughter. It's like telling me Jasmin belongs to Radio Shack, because she was born while I worked there!

Jasmin looks up at him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Sorry, my Jasmin. Papa didn't mean to yell.

Jasmin is too busy drawing on a California Lawyers Monthly magazine to pay attention to them.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Jasmin, what does papa always say about instinct?

JASMIN

It took you from the outhouse to
the penthouse.

He starts to whisper in his daughter's ear.

ISAAC

Yes, it's settled. We need to shake
things up.

MAX

Isaac, I know you tend to get
emotional--

Isaac puts his hand up to say "please go."

ISAAC

Please drive Jasmin home with you.
(to Jasmin)
Papa needs some alone time to
think.

She hugs him. Max walks her out.

Isaac cleans up the mess she made and then stops himself. He has tears in his eyes. He wipes them and gathers himself, knowing he can't give up now. He takes a look at the page in the California Lawyers magazine that Jasmin was drawing on. Something has piqued his interest.

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jennifer sits in her modest living room next to Suzie on the couch watching SpongeBob. Jennifer looks at Suzie, clearly trying to come up with something to talk about. Instead she just starts laughing.

SUZIE

You're laughing at the wrong parts!

Jennifer clams up and tries another approach.

JENNIFER

Well, it's funny because SpongeBob said "I used to have a dream, and the crab guy says I used to have a kidney stone and everything passes."

(off Suzie's non-reaction)

I think that joke was meant for
adults.

SUZIE
You don't have to explain it to me.
I'm not stupid.

JENNIFER
Of course you're not stupid. You're
a Keller. We come from good stock.

SUZIE
My last name's not Keller. I'm
going to my room.

Suzie storms out.

JENNIFER
(to herself)
That went well.

She flips to NBC - "Law & Order" is on. The theme song comes
on. Suzie slams the door just as the famed prison cell
slamming sound plays.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Dun, dun.

INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE - DAY

Max slides Isaac a spreadsheet across his desk.

MAX
This wasn't easy to do. We did some
digging, called in a few favors,
and ran a list of all the firms
with the best litigation trial
records in all of California,
including every reputable boutique
we could find.

Isaac puts his glasses on.

MAX (CONT'D)
It's the usual suspects. There's a
reason they are all on here.

ON LIST: It *is* the usual suspects: Skadden, Kirkland, Latham.

ISAAC
What about Keller Simpson?

He hands the California Lawyers Magazine to Max. It's a
picture of Jennifer Keller with a little blurb.

MAX
Never heard of them.

ISAAC

It's an all-female law firm. They beat Sullivan & Boggs on a pregnancy discrimination case.

MAX

Isaac, please, let me do my job. That magazine is basically a paid advertisement for lesser firms. I promise you they're small potatoes.

ISAAC

That's what Mattel thinks I am! If I lose, it means you find another fucking CEO to work for. For me, it means I become just another immigrant with broken dreams!

MAX

I know you're emotional right now, but we can't just go hiring some rinky dink firm on a whim.

ISAAC

I'm not asking you to hire them, just give them a meeting.

He grabs the list back. His desperation is palpable.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

(reading)

They won 22 out of 25 cases, that's a higher percentage than Skadden, Latham or Orrick!

MAX

And I guarantee 90 percent of them were small business squabbles, not complex intellectual property disputes. Besides, they haven't been vetted.

Isaac puts his jacket on.

MAX (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

ISAAC

To vet them!

MAX

Isaac, please you're being irrational.

ISAAC

My instincts and my whims created
this billion dollar company, and
it's those same instincts and whims
that are going to save it!

Isaac storms out.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

This is where dreams go to die: Los Angeles Municipal court.
It's bleakness in aesthetic is only matched by the bleakness
of spirit of all the LEGAL PROFESSIONALS milling about.

The JUDGE takes his duties seriously, in spite of the ticky-
tack, small-time level of cases heard here. Jennifer stands
before the Judge, across the table from, CHARLOTTE aka
CHARLIE, 30s, polished, serious but with a good sense of
humor for an Assistant District Attorney. Suzie sits in the
first row, on her knees so she can see the action.

JENNIFER

My client was utilizing his first
amendment rights to free speech. Is
making an honest living a crime?

CHARLIE

Your client broke the law.
Municipal Code 48b-2f. "No person
shall stand in or upon any sidewalk
in such a manner as to annoy or
molest any pedestrian." People
don't want to be bothered when they
come to LA to see the sights.

JENNIFER

These actors are the sights!

CHARLIE

Give me a break. They aren't
actors! They're vagrants.

Jennifer turns to her CLIENT, a man dressed in a shoddy suit.

JENNIFER

I have with me fourteen witnesses
that would say otherwise. Why don't
we ask them, your Honor?

Jennifer points to three rows behind her filled with TOURISTS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD that she somehow convinced to come to
court. We clock Isaac Larian sitting in the back observing.

CHARLIE

This is a pre-trial hearing. She's making a mockery of your courtroom.

JENNIFER

The only mockery is the outrageous abuse of power by this police state.

Charlie scoffs.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

This man is dedicated to his craft and that should be lauded. After every door was closed to him, he persisted. I know actors that have crawled home after the slightest rejection. Hell, I know one actress that went to law school after they were written off a soap opera.

Jennifer smirks. Charlie looks indignant. Oh Hollywood.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

The only reason we are here is because rich developers want to build condos on Hollywood Boulevard and these performers are in the way. And, if you think I'm making a mockery of this courtroom now, just wait until we get a class certification going.

JUDGE

Ms. Keller, I've heard enough. I'm not about to turn this minor infraction into another cause for you. Mr. Goodwin, I'm granting the motion to dismiss. The misdemeanor charge is reduced to \$25 dollar loitering fine. Case dismissed.

Jennifer turns to her CLIENT, who opens his shirt to reveal a Batman costume underneath.

FAKE BATMAN

(in deep voice)

Gotham thanks you, Commissioner Keller.

He runs off. Charlie approaches.

CHARLIE

I told you that in confidence.

JENNIFER

Aww. Did I hurt your feelings,
pretty lady?

She's clearly flirting.

CHARLIE

Remind me to air your dirty laundry
next time. Maybe some of your
sexual peccadillos.

Her smirk makes it clear she knows what those are.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Jennifer and Suzie walk back towards her car.

SUZIE

You kicked their butt.

JENNIFER

I did, didn't I.

SUZIE

Is it weird to beat your friend in
court?

JENNIFER

Umm, Charlie and I are both grown
ups, so sometimes you have to set
aside your personal feelings and do
your job. Should I buy her an ice
cream to make her feel better?

SUZIE

Grown ups don't do that!

JENNIFER

Maybe we're not that grown up.

They both smile. Maybe the ice is finally thawing.

SUZIE

Can we get the ice cream?

JENNIFER

I got two words for you. Waffle.
Cone.

Suzie smiles. Jennifer is not about to waste this moment of
thawing out between them.

INT. KELLER SIMPSON OFFICE - NIGHT

The office is what you would expect for a small boutique in the Valley, cluttered and drab. Though unlike most law firms, it has prominently featured framed photos of Gloria Allred and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Jennifer, ALLISON, early 20s, savant second year associate who may be on the spectrum, and KAY SIMPSON, late 20s, black, rising star and very pregnant junior partner in their fledgling firm, eat Chinese food, while Jennifer sips wine.

KAY

(sarcastic)

A few more big wins and we might have to move into a real office in the gentrified part of town.

ALLISON

Moving can be a very traumatic experience.

JENNIFER

She's joking, Allison. It was a pro bono case. We're sticking with "Keller Simpson - good lawyers, bad neighborhood!"

KAY

I'm still getting used the sound of my name on the door.

JENNIFER

The door of a former hair salon, but still, you earned it. Now let's try to keep the lights on.

Jennifer peruses a stack of bills - we see the word "OVERDUE" on more than one of them.

ALLISON

Just to be clear, we're not moving? I moved once in middle school. Last time I was the most popular kid in school.

KAY

You were once the most popular kid in a school?

ALLISON

I was home-schooled.

The phone rings. Jennifer picks up.

JENNIFER
(into phone)
Hello, Isaac.

Makes the "I have no idea" motion with her fingers.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Bratz? The fugly looking dolls?
Toys are not really my area of
expertise, but send over the files
when you get a chance, I'll review
them. I'll let you know if it makes
sense for us to work together.

Kay and Allison try to overhear the convo. Jennifer hangs up.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Some older gentleman named Isaac
Larian. He works at Bratz. I dunno.
I'm assuming product liability.
Anyone wanna do a little
background?

ALLISON
Holy schnikes. Isaac freaking
Larian. Isaac "the Prince of Toys"
Larian. Oh my god, oh my god.

Allison starts freaking out a bit, which basically consists
of a lot of bodily contortions while she speaks.

JENNIFER
The what? The who?

ALLISON
He doesn't work at Bratz. He's the
C.E.O.! The most popular doll in
the country. Or they were until
Barbie got a hold of them.

KAY
The one company that finally makes
little brown and black girls with
personality. I was hoping my
daughter might be able to see
herself represented in the toy
aisle, but I guess Barbie isn't
ready for that.

ALLISON
Apparently, the designer of Bratz
previously worked at Mattel and
stole company secrets and gave them
to Bratz.

(MORE)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Barbie just destroyed them in court. They have to pull all of their dolls off the shelf because of an injunction. So now Bratz is appealing and countersuing.

JENNIFER

I guess someone reads the legal journals around here!

(beat)

Fudge.

KAY

What did you do?

JENNIFER

Do you think he heard me call them *fugly*?

KAY

He definitely heard you. That would be like me not hearing someone drop an N bomb.

JENNIFER

How could it be *that* bad?

KAY

He told the world he that he created those dolls in his daughter's image. *Fugly*?! Really?

Jennifer takes a big chug of wine.

INT. ISAAC LARIAN'S OFFICE - BATHROOM - DAY

Jennifer stands in the bathroom at the sink next to MICHAELA, flawless, tall blonde lawyer, 20s, dressed to the nines, not a hair out of place, who is applying lipstick.

MICHAELA

I heard they were bringing someone on as advisory counsel for jury selection. As if we need a baby-sitter. You with Latham?

JENNIFER

Nope.

MICHAELA

Skadden?

JENNIFER

Nope? Keller Simpson. Based out of the Valley.

Michaela pouts her lips and smirks.

MICHAELA

I didn't realize there were any legitimate firms all the way out there.

Michaela walks out on that dig. Jennifer fluffs her hair and pushes up her boobs. She pulls out lipstick, but then thinks twice and shoves it back in her purse.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Isaac holds court for a TEAM OF ORRICK LAWYERS, including MICHAELA from the bathroom. Max observes from the back.

Jennifer, Kay and Allison are brought in by an ASSISTANT, and stand in front of a large breakfast spread.

JENNIFER

Whoops, sorry, we thought we were supposed to be here at 10:30.

ISAAC

It's ok, stay. Please continue, Michaela.

ALLISON

(whispering)

This is huge. Their breakfast spread is incredible. You have to get us hired!

JENNIFER

(whispering)

Don't get your hopes up. We're just here for a initial consult. If it works out, maybe we get a week's pay out of it.

Allison literally hides behind Jennifer and stuffs a bagel into her pocket. Isaac sidles up to Jennifer.

ISAAC

(to room)

As you know, we need to shake things up. So I've asked Jennifer Keller and her firm to give things a second set of eyes.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I'm considering adding them to the team as backup. Her record on jury selection is indisputable. I'd like you to share your strategy.

The ORRICK team all start murmuring making it clear they are displeased to have a no name firm chiming in. Kay stares at the entirely white team.

KAY

(whispers to Jennifer)

Is this a clan meeting or a law firm?

JENNIFER

(whispering)

That's how BigLaw rolls!

MICHAELA

Is this a joke, Isaac?

ISAAC

(pissed)

Do I look like I'm joking?

Michaela grudgingly walks to the front and clicks on a Powerpoint slide. The page she's focused on is a box of potential jurors with pictures and descriptions.

MICHAELA

We've spent months culling through data, and this is the ideal pool to get us the verdict we want.

Isaac motions to Jennifer to examine it. Jennifer and Michaela have a bit of a stare down. Jennifer hones in on a few faces.

JENNIFER

Why did you pick *this* juror?

MICHAELA

I'm not sure someone of your pedigree is going to understand the complexities of our jury selection methodology.

JENNIFER

Try me.

Michaela looks to Isaac, who nods.

MICHAELA

We believe that since the intellectual property is the crux of the case, certain jurors with a science background would be more sympathetic to our position and understand the nuances.

JENNIFER

(addresses room)

Possession is 9/10ths of the law. That's about how much *I* know.

MICHAELA

Then why are you in this room?

JENNIFER

I realize most of you have never heard of us. We don't come from a traditional path. Before I was a lawyer, I was a dock worker. Kay was a school teacher and Allison, well, she's was being studied in Area 51.

No one laughs at the joke. Michaela scoffs.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

We have worked alongside all kinds of people. Everyday ordinary people of all colors, shapes and sizes. That's what juries are. If you have only been in an ivory tower, you'll never know what drives them or what justice means to them.

MICHAELA

I've tried jury cases before so save us the pandering.

JENNIFER

Pandering? I was *asked* to come here by Isaac, so clearly there's some confidence issues.

MICHAELA

(pissed)

The only confidence issue is a Hastings Law grad thinking she can understand on a whim a strategy that the best lawyers in the country spent nine months on.

JENNIFER

Clearly these are not the best lawyers if you all thought this would be the best jury. If there's one thing I know it's winning juries...

(points to slides)

...this is a losing hand.

Jennifer looks around the room. All she sees are dismissive faces. Isaac looks to be deep in thought.

MICHAELA

Isaac, this is ridiculous. The leader of the Bad News Bears over here admitted she knows nothing about sophisticated IP law. Did you even take the patent bar?

JENNIFER

No, but I go to Pat's Irish Bar every Tuesday for their pot pies.

MICHAELA

Sarcasm is a tool of intellectual cripples.

JENNIFER

Actually, Powerpoint slides are. Even if you had the right jury, you have the wrong person selling it. It's ironic, really.

MICHAELA

The only ironic thing here is that you probably think you look professional in that Forever 21 suit. Maybe next time cut the tag off first.

Jennifer reaches over her shoulder. Shit. She rips it off. She feels the Orrick team collectively scoffing at her.

JENNIFER

Sale rack, Lane Bryant. Insult me all you want, but Isaac, you spent years running away from Barbie and yet this is who you hire to tell your story. She's practically a walking Mattel ad. Did we check if she comes with batteries?

MICHAELA

I'm not going to apologize for being both academically superior to you and more attractive. I went to Harvard. On full scholarship.

JENNIFER

Isaac, the simple fact is, there are only two reasons a jury would ever respond to her.

Jennifer points to her fake breasts. The Orrick lawyers gasp in horror.

MICHAELA

Screw you, you ambulance chasing trash!

Michaela surprises herself by losing composure. Jennifer steps up like she's ready to fight. The other Orrick Lawyers step in between them.

ISAAC

That's enough. Thank you all for your time. This meeting is over.

They all start walking out. Michaela looks at Isaac and storms out.

MICHAELA

I can't work with that woman!

Isaac points to Jennifer.

ISAAC

You. Stay!

Isaac watches through the window as everyone trickles out.

JENNIFER

I apologize. I didn't mean to stir the pot like that.

ISAAC

Yes. You did.

JENNIFER

I planned on playing nice, but she basically called me a troll who lived under a bridge.

ISAAC

I bet nobody has ever talked to Michaela like that in her life.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I thought she was actually going to take a swing at you.

JENNIFER

She'd tip over.

They both laugh.

ISAAC

I like your style, but I doubt this arrangement will work. We're going up against Quinn Emanuel, the 800 pound gorilla. We need the resources of a big firm and I don't see you guys meshing. I hope you understand that.

He puts out his hand to shake hers. She can tell this is probably goodbye.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I'll sleep on it tonight before I give you my final answer in the morning.

(beat)

And tell her the bagels are free.

Isaac points to Allison. A bagel is sticking out of her pocket. Jennifer walks out. Max approaches Isaac.

MAX

I can see your wheels spinning. I like her too. But we simply cannot win a billion dollar case with a small time law firm. It's a fact.

ISAAC

Is it?

MAX

Do you want to win or do you just want to scorch the earth?

ISAAC

I want to destroy Mattel the way they destroyed my company. If we win, we do that.

Isaac rips the head off a Barbie doll on his desk.

INT. QUINN EMANUEL LAW FIRM - DAY

Quinn is widely regarded at the top litigation firm in the country and they've spared no expense to make sure everyone knows it. It's sleek, all glass, fancy artwork everywhere.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The founder of the firm, JOHN QUINN, 60s, superfit, handsome, a commanding presence. Above his head is a giant metal shark, just to put a non-subtle button on how they view themselves.

BOB ECKERT, 60s, obnoxious veteran CEO of Mattel stands by his side and speaks quietly to him so as not to be heard by the packed room of ASSOCIATES.

BOB

My ass is on the line here, John.
I've been CEO of six fortune 500 companies and I'll be damned if my career gets sidetracked by toys. I hate toys. Once we wrap this up, I'm gonna make a move to something a little more dynamic. Poultry. You can have my entire legal business. So long as you don't fuck this up! Am I understood?

QUINN

Stick around. I want to you see the gravity with which I take this matter.

John begins to hold court for a DOZEN ASSOCIATES, all dressed in black suits, seated at an absurdly long table.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, we won the battle, but the doll war is far from over. Much like Heracles in Amycome, we've cut off the head of the Hydra only to see two more grow back. Isaac Larian is desperate, and a desperate man is a dangerous man. So on this appeal, we will do as Heracles did and dip our swords in venom to end him once and for all. What's the latest on his choice of additional counsel?

ASSOCIATE

We believe they have narrowed it down to Skadden or Latham to back up Orrick. Maybe he'll go outside the box with Boies.

QUINN

I don't pay you to guess. Suit up and find out who else is joining the fray. Then find out what cereal they eat, what car they drive, which judges they play golf with and what their weaknesses are. Get some mud under your nails.

John pulls out a freaking Samurai sword and slams it on the desk for all to see. The Associates look at him with a mix of terror and admiration. Nobody dares even move an inch.

QUINN (CONT'D)

When we win this case, we will have learned which of you gladiators are deserving of the spoils of your munus: large office, partnership track, wealth beyond your wildest dreams and which of you will be cast off with the plebians.

He spins the sword on the table. The Associates all pray it doesn't land pointing at them.

QUINN (CONT'D)

They say the meek shall inherit the earth. Not on my watch. Dismissed.

The Associates sprint out of the room, leaving John Quinn alone with Bob. Bob massages the sword.

BOB

I like what I'm hearing. Now slit their fucking throats.

Bob walks out.

QUINN

Shmuck.

John has got a pained expression on his face as he stares up at a whiteboard. He sees the names of all of his peer law firms written in columns with boxes underneath labeled "Strengths" and "Weaknesses." A final column next to the firm names says "Unknown." As a man who must know all, it's this word that's vexing him.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Jennifer buttons her blouse by the side of the bed. Post-coitus. She flips through a case transcript.

JENNIFER

I just don't know if I can do this.

CHARLIE

This?

Charlie leans over and kisses her.

JENNIFER

No, not this. This is one of the good things. And don't pat yourself on the back because I said something nice.

CHARLIE

I won't.

JENNIFER

I don't know if I can be a mom.

CHARLIE

News flash. You already are. I saw her watching you in court. She was impressed.

JENNIFER

Everyone is impressed when they see the Globetrotters wipe the floor with the Generals.

CHARLIE

You're sexy when you gloat.

JENNIFER

I'm serious. Inappropriate aunt, I was great at. Take her to a movie, buy her the candy Rebecca wouldn't. As a mom, I don't know what the hell I'm doing. Maybe it's for the best that Isaac doesn't hire us. It would mean less time with her.

CHARLIE

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder.

JENNIFER

Let's hope.

(beat)

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You should have seen the way
Orrick's lawyers were looking at
us. I've seen that look my whole
life. I'm so damn tired of it.

CHARLIE

So do something about it!

Jennifer gets up and paces.

JENNIFER

It's too late. We had our shot. I
blew it running my mouth. Damn it.

CHARLIE

You really want this, don't you?

JENNIFER

Damn, I just realized I really do.
But it's too late.

CHARLIE

The Jennifer Keller I know would
march right over to Isaac's house
if she wanted it badly enough.

Jennifer hates Charlie for knowing her this well.

JENNIFER

I can't get a sitter for Suzie
tonight at the last minute.

CHARLIE

I'll watch her.

JENNIFER

You are good with kids. Better than
me, actually. But...we're not there
yet...are we?

(looks her in the eye)

Nope.

She shakes her head and scrambles to get dressed.

INT. ISAAC LARIAN'S HOME - NIGHT

It's Friday and that means family night at the Larians. A
large gathering of his NUCLEAR FAMILY and MANY COUSINS.

The CHILDREN are all gathered in the den playing with Bratz
dolls. The doorbell rings.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Jennifer waits at the door. JASMIN opens it.

JENNIFER
Is your dad home?

JASMIN
Papa! You work with my dad?

JENNIFER
Umm, maybe. I hope so.

JASMIN
Me too, I like your hair.

Jennifer laughs and plays with her frizzy hair. Isaac comes to the door.

ISAAC
This is a surprise. Would you like to come in?

JENNIFER
I can't. I won't be long. I didn't mean to interrupt your family meal.

ISAAC
Family is everything.

JENNIFER
That's actually what I came here to tell you.

ISAAC
Go on?

JENNIFER
I read the entire transcript of your first case.

ISAAC
That would take weeks--

JENNIFER
I'm a fast reader. The thing is, there was a whole lot about intellectual property, who owned what copyright, but there was virtually nothing about who you are.

ISAAC

My lawyers felt we should focus on the facts.

JENNIFER

And how did that work out?

(off his look)

You are a man who came here from Iran with nothing, and had a dream. Their story is about ripping off people like you for a hundred years and stealing those dreams. If we show a jury that, I promise we will take them down.

ISAAC

We? So you think you can get along with Michaela?

JENNIFER

To be frank, no. If we are backing them up, there's no way they are going to listen to me. I'm better than her...for this case.

ISAAC

Did you really drive to my house to give me an ultimatum?

JENNIFER

I drove here to tell you that when I'm in on something, I'm all in.

Isaac notices that Jennifer didn't come alone. Suzie is sitting in the front seat of the car.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I couldn't find a sitter. She's umm, my sister's kid. She passed recently. Car accident. Now, she's...all mine.

ISAAC

Why don't you and your daughter come in and we can discuss over Gormeh? I insist.

INT. DINNER TABLE - NIGHT

Jennifer sits at a large table and shares in the feast of Persian dishes: rice, meats, fresh mint, etc. with Isaac and his wife, ANGELA, 40s modest, exudes warmth.

Jasmin and Suzie are in the den playing with the Bratz dolls. Jennifer notices that they come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Suzie giggles. It makes Jennifer smile.

ISAAC

You've never seen a child play with a Bratz doll before.

JENNIFER

I haven't seen her giggle before.

Angela smiles at her.

ANGELA

Give it time.

ISAAC

My in-house counsel thinks I'd be crazy to go with an untested law firm. He said it would be like calling up a Triple A team to play in the World Series.

JENNIFER

All do respect, I did criminal defense for a decade, in life or death situations. A couple of million dollars doesn't scare me.

ISAAC

It's *billion* with a b.

JENNIFER

What's a decimal point between friends?

Angela and Isaac chuckle.

ISAAC

How come you never worked at a big firm?

JENNIFER

Oh, I started my career at Skadden. Lasted about six months.

ISAAC

What happened?

JENNIFER

I don't play well with others.

ISAAC
(chuckles)
Neither do I.

JENNIFER
Who's gonna be able to get those jurors to see you the way you want to be seen? Me or Lawyer Barbie? If you want to look like the underdog, then you need your firm to look like underdogs too.

ANGELA
She has a point.

JENNIFER
I've been underestimated my whole life by male lawyers because I'm a woman. You know who else gave women the idea that they were only fit for certain things? Barbie. At least you created a diverse world where mothers can tell their daughters, white, black and brown, that they can be whatever they want to be and look however they want to look. Barbie wants to take that away. I'm not gonna let them.

Angela smiles approvingly.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
I may not know much about being a great mom, but I know I'm a great lawyer.

ANGELA
You seem to be doing a better job than you think on that front.

Suzie and Jasmin are fully immersed in Bratz world and having a great time.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
(in Farsi)
Bokhor. Bokhor.

ISAAC
She says you need to eat more.
You're too skinny!

They all have a good laugh. Jennifer stares at Suzie and smiles, feeling like it's all going to be ok.

INT. KELLER SIMPSON - NIGHT

Jennifer, Kay and Allison commiserate again over Chinese food and wine.

ALLISON

What kind of rugs did he have?

JENNIFER

I don't know. Persian I guess, who cares?

ALLISON

Who cares? You can trace most of the historical middle eastern conflicts through the patterns in the fabrics. The Mamluks, Seluq, and the Mongols, each infused the Persian tradition with their own ideas.

JENNIFER

If I ever need a fabric guru, you're my gal. But maybe save some of that brain space for memorizing case law, because I don't think we can afford Westlaw next month.

ALLISON

Happy to go the library to memorize every relevant IP case of the past 50 years if you want!

JENNIFER

Let's not put the cart before the horse.

ALLISON

What does that mean?

KAY

It means, let's not count our chickens before they hatch.

ALLISON

I'm not following. I don't like animals.

JENNIFER

Are you sure you're a genius?

ALLISON

Mensa says I am, but what do they know.

JENNIFER

It means we probably won't get hired. Isaac sure loves his family. But also seems like a powder keg of emotion. He'd either make a great or horrible witness.

KAY

I gotta hand it to you. As usual, you have balls of steel for even going over there.

The phone rings. They all suddenly go stiff with nerves. Jennifer picks up.

JENNIFER

This is Jennifer.

(beat)

I see. Understood.

She hangs up. Kay and Allison wait with baited breath.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

There's good news and bad news. The good news is they do want us to help out on the Bratz case.

KAY

So what's the bad news?

JENNIFER

Unfortunately for us...we are LEAD COUNSEL!

Jennifer and Kay start hugging. They open the circle to include Allison, who rebuffs them.

ALLISON

I'm hugging you both in here.

Allison points to her head.

JENNIFER

He wants us in his office at 9 AM to meet with Orrick, who are backing us up! How do you like 'dem apples!

ALLISON

I can't go to his office. They caught me shoplifting!

JENNIFER

They were free bagels...and we're a team. We need a showing of strength.

The phone rings.

ALLISON

Don't pick up! What if it's Isaac and he changed his mind?

JENNIFER

Then we'd need to know that.

She picks up.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Isaac, you have nothing to worry about, I assure you, you made the right choice.

QUINN (O.S.)

This is John Quinn.

JENNIFER

(whispers covering phone)

It's John Motherfucking Quinn!

She stands up and paces.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

John sits alone at his desk sharpening a knife.

QUINN

I'm calling to congratulate you. Or should I say: welcome to the majors.

JENNIFER

Oh I've been playing the majors my whole life. Just never got credit for it from men like you.

QUINN

You should know that I'm taking personal responsibility for this case.

JENNIFER

Then it will look even better for
me when we win.

Alison and Kay shake their head "No" as if to say don't taunt
John Motherfucking Quinn!

QUINN

I want to be clear. Just because
you're a novice firm, you won't get
any special treatment. We'll treat
you how we treat all our rivals.

JENNIFER

And how's that?

Jennifer makes the "chatterbox" motion to Kay and Allison who
are now frantic, trying to get her to stop!

QUINN

I believe in Roman traditions. They
are very misunderstood. The Romans
didn't kill as part of some
barbaric human sacrifice. It was as
much to appease the gods as it was
to ensure all enemies respected
their superiority as a culture and
therefore made future conquests and
assimilation easier.

JENNIFER

Do people actually go for this
nonsense?

QUINN

We don't just win cases, we
ritualistically slaughter our
opponents. We leave their rotting
corpses on display so all future
challengers know never to enter the
Colosseum with us.

Allison and Kay both wave their hands trying to get her not
to take the bait.

JENNIFER

I have a philosophy too, Johnny
Boy. It's a bit simpler. It's
called "Go fuck yourself!"

QUINN

Classy. Discovery should be
arriving any minute.

JENNIFER
You're sending discovery files, at
this hour?

QUINN
Special delivery.

There's a loud beeping outside her office that they both can
hear through the phone.

QUINN (CONT'D)
Have a good, long night.

He hangs up. She walks to the window.

There's a giant DELIVERY TRUCK, with TWO WORKERS, unloading,
no joke, hundreds of boxes, with millions of documents
inside. The boxes are so high they take up every parking
spot, and block their doorway. Even if they wanted to leave,
they'd have a hard time doing it.

JENNIFER
Fucking Barbie.

EXT. QUIET SUBURBAN STREET - MISSOURI - DAY

Jennifer pulls up to a modest home in her rental car.

SUZIE
What are we doing here? I'm missing
school.

JENNIFER
I told you, we're taking a little
adventure?

SUZIE
Nobody takes adventures to
Missouri.

JENNIFER
Just wait in the car.

Jennifer walks up to the house holding a stack of files. She
rings the doorbell. MARJORIE BRYANT, 60s, answers but keeps
the screen door closed.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Does Carter Bryant live here?

MARJORIE
Not if you're a lawyer.

JENNIFER

I understand he's had a rough go of it.

MARJORIE

You jackals destroyed my sweet boy.

She slams the door in Jennifer's face.

JENNIFER

I had nothing to do with that. I don't work at one of those fancy firms.

MARJORIE

(through the door)

They couldn't afford to hire a good lawyer to harass us?

JENNIFER

I guess not...I'm here to do the right thing. I want your son to have his voice heard.

(off silence)

I'm just gonna leave my card right here. I'm staying at the Best Western on Franklin until tomorrow.

She drops the card on the welcome mat and slowly walks to the car. She gets in her car and starts the ignition.

Out of the corner of her eye, she barely spots CARTER BRYANT, 30s, gaunt, a deep sadness in his eyes, peeking at her through the upstairs window.

INT. BEST WESTERN - DAY

Jennifer shares a room with Suzie. Jennifer flips through old case files, completely engrossed in her work.

SUZIE

This TV doesn't have any good channels.

JENNIFER

Should I order us a pizza?

SUZIE

We just ate!

Suzie points to the empty pizza box.

JENNIFER

Right. Do you want to play a game?

Suzie shrugs.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Gin rummy?

SUZIE

I don't know how to play?

Jennifer pulls out a deck of cards from her purse.

JENNIFER

I'll teach you. This was your mom's favorite game. She used to whip my butt.

Jennifer starts shuffling and hands out the cards.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You need three or four of the same card, or three or four of the same suit in a row. You know what a suit is?

SUZIE

(ignores her instructions)
So did you talk to Carter?

JENNIFER

He didn't want to talk to me.

SUZIE

Why not?

JENNIFER

Well, when people have been hurt, they tend to be a little closed off. And it takes them a while to warm up. They want to know if you have good intentions.

Jennifer places a card down. Suzie picks it up.

SUZIE

Do you have good intentions?

JENNIFER

I do. This poor boy has been through a lot and I think he deserved to be heard.

SUZIE

Gin.

JENNIFER

What the---

SUZIE

My mom and I played once or twice.

Suzie smirks.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Inside the conference room, Quinn's ASSOCIATES work on their case game plan, while one of them writes on a white board.

It says "Keller Simpson lead counsel - Jennifer Keller" with her picture taped to the board - "Strengths vs. Weaknesses". "Strengths - connects with juries, thinks outside the box, can sell ice to Eskimos. Weaknesses - brash, prone to outbursts, practices an alternative lifestyle?"

QUINN

What does that mean?

ASSOCIATE

She dates women.

QUINN

Well, there's nothing wrong with that.

He walks up to the Associate and whispers in her ear.

QUINN (CONT'D)

But keep digging.

INT. HOTEL - MORNING

Jennifer packs up a suitcase.

SUZIE

So we're leaving. I thought you said Carter was coming with us.

JENNIFER

I was hoping he might. Sometimes things just don't go the way you want and you have to come up with Plan B.

SUZIE
So what's plan B?

JENNIFER
I have no idea.

Jennifer sits on the bed next to Suzie.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Should we stay for another day, and
just see the sights?

SUZIE
Don't you have like a huge trial?

JENNIFER
I sure do, but I find the best
thing to do sometimes is to clear
your head and make space for the
right answer to come to you.

SUZIE
You're weird.

JENNIFER
Don't tell anyone.

SUZIE
I think they know.

EXT. STREET - DAY

MONTAGE

- Jennifer and Suzie drive around town, passing a bowling alley, a grocery store and a mall.
- They stop for some ice cream.
- They drive past Carter's house slowly.
- They stop in front of his old high school.
- They drive past his house one more time, even more slowly.

SUZIE
Are we stalking?

JENNIFER
What? Who taught you that word?
That's ridiculous. It's a small
town, there's only so many places--

Carter pulls up next to them in his car.

CARTER
Meet me at Denny's.

He drives off.

JENNIFER
Sometimes stalking works! Don't
every tell anyone I said that.

INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE - DAY

Isaac is in a full on fight with Max.

MAX
Isaac, I've been with you for
fifteen years and I never once
questioned whether you trusted my
judgment.

ISAAC
And I never questioned whether you
trusted mine!

MAX
She hasn't called you back in
hours.

ISAAC
I'm sure she has her reasons.
Orrick called me every hour, how
did that work out?

MAX
What if you're wrong?

Isaac flips a beheaded Barbie doll to Max.

MAX (CONT'D)
Isaac, please. If I see even the
slightest sign that she's in over
her head, let me pull the plug.

ISAAC
I'm not on a kamikaze mission. I'll
pull it myself.

INT. DENNY'S - DAY

Jennifer and Suzie sit across from Carter. He's devouring
pancakes.

CARTER
You have a crappy rental car.

JENNIFER
I happen to like Hyundai.

CARTER
The last guy had a BMW.

JENNIFER
Snob!

CARTER
You're driving my mom crazy. What do you want?

JENNIFER
Your story.

CARTER
Didn't you hear. I'm a thief. I'm a traitor. I should be executed for treason. Mattel is the real genius. Bob Eckert the Mac and Cheese king, he created Bratz. Or maybe it was Isaac, since the world revolves around him.

JENNIFER
I know the first trial was rough on you.

CARTER
Hey Suzie, how old am I?

SUZIE
Fifty?

CARTER
I'm 31. Don't do drugs.

Carter goes back to eating his pancakes.

CARTER (CONT'D)
Why did you drive to my old high school?

JENNIFER
That's where you came up with the inspiration for Bratz, wasn't it?

CARTER
You don't believe me either?

JENNIFER

I believe you. Do you know who Ruth Handler is?

CARTER

Of course I do, I'm not stupid. She created Barbie.

JENNIFER

No, she didn't. She's a fraud.

Carter's interest is piqued.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Suzie, put your headphones in.

Suzie puts her iTunes headphones in and starts drawing on the placement with crayons.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

1947. Berlin. Can you picture it?

Jennifer recounts this story as we FLASHBACK TO:

INT. TOY STORE BERLIN - DAY

We follow Barbie's founder RUTH HANDLER, 30s, beautiful blonde American tourist, as she shops with her family in a gift shop. She scans a collection of wooden and plastic generic dolls.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

She didn't "draw inspiration from a doll she saw there." She didn't "find her passion there." She saw *Barbie* there!

Ruth spots something unique: a Barbie doll. Only it's dressed in a German army uniform. She asks the clerk about it.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

Only back then these dolls were called Lilli. Lilli wasn't some kids doll. It was made for the German soldiers. Some say it was a gag. I think it was because they were suffering from PTSD. Instead of therapy, they got dolls. Do you know what Barbie's first job was? The world's oldest profession.

INT. GERMAN SOLDIER'S BEDROOM

A German soldier holds Lilli in one hand while masturbating in the other.

CARTER (V.O.)
Shut up!

JENNIFER (V.O.)
That's not all.

INT. CALIFORNIA BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Ruth cuts the soldier outfit off the doll with a scissor and replaces it with an outfit from another unknown doll.

JENNIFER (V.O.)
Why the name "Barbie?" Because she had a daughter named Barbie. Why the name "Ken"...well, she had a son named Ken.

CARTER (V.O.)
Gross.

JENNIFER (V.O.)
She's about as imaginative as the company she founded.

Ruth hands her kids the dolls to play with.

JENNIFER (V.O.)
The German company only found out about it when Barbie became a household name and sure enough they took Barbie to court. They had the patents, they had the proof, should have been cut and dry. Barbie should have been toast.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

Barbie's board hands two German engineers a check and wait for them to sign some documents. They grudgingly agree.

JENNIFER (V.O.)
But since the German company were small potatoes, they were bulldozed into a settlement. A couple of thousand dollars and a confidentiality agreement.
(MORE)

JENNIFER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
So I find it quite rich that Barbie
is now saying someone stole the
idea for a doll, when their entire
history is as fake as Barbie's
proportions.

BACK TO: INT. DINER - DAY

CARTER
I never heard any of this.

JENNIFER
I have the world's greatest
researcher. She can't get through a
cocktail hour without making
everyone uncomfortable, but she can
find a needle in any haystack. Let
me tell you something about myself,
Carter. I didn't go to a fancy law
school and I'm not an intellectual
property expert.

CARTER
Why did they hire you then? Are
they broke?

JENNIFER
Desperate, I guess. Maybe it's
because I don't cower in Isaac's
presence.

Her phone rings. It's Isaac.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Speak of the devil. Can you give me
one minute?

Carter starts unconsciously drawing on his place mat.

CARTER
I'll keep an eye on her.

EXT. DINER - DAY

Jennifer stands outside the window talking to Isaac while
watching Carter and Suzie. She turns away from them.

JENNIFER
I told you that you need to let me
do my job.

ISAAC (O.S.)
And I told you, that you have a
short rope!

JENNIFER
Just have faith. I'll meet you in
your office tomorrow to discuss
strategy.

She turns back around and Carter and Suzie are gone. She
hangs up the phone in a panic. She runs back into the diner.

INT. DINER - DAY

JENNIFER
There was a little girl here with a
blonde haired young man. Did you
see them?

The Waitress shrugs. Jennifer looks panic stricken.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Suzie? Suzie?

She hears a giggle coming from the table. She runs over and
sees that Suzie and Carter are under the table drawing and
laughing. She composes herself.

CARTER
We like it better under here. Don't
we?

JENNIFER
Goddamn it!

Suzie shakes her head. Jennifer calms herself down, realizing
they didn't do anything wrong.

CARTER
What did Isaac want?

JENNIFER
He wanted to know my plan.

Carter gets back up out from under the table.

CARTER
And what is your grand plan?

JENNIFER
Tell a different story this time
around. A story of hope. Of
optimism.

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Of a young, fabulous, and gay...

(off Carter's look)

...yes we're not hiding that part this time around. An imaginative designer and an immigrant dreamer who gave him a chance. It's a story of how when you let people spread their wings they can fly. And a story of David beating Goliath, but instead of a slingshot, we had your magical fingers.

He sips his soda and takes a deep breath. He closes his eyes to get some clarity, then opens them.

CARTER

That sounds like a great story. I wish you luck.

Carter abruptly gets up. He looks miserable.

JENNIFER

Don't you want to get the truth out there?

CARTER

I can't go through it again. My job, my relationship, my bank account. They're all gone. And the only thing that's kept me from hurting myself is being at home with my family far away from that.

JENNIFER

I'm truly sorry for what they've done to you. I want to make it right.

CARTER

I don't need it to be right. I'm here now and I may never make another doll, but nobody can hurt me anymore. So please leave me out of it.

Carter gets up to walk away.

SUZIE

You forgot your drawing.

CARTER

You can have it.

Jennifer and Suzie look at it. It's an awesome Bratz like drawing of Suzie.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - DAY

A TOP FEMALE ASSOCIATE walks in. John is busy putting together a watch by hand with tweezers and a loupe.

ASSOCIATE

I have something we might be able use.

John puts down his tools.

ASSOCIATE (CONT'D)

Ms. Keller went to Missouri to meet with Carter Bryant.

QUINN

As we knew she would. As I would. She only has a couple of bullets in her chamber and the sympathetic loser is one of them.

ASSOCIATE

She brought her niece, who she has legal custody over.

QUINN

I wouldn't exactly call child services. I take my kid to Dodgers opening day every year.

ASSOCIATE

Keller left the girl alone with Carter. And then she had a mini-meltdown.

QUINN

You can verify this?

ASSOCIATE

I have a statement from the hostess at Denny's.

QUINN

You've done fine work. Go home tonight, open some wine, you earned it. Then put on some Andrea Bocelli and make love to your husband.

She stands there awkwardly.

QUINN (CONT'D)
Dismissed.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Jennifer walks the hall with Suzie to drop her off. As they approach the classroom, Amanda, the school teacher stands with CHANTEL, 30s, Child Services Social Worker.

JENNIFER
I'll be here at 3 to pick you up.
Go on in.

Suzie walks into the classroom.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Really? You told me to bond with her so I bonded with her. Am I in detention?

AMANDA
This is Chantel Simms from Child Services.

Jennifer is stunned.

JENNIFER
We know each other.

AMANDA
We got a report that you left her alone with a disturbed person, so I had no choice but to call.

JENNIFER
A report? From who? Nevermind, I know who. It was five minutes and he's not a disturbed person, he's a witness.

CHANTEL
Do you think it's appropriate to have a nine year old mixed up in legal drama?

JENNIFER
She wasn't *mixed up*. It was an adventure for her.

CHANTEL

Did you leave her unattended at any point with a Carter Bryant, who recently spent a month voluntarily committed at a mental health facility?

JENNIFER

He's a sweet kid. It was in a public place.

CHANTEL

Did you know he's been arrested for drug possession and solicitation.

Jennifer runs her hands over her eyes.

JENNIFER

I'm trying to be a mother to this child. I'm doing my best.
(to Amanda)
Tell her.

AMANDA

It's been a struggle at times, but yes, I do think Jennifer has made some strides.

Chantel isn't swayed.

CHANTEL

We're going to have a visit on Friday and based on my examination, I'll set a date for a hearing.

She hands Jennifer her card. Jennifer just shakes her head. She pulls out her phone and makes a call.

JENNIFER

(into phone)
You son of a bitch.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - DAY

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

QUINN

I consider that a term of endearment.

JENNIFER

You think this is a game?

QUINN

A battle. I told you that. If that little incident rattled you, you're welcome to take your dolls and go home.

JENNIFER

Rattled. No. Just pissed off. When I'm pissed off, I go for the jugular.

QUINN

I look forward to deflecting your telegraphed parries.

He hangs up on her.

INT. QUINN OFFICE - NIGHT

A DOZEN ASSOCIATES, dressed in black, methodically print out, hand off, organize the files in perfect rows. They look like the bad guys from the Matrix. It's more than a firm, it's a well orchestrated machine.

Bob Eckert walks in to John's office.

BOB

Looking good. So I was gonna take the chopper to Torrey Pines, play a few rounds, hit the spa for a week, any interest in bringing the wife for a foursome?

QUINN

Aren't you forgetting something? This trial starts Monday. You need to be there!

BOB

You don't tell me what to do. If we want me on the stand, give me some notice and I'll pop right back.

QUINN

This is a war. You think Isaac Larian isn't gonna be sitting front row with his entire family trying to make us look like the bad guys. How's that going to play if your seat is empty?

BOB

Fine. Fuck. Just end this. Quickly.

INT. KELLER SIMPSON - NIGHT

The place is the kind of mess that happens when you take on a billion dollar case and you work in a strip mall.

Allison and Kay are both deep in research, dropping papers as they go, handing things off to each other across a messy table. A roach scurries across the floor, causing Allison to jump up on a chair, spilling a drink all over a file.

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Chantel, the social worker, chats with Suzie in the living room.

CHANTEL

Are you home alone a lot?

SUZIE

She takes me to the office.

CHANTEL

And do you stay there late?

SUZIE

Sometimes.

CHANTEL

Do you get tired?

SUZIE

They have a couch that I sleep on.

CHANTEL

Do you ever have a baby-sitter here?

SUZIE

Her friend, Charlie comes over sometimes.

CHANTEL

What do you guys do together?

SUZIE

Just watch TV mostly. She makes macaroni and cheese.

CHANTEL

So Charlie is a woman?

SUZIE

She's Aunt Jennifer's best friend.

Chantel takes notes.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jennifer stands across from Chantel.

JENNIFER

Let me guess, I take her with me to the office too late, I let my girlfriend baby sit sometimes.

CHANTEL

Are you two intimate?

JENNIFER

Would you be asking that if she was a man?

CHANTEL

Yes, I would. I'm only concerned about Suzie's well-being.

JENNIFER

We haven't had that talk yet, but Charlie's a responsible adult, a colleague and great with Suzie.

CHANTEL

Can I be frank?

JENNIFER

I don't have time for anything else.

CHANTEL

When we placed Suzie with you, I did not think it was going to work. You had no aptitude and worse, no commitment to this child. But because I know what the system is like, I wanted Suzie to have a home here.

JENNIFER

Maybe it's not June Cleaver's house, but she's fed, clothed, does her homework, and we're starting to bond.

CHANTEL

Are you? Or is she an inconvenience that you're trying to fit in.

JENNIFER

That's not fair! I didn't ask for my sister and her husband to die in a car crash. You think after choosing my career instead of a family of my own, it felt good for this to be shoved into my lap.

We see Suzie sitting at the top of the stairs.

CHANTEL

I'm sure it hasn't been easy.

JENNIFER

Am I really that bad that you would take her away from me? I'm doing the absolute best I can.

CHANTEL

I sympathize with you. I really do. But my job is to make an assessment free of emotion.

JENNIFER

No it's not. You're a human. I'm a human. Just give me a chance to work it out. She needs me.

The door upstairs slams shut. Jennifer and Chantel both realize Suzie has been listening to the conversation.

INT. KELLER SIMPSON OFFICE - NIGHT

Jennifer, Kay and Allison continue to flip through documents and swap notes. Copious amounts of wine and Chinese food are smattered on the table.

Michaela opens the door holding a bag.

MICHAELA

It's Nozawa.
(off their silence)
Sushi.

Kay points to her pregnant belly.

KAY

You literally trying to kill your rivals?

JENNIFER

What are you doing here?

MICHAELA

Isaac didn't tell you? That's pretty on brand for him. He instructed us to give you support, so here I am.

JENNIFER

Yes, I called the firm three times and they never sent over any files.

MICHAELA

Officially, they are willing to give you whatever you need. Unofficially they want you to fail.

JENNIFER

Isn't that what you want?

MICHAELA

Actually, no. I've worked on this case for three years. If I can help get us over the finish line, I'll do whatever it takes. I don't like to lose.

JENNIFER

Is this a setup?

ALLISON

Just based on my analysis of her body, she's twenty two percent false. Her breasts, her eyelashes, her height and her hair extensions.

MICHAELA

My hair is real.

ALLISON

Can I rip out a piece and test it?

MICHAELA

I thought I was the bitch?

JENNIFER

Unlike you and I, she doesn't mean to be.

MICHAELA

I swear I came here to help.

Jennifer looks at Kay.

KAY

We need all the help we can get. If you screw with us, this won't end well for you, Barbie. This isn't Century City.

Kay shoves a file in her chest.

MICHAELA

We got off on the wrong foot, but I know these companies like the back of my hand.

JENNIFER

So you know the real history of Barbie?

MICHAELA

You mean Lilli?

Jennifer smiles and hands her a business card.

JENNIFER

Welcome to the team. Your first order of business.

MICHAELA

A towing company?

JENNIFER

Tell them the next round is on me at Patty McGee's.

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie is over watching TV with Jennifer and Suzie. Suzie sits in Charlie's lap. The show ends.

JENNIFER

Ok, kiddo, time for bed.

SUZIE

I'm not tired.

She gives a pleading look to Charlie.

CHARLIE

Don't look at me. I would totally have an all night marathon of Drake and Josh with you...but then I would miss work, you would miss school, we'd probably both get the flu and not be able to eat ice cream for a month. Does that sound fun?

Suzie shakes her head.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Good night.

Charlie gives Suzie a hug. Suzie ignores Jennifer and walks towards her room. Charlie motions for Jennifer to follow her out into the hall. Jennifer gets up and follows her.

INT. SUZIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

JENNIFER

I know you heard me say something to that lady about your mom. The thing is, life is complicated. See I never thought about having a family and then the accident happened and all I could think about was wanting to be with you.

SUZIE

Why didn't you want a family?

JENNIFER

I never saw myself as a mom type.

SUZIE

But why?

JENNIFER

Well...society said that people like me weren't supposed to be moms.

SUZIE

What does that mean?

JENNIFER

Hmm. For thousands of years everyone said men and women have to do things a certain way.

SUZIE

Why?

JENNIFER

Mostly out of habit. People fear change.

SUZIE

So what happened?

JENNIFER

Well, it's still happening, but some brave souls showed the world that all different types of people can do all different types of things, even if they don't look like they can. So I'm trying to be brave and show everyone that I am every bit as good as any other mom.

SUZIE

Except my mom.

Jennifer sits silently thinking about their loss.

JENNIFER

Well she was the best, so I'm gonna need some more time to get better...sort of like with you and math. There are some things I need to figure out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer walks back in to find Charlie watching TV.

CHARLIE

How'd it go?

JENNIFER

She hates me.

CHARLIE

She doesn't.

JENNIFER

Even if that's true, child services is making their determination the same week I'm giving the biggest opening argument of my life on a case that's a dog with fleas, not to mention I've now got a mole working with me, and did I mention the potential to lose a child I've come to love and a case that could define my life?

CHARLIE

Career. Not life. Your life is defined by your character, and it's unassailable.

JENNIFER

Maybe you should give the opening.

CHARLIE

You're better than me. You're better than John Quinn. You're better than Mattel. The jurors will see it.

JENNIFER

Are you trying to get laid?

CHARLIE

I'd be lying if I said no.

JENNIFER

Isn't there something about prize fighters staying chaste the night before a big fight?

Charlie slides closer and puts her hand on Jennifer's face.

CHARLIE

Urban legend. I heard that the night Buster Douglas upset Mike Tyson, he and his lady were up all night long. The hotel clerk in Tokyo had to refund all his neighbors because of noise complaints.

JENNIFER

Which one of us is Buster Douglas?

CHARLIE

I'll be your Buster Douglas.

JENNIFER

Buster Douglas took all the grief
from his mother's death and
channeled it into a blind rage.

CHARLIE

That analogy would work here too.

Charlie slides her hand into Jennifer's thigh.

JENNIFER

Did Buster Douglas have a nine year
old in his suite?

Jennifer gets up and opens the front door. They kiss.

INT. ISAAC'S HOME - NIGHT

Isaac and his family pray around the table.

EXT. QUINN EMANUEL OFFICE - NIGHT

John Quinn comes out of his skyscraper and walks towards the
parking lot. He sees a tow truck pulling a Bentley with
the vanity plates "RNMAKER."

TOW TRUCK DRIVER (O.S.)

Jenny says hi, dipshit!

He speeds off giving John the finger and causing the Bentley
to spark from the bumper, rubbing the asphalt.

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer paces the room acting out her opening.

JENNIFER (PRE-LAP)

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury--

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The courtroom is packed. Jennifer stands in front of a JURY
to deliver her opening salvo.

QUINN

Your honor, we'd like to make a
motion to suppress.

JENNIFER

After I've begun my closing?

The JUDGE, 50s, no nonsense type, shakes his head.

JUDGE
Counsel, in my chambers now. We'll
recess temporarily.

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - DAY

The Judge sits across from Quinn and Jennifer.

QUINN
It's come to our attention that
they plan to use prejudicial and
confidential settlement agreement
info to paint a picture of my
client that would far outweigh its
probative value per section 403.

JENNIFER
It's come to your attention? How
exactly?

JUDGE
Ms. Keller. Do you know what he's
referring to?

JENNIFER
I sure do. We've uncovered Mattel's
history of using lawsuits to crush
their competition dating back to
their founding in the 1950s. The
jury deserves to know the true
nature of Mattel's slimy business
practices.

She hands him the materials. The Judge reviews these.

JUDGE
I'll take a look and we'll resume
when I have a ruling in the
afternoon.

John and Jennifer walk out.

JENNIFER
Did I see you show up in a rental?
How's your Bentley?

He smirks.

QUINN
Better than your case.

INT. HALLWAY - COURTHOUSE - DAY

JENNIFER

The judge ruled against us. I can't use any of the intel on Mattel's heavy handed history.

Isaac takes out his frustration on Jennifer. Max lurches in the background.

ISAAC

I can't believe you were so naive as to think you could count on that?

JENNIFER

I wasn't *counting* on it. I was hoping he would see it my way. Quinn and his team play dirty, but it's nothing we're not prepared for.

The Orrick team waits in the wings and watches a familiar site: Isaac berating his counsel.

ISAAC

Did I make a mistake?

JENNIFER

Isaac, this is why you hired me. If you don't like what I have to say to the jury in my opening, send me packing.

ISAAC

No more mistakes.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Everyone is seated. The Jury anxiously waits in the box.

JUDGE

Ms. Keller will give her opening statement.

Jennifer closes her notebook and stands up.

JENNIFER

I'm not going to lie to you, I'm probably not the ideal person to talk to you about dolls. I never played with dolls as a kid. I was a tomboy, still am.

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

The only thing I know about Barbie is that she was physically perfect, gigantic breasts, impossible proportions, she was every prom queen, every head cheerleader that bullied me in school.

(beat)

I hated her. Bratz on the other hand: they're pushy, loud, brash, not lady like at all. Loved them the second I saw them!

The Jury laughs.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

My client MGA, specifically Isaac Larian, had a vision.

She walks over to Isaac.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

A different view of the world, through the eyes, the bulging eyes of the Bratz dolls. Freakish looking, a bit tawdry, imperfect. But isn't that how we all are? A line of dolls that people of all shapes and sizes and colors could relate to. If they had Bratz dolls when I was growing up, I might have felt normal. Isaac put it out to the universe and the universe responded. Big time. Bratz quickly became the biggest toy in the world.

She walks over to Mattel's table.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

But Mattel couldn't have that. There's too much at stake, too many billions on the line.

Jennifer holds up a Barbie doll and shows it to the Jury.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

If Barbie fails, Mattel crashes and burns. But instead of innovating at any point in the past fifty years, they rested on their laurels. This is a Barbie from the 60s! And this is a Barbie today.

Jennifer holds up an identical Barbie.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

When Bratz blindsided them with a superior product, they resorted to the only measure they could, a lawsuit. I guess their brand slogan should be "if you can't beat 'em, sue." They have the nerve to argue that the dolls named after Isaac Larian's daughter belong to them. It's an outrage. Simple bullying tactics, and I hope you do what I taught my niece to do when bullies come around. It's time someone stands up to them. Thank you.

John Quinn rises out of his seat, fusses with his tie. He takes a deep breath.

QUINN

This case is about achieving the American dream. Long before MGA, Mattel was once a small business that grew from nothing to the biggest toy company in the world. But it's so much more than that. Barbie is a cultural icon. Something that women have been able to share with their children for decades. It's a ritual that is part of the fabric of this great country. Does that mean Mattel shouldn't have competitors? Of course not.

John Quinn walks over to Jennifer and smiles.

QUINN (CONT'D)

But Ms. Keller will try to paint a picture of an evil empire. She'll say that behind those innocent dolls lurks a beast ready to steal and pillage and plunder. Unfortunately for her, it's pure fantasy. But there is one undeniable fact.

Quinn walks over to the jury box and leans in.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Carter Bryant, while working for Mattel, marched into Isaac Larian's office and gave away company secrets in a backroom deal.

John Quinn walks over towards Isaac.

QUINN (CONT'D)

MGA was a small company, no track record, struggling to make ends meet. They saw an opportunity and they took it. Who knows what any of us might have done in the same situation. But make no mistake, what they did was illegal under the terms of his work for hire agreement.

He walks by each end every juror for effect.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Carter Bryant entered into his contract with Mattel freely and for a good wage. You may not think it's entirely fair, but the law says it is. We are a nation of laws. The law says MGA stole from Mattel. I ask you to speak loudly to them and say "thieves do not get rewarded in this country!" Thank you.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

Jennifer questions TOM HASKEL, 50s, buyer for Kohl's department store. Allison, Kay and Michaela sit at her table taking notes.

JENNIFER

How much inventory of Bratz products did you purchase in 2003?

TOM

Around three million dollars.

JENNIFER

And how much did you purchase in 2004?

TOM

None.

JENNIFER

I'm sorry, I must not have heard you correctly. Did you say none? As in zero dollars?

TOM

Correct.

JENNIFER

Were people not buying Bratz?
Because as I recall it was the
number one toy in the country.

TOM

They were. I just thought it was a
fad, and I didn't want to be stuck
with millions of dollars of dead
inventory.

Jennifer nods her head and looks at the jury.

JENNIFER

Hmm, that's a drastic move. Did you
really think they were going to
sell zero dollars worth in 2004?

TOM

I didn't think it was a fit for our
store.

JENNIFER

Did you feel bad when they sold
more than any other toy the next
year? Whoopsie, kinda missed the
mark there.

TOM

Not really. We did fine.

JENNIFER

Of course you did. Because you were
financially incentivized by Mattel
to remove Bratz from their shelves,
weren't you?

TOM

That's not why we did it.

JENNIFER

Well, how much in incentives did
Mattel offer? A couple of grand?

TOM

Three million dollars.

The Jury clearly registers the blow that Jennifer landed. Tom
tries to defend his actions.

TOM (CONT'D)

(to Jury)

I assure you there's nothing shady
about this. It's industry standard.

JENNIFER

That might fly in your house, but it's not gonna fly in mine. See, I have a niece, and when I take her to a toy store, they better have what I promised her. Have you ever been in a house with a pissed off pre-teen? Nevermind. Clearly not. Nothing further.

The Jury laughs. John Quinn rises from his chair.

QUINN

Let's go back a few years, do you recall any newer toy companies offering you incentives to get on the shelf for the first time?

TOM

Yes, that happens a lot too.

QUINN

And when you do that, doesn't it sort of screw over the company whose toy you have to remove?

TOM

That's the nature of the beast.

QUINN

So nobody is really an innocent victim in this universe?

TOM

This is not the right business to play victim.

QUINN

Did MGA ever offer you incentives to get shelf space?

TOM

They sure did. In 2001, Isaac practically begged me, and offered to sell the products to me at a loss. It was huge financial windfall for us.

QUINN

So you threw another toy off the shelf to make room for Bratz.

TOM

I did.

QUINN

Sounds like a raw deal for that other company.

Jennifer gets up for re-direct.

JENNIFER

Well, we've established that you have a different moral compass than the rest of us, but that doesn't change a simple fact. Other than Bratz, can you recall another time where you moved the number one selling toy in the country from your store?

TOM

This was a unique circumstance.

JENNIFER

I'll say. Nothing further.

Isaac pumps his fist. Jennifer motions for him to settle down.

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jennifer rushes to get out the door, slipping on her shoe as she eats a piece of toast, while holding case files.

CHARLIE

Aren't you forgetting something?

Charlie looks at Suzie holding her backpack.

JENNIFER

Dang. Can you take her? I can't be late for court.

CHARLIE

I also have to be in court.

JENNIFER

Pretty please?

Charlie looks at Suzie and smiles. Jennifer rushes out of the house without waiting for an answer.

CHARLIE

(to herself and Suzie)
Of course, whatever you need.

INT. COURTROOM - HALLWAY - DAY

Jennifer, Isaac and Kay huddle up.

ISAAC

It was a good start, but we need to hit much harder! We need to show Mattel's true colors!

JENNIFER

Patience. That's exactly what we're doing. We can't get Mattel's litigious history exposed, so we'll just keep hammering at their shady business practices.

Kay looks at the Jurors, she seems to make eye contact with a few diverse members.

KAY

Their true colors.

Her eyes light up.

KAY (CONT'D)

(to Jennifer)

Get us a short recess. I have an idea.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Kay questions PETER MCGOWAN, 50s, Wall Street toy industry analyst. Jennifer looks at Isaac as if to say "trust us."

KAY

How long have you covered the toy industry?

PETER

Twenty six years as an analyst.

KAY

And in that time, how long was Barbie the number one selling toy?

PETER

Twenty four years.

KAY

So what happened in those last two years?

PETER

Frankly, Bratz came along and kicked their butt.

KAY

In your expert opinion, what would you attribute that change to?

PETER

The market moved. The top popstars were Britney, Christina, Destiny's Child. Proactive, young, scantily clad. Bratz was fresh, exciting, diverse. Barbie was stale.

KAY

Did Barbie ever make an attempt in the past to appeal to a more diverse market, people who look like me?

The Jurors look at each other confused.

PETER

I'm not sure what you mean.

Kay pulls out a Black doll that looks like Barbie.

KAY

Do you know what this is?

QUINN

Objection! Relevance. She's digging up ancient history. It has no bearing on the facts of this case.

KAY

It goes directly to the argument at the core of this case. Mattel's struggles to respond to shifts in the market or demographics in a meaningful way caused them to try to kneecap my client.

JUDGE

Overruled. You may answer.

PETER

It's a doll that Mattel briefly sold in the 1960s, before a backlash caused them to pull it.

KAY

Could you tell us the name Mattel gave it?

PETER

Colored Frances.

The Crowd gasp. Kay makes eye contact with the Jury. An OLDER BLACK JUROR nods.

KAY

Nothing further.

John Quinn steps out of his chair.

QUINN

I think we can all agree times have changed for the better. Would you say Mattel has a positive reputation in the industry?

PETER

Overall, I'd say it's average.

QUINN

They pay their workers a fair wage, they have a diverse workforce, they are known for their charitable efforts around the world. I know you're a witness for MGA but is it that difficult to admit people think highly of Mattel?

PETER

They do.

QUINN

And what about MGA?

PETER

Well, they did not have much of a reputation before Bratz came out.

QUINN

Because they didn't have a single hit toy. But isn't it true Mr. Larian had a bit of a reputation within the industry?

PETER

Yes.

QUINN

How would you characterize that?

KAY

Objection, speculation about Mr. Larian is beyond the scope. He's not opining on the toy industry.

QUINN

It's absolutely within the purview of a twenty six year veteran to speak generally on the business reputation of these companies and their executives.

JUDGE

Overruled.

PETER

(grudgingly)

Mr. Larian was known to be temperamental and difficult to deal with.

QUINN

Wasn't there in fact one incident that he was widely known for prior to the rise of the Bratz dolls?

PETER

He bought his brother out of the company after a nasty fight.

QUINN

Was that before or after Bratz launched?

PETER

I believe it was before.

QUINN

Right before Bratz made a billion dollars. That seems convenient. Nothing further.

Isaac seethes in the crowd.

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jennifer and Charlie sit on the couch watching TV with Suzie. The phone rings. Jennifer picks up.

JENNIFER

(into phone)

I can't. Can we move it to the afternoon? Fine, I'll be there.

CHARLIE
What was that?

JENNIFER
Damn it. Court got moved up. It
resumes tomorrow morning, the same
time as the *other* hearing.

Jennifer motions towards Suzie, trying not to arouse her
suspicion.

SUZIE
I know you're talking about me.

JENNIFER
Well, then I guess I'll just tell
everyone. I have a little meeting
tomorrow morning to explain to a
judge what a good job I'm doing and
how well the three of us are
getting along.

CHARLIE
The three of us?

Charlie shakes her head.

JENNIFER
Yes, the three of us. And I may
need everyone in this house to
support my claim that this is a
very stable, loving household.

CHARLIE
Can I talk to you in the kitchen?

SUZIE
You're in trouble.

JENNIFER
No, I'm not.

SUZIE
Whenever adults ask to talk in
another room, they are in trouble.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

CHARLIE
You want me to tell them that we
are in a relationship? Is that
what's going on here?

JENNIFER

It's just to get us over this hump
with CPS.

CHARLIE

Wow. How can you be so good in a
trial but so bad in person.

JENNIFER

Can we not do this now? I'm under
an immense amount of pressure.

INT. FAMILY COURT - DAY

Jennifer stands before the FAMILY COURT JUDGE and looks at
her watch.

FAMILY COURT JUDGE

Are we keeping you from a pressing
matter?

JENNIFER

No, your honor. There is nothing
more important to me than making
sure Suzie's needs are being met.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Kay pulls up to the courthouse. She suddenly feels pain in
her stomach and hunches over. She pulls out her phone.

KAY

(into Voicemail)

Allison, you're gonna have to get
them to postpone, I have to go to
the doctor.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The Judge looks at Allison, who's standing alone, frazzled.

JUDGE

Are Ms. Keller or Ms. Simpson
planning to join us today?

Allison looks back at the door and shakes her head furiously
like a maniac.

ALLISON

They...um, caught...food poisoning.
I didn't get it because I've built
up an immunity to salmonella. I'm a
chronic carrier. Like Typhoid Mary.

The Jury laughs.

JUDGE

Are you ready to proceed?

ALLISON

Me? Oh no, no, no, no, no.

JUDGE

I won't have the jurors time
wasted. Your name is listed on the
docket. Proceed!

Allison looks towards the door. Michaela leans in.

MICHAELA

Do you want me to question him? I
took his deposition.

ALLISON

And sabotage this case for us? I
think not.

(to Judge)

Allison Zigfeld, not ready to
proceed, your honor.

JUDGE

Excuse me?

ALLISON

Respectfully, Judge, we are asking
for a very brief one hour recess.

JUDGE

Counsel, please approach.

Allison timidly approaches the bench.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I understand you are a boutique
firm of three distinguished young
women, but if you expect to be
treated like everyone else, you
need to play by the same rules.

ALLISON

I'm not asking for a special favor,
your Honor.

(MORE)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I'm asking because I have multiple disorders recognized by the DSM Four: anxiety disorder, glossophobia, it's a fear of public speaking, and a whiff of autism. You would be setting yourself up for an appeal on the grounds of ineffective assistance of counsel.

JUDGE

(smiles)

Well, I have to say, that is a novel argument, usually reserved for criminal trials. But I'll just as soon continue...seeing as how Ms. Keller has finally decided we are worthy of her presence.

Jennifer fumbles with her heel as she gets to her table.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Jennifer questions a witness, GARY JANUS, Head of Security for Mattel, 50s, heavy set.

JENNIFER

Please state your name and title for the record?

GARY

Gary Janus. Head of global security for Mattel.

JENNIFER

And in your role, is it typical to attend trade shows?

GARY

From time to time.

JENNIFER

Have you ever heard of anyone attempting to sneak into another companies trade booth using a fake ID?

GARY

I don't recall.

JENNIFER

You don't recall? That seems like something you'd remember.

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
I'd like to enter into evidence
Exhibit 412, 413 and 414.

Jennifer holds up a laminated badge.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Do you recognize this?

Gary tries not to look at it. Jennifer presents Gary a fake business card.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Or this?

Gary still ignores her. Jennifer pulls out a plastic bag with a mustache in it.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Surely you'd remember wearing a
fake mustache to sneak into a trade
fair.

GARY
I don't recall.

JENNIFER
Right, just like I don't recall
where I was when I lost my
virginity. Nothing further.

John Quinn gets up.

QUINN
As an employee of Mattel, have you
also ever witnessed any other
companies trying to sneak into one
of *your* events?

GARY
Many times.

QUINN
Do you recognize this badge.
(off Gary's nod)
Who does it belong to?

Quinn holds up a laminated badge and walks it up to Gary.

GARY
It was an MGA employee who tried to
sneak into one of our trade shows
and got nailed.

QUINN

So I guess MGA probably thinks
what's good for the goose is good
for the gander.

GARY

You lawyers and your cliches. I'd
say all is fair in love and war.

QUINN

I don't agree. And neither does my
client.

Quinn goes on the offensive towards his client's own
employee. His tone turns sharp.

QUINN (CONT'D)

MGA executives may be completely ok
with their employees engaging in
illicit activities, but Mattel
prides themselves on doing things
to the letter of the law!

John Quinn hands Gary a letter.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Do you recognize this?

GARY

It's an internal memo directed at
the entire company demanding that
we not engage in any espionage
activities towards competitors.

QUINN

Come on, this was directed at you,
wasn't it? Isn't it true that the
only recorded instructions you ever
received from Mattel's executives
was *not* to engage in this conduct
and that you ended up getting
demoted?

GARY

Yes.

QUINN

Nothing further.

The Jury nods as if to tally the points he scored.

EXT. COURT HALLWAY - DAY

Jennifer stands and takes a verbal assault from Isaac.

ISAAC

Where the hell were you? Or Kay?

JENNIFER

You hired the entire firm. Kay had a medical emergency. Allison had it under control.

ISAAC

She's unwell.

JENNIFER

She's not unwell, she's...quirky. We didn't miss a beat.

ISAAC

You're not even going to tell me where you were? I think I deserve that.

JENNIFER

I had a family emergency.

ISAAC

From now until we win this case, *this* is your family. If you can't find a baby-sitter, you bring Suzie and have her sit with us.

JENNIFER

Fine. But if there's any more dirty deeds in your closet, I need to know. We're going for David vs. Goliath, not Spy vs. Spy here.

ISAAC

You need to put me on the witness stand so I can tell my story. Isn't that what you said we needed?

JENNIFER

We are telling your story. You can't even control your emotions here with me. John Quinn will make you look like the bad guy.

ISAAC

I can handle him. If I'm going to go down, I will go down swinging.

JENNIFER

Who said anything about going down?

INT. KELLER SIMPSON OFFICE - DAY

CLOSE ON TV:

REPORTER

We're outside the LA courthouse where jurors are hearing arguments in one of the biggest cases of the new millennium. Nicknamed the "Doll Wars" it's a fight over the teen toy aisle and whether Bratz will be shut down, destroying the biggest rival to Barbie ever. So far, the biggest surprise is the choice of counsel. MGA hired a small, untested firm. Keller Simpson. After getting burned in the prior case, we'll see if the gamble pays off.

Jennifer shuts off the TV and looks at Kay and Allison who are busy sifting through evidence. Michaela sits at another table researching as well.

JENNIFER

Kay, everything good with the baby?

KAY

All good. A little scare is all. We're just lucky Allison saved the day.

ALLISON

All I did was stall for five minutes.

JENNIFER

Yeah, but you stalled for five minutes in open court against John Motherfucking Quinn.

Allison lights up.

ALLISON

I stalled in open court! In front of other homo sapiens. I did pee myself a tiny bit, but I don't think anyone saw.

JENNIFER

I'm damn proud of you.

(joking)

Maybe we should make you lead
counsel.

ALLISON

Don't ever do that to me again or
I'll quit.

JENNIFER

I promise I will be there every
step of the way from now on.

(beat)

We need to dig deeper. If you were
going to sabotage a rival
dollmaker, what would you do?

ALLISON

I used to light my Barbie's hair on
fire.

KAY

As a young black teen, that stupid
stick straight golden hair, always
made me feel insecure. Ooh, I was
more of a rip her head off girl.

They look at Michaela. Carter Bryant walks into their office
and sees them all deep in conversation. Nobody clocks him, so
he just stands behind them as they chat.

MICHAELA

I used to wrap a napkin around her
like it was a wedding dress.

JENNIFER

How is any of this helpful?

They wait for her to dish.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I would strip her naked and make
her play with Jem.

CARTER

I used to do the same thing.

Allison spits out the lo mein she was chewing on.

CARTER (CONT'D)

But with Ken and He-Man.

JENNIFER

(shocked)

Carter. When did you? Are you?

CARTER

Just now. And yes.

JENNIFER

I can't tell you how good it is to see you. This is Kay and Allison and that's Tits Mcgh---Michaela.

KAY

I love your work, Carter. You don't know what it's like to have those dolls on the shelf, for my daughter to be able to pick out a Bratz if she wants.

CARTER

Unless they lift the injunction, she may never get that chance.

JENNIFER

You know Quinn is going to come at you hard if you do this? He'll bait you and say awful things about you and you have to keep your cool.

CARTER

I don't know if I'll be able to...but I'm willing to try.

JENNIFER

I believe in you.

(beat)

What made you change your mind?

CARTER

If they win, that means Bratz is gone forever. I'm over living in a Barbie world. And I hate that fucking song!

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S HOUSE - LATE NIGHT

Charlie lays in bed with Jennifer.

CHARLIE

You think Carter will hold up.

JENNIFER

I don't know. He's a basket case.

CHARLIE

Speaking of basket cases, how are you holding up?

JENNIFER

Funny. The court didn't outright rule I'm a danger to Suzie but I still don't know if CPS is going to file a petition against me. I could actually lose her.

CHARLIE

They won't. And you won't.

JENNIFER

Am I really cut out for all this? Trying to be a great lawyer, it takes everything I have. I can't fail or I'm back to square zero. But I can't lose Suzie either. That's all that matters to me.

CHARLIE

Yes, those two things are all that matter.

Jennifer turns towards Charlie. She's clearly upset.

JENNIFER

Oh Charlie. I'm such a shit. Obviously, I took it for granted that you know how I feel.

CHARLIE

Take for granted is definitely the right phrase.

JENNIFER

I know I'm not great at saying it. You mean a hell of a lot to me. I want to be in this together. All the time. Move in with us?

CHARLIE

Nice hallmark moment.

JENNIFER

I mean it.

Charlie gets out of bed and hurriedly gets dressed.

CHARLIE

Bullshit. You never wanted anything more than a casual fling. I tried.
(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Many times. But now you *need* me. As a support, as a baby-sitter. I'm not your crutch.

JENNIFER

That's not how I see you.

CHARLIE

Yes it is. But you know what, I don't want to add extra drama to your life right now.

Charlie leaves.

JENNIFER

(to herself)

Then don't.

Jennifer puts the pillow over her face and mutters into it.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

Jennifer stands close to Carter, who's in the witness box. He's dressed in a baggy t-shirt, unshaven. He looks awful.

JENNIFER

I understand these last few years have been pretty hard on you.

CARTER

Yes they have.

JENNIFER

I'm truly sorry for how it all worked out, Carter. Let's go back to a happier time. What did you want to be when you grew up?

Carter closes his eyes for a second and then opens them.

CARTER

My mom bought me a sewing kit when I was seven and I never looked back.

JENNIFER

Were you excited when you were hired by Mattel?

CARTER

It was the greatest day of my life.
I always dreamed of being in
Barbie's car, of course, not with
Barbie. But Ken.

He chuckles at his joke. The GALLERY does as well.

JENNIFER

You worked your way up there pretty
quickly.

CARTER

(proudly)

I was the youngest head designer in
the entire Barbie line.

JENNIFER

But then according to opposing
counsel, you abruptly decided to
quit and move home and create the
Bratz line?

CARTER

I didn't abruptly do anything. I
was miserable for a long time. I
begged them to try new things. Any
shred of creativity was shut down.
So I walked away.

JENNIFER

Was that easy for you?

CARTER

It killed me to leave my dream job.

JENNIFER

Would you say you have lost
everything since the first case?

CARTER

My boyfriend, my bank account and
my sanity, but I still have my
mom's basement.

JENNIFER

Still have your talent?

Carter takes a breath and closes his eyes.

CARTER

Who knows.

JENNIFER

And the reason you don't know is because no other toy maker would hire you right now. You're kind of toxic?

CARTER

It sure feels that way.

She walks over towards the jurors.

JENNIFER

Let's talk about the summer of 1998. Great year, wasn't it?

CARTER

Spice Girls, Shakira, Dixie Chicks. The iMac! Titanic.

JENNIFER

Don't forget Ally Mcbeal. She's my spirit animal. So you took time off, why?

CARTER

A sabbatical is the corporate jargon. I was burnt out.

JENNIFER

So what did you do during that sabbatical?

CARTER

I went home to Missouri.

JENNIFER

Did you do any work during that time?

CARTER

I just sort of let myself take the world in again, trying to get inspired.

JENNIFER

And did you?

CARTER

(gets animated)

Yes. I saw these girls at my old high school, and it was nothing like the cruel monotony of what I endured there. It was diverse and they were brash.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

I had this epiphany. I was like holy hell, there's nothing out there that looks like them.

JENNIFER

So what did you do next?

CARTER

(passionately)

I raced home, and dusted off my sewing kid and just started drawing, cutting, stitching, Frankenstein-ing a bunch of parts together and voila, Bratz was born.

JENNIFER

That's beautiful. No more questions.

John Quinn drops his note pad.

QUINN

I'm sorry to hear about your troubles, Mr. Carter. I too sometimes need to unplug. I'm a big mountain biker. I draw inspiration from towering above the top of a mountain. However, if my hobby was writing legal briefs for another law firm in my spare time while I was under contract with my law firm, I don't think they would take too kindly to that, do you?

CARTER

I'm sure they wouldn't.

QUINN

So how is your situation any different? You were under contract with Mattel, weren't you?

CARTER

Well, yes, technically.

QUINN

There is no technically. You were under contract. Period.

CARTER

I was on a break.

QUINN

It's called a sabbatical because words have meaning. This isn't like taking a break from a significant other to fool around.

CARTER

They were stifling me.

QUINN

Stifling you? You skyrocketed through the company. If that's stifling, maybe I should stifle some of my associates.

The JURORS chuckle.

CARTER

(breaking down)

They had no vision.

QUINN

Didn't they?

CARTER

What is that supposed to mean?

QUINN

They had the vision to hire you! Did you ever bring your new creation to anyone at Mattel?

CARTER

No?

QUINN

Not even a friend? Not even a trusted associate?

CARTER

I knew they wouldn't go for it.

QUINN

So the company that did everything you asked, promoted you three times, let you go on sabbatical, didn't deserve to at least see your creation? The one you were contractually obligated to bring to them?

CARTER

They just didn't get it. And neither do you!

QUINN

Oh I think I do. How much have you been paid to date on Bratz in royalties?

CARTER

I don't know.

QUINN

Excuse me?

CARTER

I said I don't know.

QUINN

I do. It was FIVE MILLION DOLLARS.

CARTER

Could be.

QUINN

And how much was your salary at Mattel?

CARTER

One hundred and ten thousand dollars a year.

QUINN

I'd say you had five million reasons to betray Mattel.

CARTER

I just wanted to make people happy.

QUINN

Is it true you recently spent time in a mental institution?

JENNIFER

Objection.

QUINN

She opened the door wide asking about his mental state.

JUDGE

Sustained. But let's get somewhere quickly.

CARTER

Yes, I was in a loony bin! I'm crazy!

QUINN

I don't think it's crazy to seek help. Are you seeking help for your drug addiction as well?

CARTER

I'm clean if that's what you're asking.

Carter breaks down. John Quinn hands him a handkerchief and then goes in for the kill.

QUINN

Is it true you burned through all of the money?

CARTER

So?

QUINN

So if Mattel wins, you won't receive any more royalties, correct?

CARTER

I'm not doing this for the money!
(to Jury)
I didn't do anything wrong.

QUINN

Nothing further your honor.

JUDGE

Ms. Keller?

Jennifer looks at Carter and shakes her head no to the Judge. Carter mouths "I'm sorry" to her. Kay leans into Jennifer.

KAY

You know the jury is gonna be thinking about that \$5 million.

JENNIFER

The jury heard his story. We don't need to cause him any more pain.

INT. ISAAC LARIAN'S OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Isaac sits next to Jennifer and Max.

ISAAC

Damn it, why didn't you follow up with Carter?

JENNIFER

I took a calculated risk that they will see him as sympathetic.

ISAAC

Your move backfired! Again!

JENNIFER

I disagree. I'm showing Mattel and Barbie for what they truly are. Monsters.

ISAAC

So, what's the next move?

JENNIFER

I didn't call this meeting, I thought you did?

Michaela walks in. Bob Eckert and John Quinn linger in the hallway.

MICHAELA

Isaac, after today, I thought it made sense to have some preliminary discussions about alternatives.

JENNIFER

Alternatives? You mean a settlement. Jesus, you really are spineless.

MICHAELA

I'm just not stupid. You kept me on the payroll to help you, Isaac. Please hear them out.

Isaac nods. Bob Eckert and John Quinn walk in and sit.

BOB

What you've built here, there's no denying it's impressive. Your margins are high, no union problems. It would be a really clean value add for us.

ISAAC

Value add? I thought you came here to discuss a settlement.

BOB

And what better way to settle? We'd like to buy your company.

Bob has a shit eating grin. Isaac's face looks like it's going to burst into flames. John Quinn slides the check across the table.

BOB (CONT'D)

That's six hundred million dollars!
As I understand it you came to our
country with almost nothing. It's
an incredible rags to riches story.
Now it has a happy ending. It's not
personal, just business.

Bob puts his hand out.

BOB (CONT'D)

Do we have a deal?

Isaac looks to Michaela. She can't hide her desperation to have this case behind them. Isaac looks at Jennifer.

ISAAC

Can we have the room for a minute?

Everyone exits, except Jennifer, Max, Isaac and Michaela.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Would you excuse us? I already know
where you stand.

Michaela grudgingly leaves.

MAX

It's a tremendous offer. You could
do anything you want with this.

ISAAC

Except start a new toy company.

MAX

Naturally, it comes with an
ironclad non-compete.

ISAAC

What would you do?

JENNIFER

I know things are looking grim
right now, but I believe in what we
are doing.

ISAAC

Do you believe in yourself?

JENNIFER

I do. On the other hand, I would also feel terrible--

ISAAC

If I walked away from six hundred million dollars?

MAX

(to Jennifer)

I brought you in here because I trusted your judgment.

JENNIFER

He's right, Isaac. There's a lot of good you could do with that money.

ISAAC

And you'll make millions if we settle right now.

JENNIFER

I thought you knew I wasn't doing this for the money.

ISAAC

I thought you knew I wasn't either!

MAX

(begging)

Isaac, this is the deal of a lifetime.

Isaac sits silently for a minute.

ISAAC

Okay. I'll take it--

MAX

You're doing the right--

ISAAC

If Jennifer tells me to.

MAX

Isaac, please. Think about your family.

ISAAC

I always think of my family!
Jennifer, what do you say?

The gravity of the situation weighs on Jennifer. Isaac locks eyes with her. She doesn't say a word.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Everyone is seated as they were before.

BOB

That was quick. Maybe I shouldn't have written down such a large number. Overplayed my hand.

Bob smirks. Quinn nudges him to shut him up.

ISAAC

I've had a lot of great days since I started this company. The day my Jasmin was born, I was hocking Nintendo game boy accessories. The day I got to name Bratz after her. That was a good day too.

He points to a framed photo of himself in Toy Quarterly.

BOB

I'm sure you deserved it.

ISAAC

It's better than Forbes in my book. But you wouldn't know that because your last job was as a cheese CEO.

BOB

Kraft Foods, Dairy division. Before that Nestle, Mars, Pepsi, Krogers. I know what I need to know about toys now. What I know is that Mattel and Bratz need to join forces.

ISAAC

I agree.

BOB

Fantastic. I knew you'd come to your senses.

Bob puts out his hand to shake it.

ISAAC

I'll buy Mattel.

Bob starts laughing. Quinn has a look of disgust on his face.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Barbie is really the only successful product in your entire arsenal.

BOB

You know goddamn well you don't have that kind of money.

ISAAC

I'll borrow it. I'll come up with the next Bratz. Whatever it takes. But the one thing I'm not doing is selling my dream to a man with no vision.

QUINN

You're making a major mistake. Your case is dead in the water. Or did you not see what happened today?

ISAAC

I saw it. But see my attorney, Ms. Keller, she's just getting warmed up. Get the hell out of my office.

BOB

Goddamn amateurs, we're going to destroy your pissant little company.

They walk out and Bob slams the door.

JENNIFER

I don't think we're getting invited to their Christmas party.

Isaac starts laughing.

MICHAELA

I'm sorry. That was a mistake.

ISAAC

The only mistake was hiring you in the first place. You're fired.

Michaela walks out.

JENNIFER

It's not her fault. She's actually been a big help. She was only doing what a rational person would do. Unfortunately, you and I, we act from here.

She points to her heart. Isaac stares at Jennifer.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
It's time to show them who you are.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Isaac shifts in the witness box.

JENNIFER
How much money did you come to this country with?

ISAAC
Seventy dollars and a dream.

JENNIFER
Would you call yourself an overnight success story then?

ISAAC
Ha, only if overnight is twenty five years of painstaking labor.

JENNIFER
Did you have any hits before Bratz?

ISAAC
Despite Mattel's arguments to the contrary, yes. We had a few products that did quite well.

JENNIFER
So what happened?

ISAAC
We were forced off the shelves.

QUINN
Objection, the witness is speculating.

JUDGE
Sustained.

JENNIFER
In your opinion, would any of the other products have been more successful if they had a longer shelf life?

ISAAC

Of course, but honestly, none of them were undeniable. Bratz was undeniable.

JENNIFER

How did you know?

ISAAC

It's called instinct. I saw the way my daughter Jasmin reacted.

Isaac waves at Jasmin, sitting with his ENTIRE FAMILY in the second row. He blows her a kiss.

JENNIFER

So you ordered a few hundred dolls to test it out?

ISAAC

A few million.

JENNIFER

Are you saying that you saw your daughter's reaction to a Bratz prototype and decided on a whim to spend millions of dollars? That's a pretty insane business decision.

ISAAC

Everything I've ever done came from my heart.

JENNIFER

Your heart is not only good, but it turns out it's pretty brilliant!

The Jury chuckles.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

When Bratz became the number one doll in the world, did you think about selling your company? Retire with millions?

ISAAC

Toys are the only thing I know. I love seeing the joy on a child's face. I wouldn't trade that for any amount of money.

JENNIFER

Let's hope you never have to. Nothing further.

John Quinn gets up. He's holding a magazine.

QUINN

I have here an interview from Toy Quarterly, dated January 12, 2003. In it, you say that you came up with the idea for Bratz. There's no mention of Carter Bryant. I find that very odd. Don't you?

ISAAC

I'm a story teller at heart. Selling a product is about selling a story. I thought it would make for a good story if I told people I came up with the idea and modeled it after my Jasmin. I did name it after her. That's true.

QUINN

But the rest is a lie.

ISAAC

We created it together.

QUINN

Which is it, did Carter Bryant show up in your office with a full formed doll as he told us or not?

ISAAC

Well, yes, but it still needed work. Also, a doll needs to be marketed, tested, etc.

QUINN

Wait a minute? So you're saying a designer doesn't really fully own a doll idea, because there are so many other people involved in bringing it to life. It's really the company that does it, is that what the CEO of MGA is telling us?

ISAAC

You're twisting my words!

Jennifer tries to lock eyes with Isaac to calm him down.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I won't let you steal my company.

QUINN

The way you stole Bratz from
Mattel?

ISAAC

Carter Bryant wasn't working for
them when he came to us.

QUINN

So then why did you try to hide his
name from the entire project?

ISAAC

I already told you.

QUINN

Oh right, you lie when it makes for
a good story. Are you lying now?

ISAAC

No. I'm not a liar.

QUINN

You felt like Mattel had screwed
you over. So this was justice
right?

ISAAC

No, that's not what happened.

QUINN

You slaved for twenty five years
and now you have nothing to show
for it. I'd be pissed if I were
you. I would say or do anything. It
can't be your fault, it can't just
be that you couldn't compete on
equal grounds so you cut corners
and you got caught?

JENNIFER

Objection, badgering the witness.

ISAAC

(cursing in Farsi)

Son of a bitch...sorry your honor.

(to Quinn)

You have no idea what it is to
build something with your bare
hands, to have your entire family,
here and in Iran depending on you.
It's life or death for me.

(to Jury)

I don't steal. I have never stolen.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

We beat Barbie fair and square.
They are the ones who cheated by
suing me into oblivion. They hire
the greatest lawyer in the country
to make me look like a fool up
here. So yes, you succeeded. I'm a
fool for thinking I could have a
fair shake.

INT. KELLER SIMPSON - DAY

The team sits around brainstorming. They look defeated.

KAY

I think the jurors might sympathize
with the poor guy.

JENNIFER

Maybe, but if the trial ended
today, raise your hand if you think
we won.

Nobody raises their hand.

KAY

Are there any other employees that
could testify that Mattel has shady
business practices?

ALLISON

I found...something.

She hands Jennifer a sheet of paper with financials on it.

JENNIFER

Asahi Kei? Saran sales in Japan?
Can you translate this from Allison
speak to English?

ALLISON

Mattel tried to corner the market
on Saran.

KAY

Like the wrap?

ALLISON

Yes, but also the cheapest material
used to make doll hair. Almost
every single doll on earth with
hair on their head uses Saran.

JENNIFER

And you're saying that Mattel literally ordered so much of it that they tried to make Bratz go bald! This is great. How did you even think to come up with this?

ALLISON

I swept up some of Michaela's hair. I had them tested. Apparently one part of her is all natural. But it got me thinking about doll hair.

JENNIFER

Your brain is something else. This is good.

KAY

But is it enough?

JENNIFER

We need a knockout punch.

KAY

What if we go after the head of their snake like they went after ours? Isaac lost his cool, but he's a hot head. What if we get someone known for being calm and collected to pop his top.

JENNIFER

So you're saying I should give an aggressive poke to jolt the oversensitive male ego.

KAY

Works every time.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Jennifer stares at her legal pad and stands up. She address Bob Eckert, who sits in the witness box.

JENNIFER

Would you say you've been a successful CEO for Mattel?

BOB

Business Week certainly would.

JENNIFER

Yes, it's true you managed to deliver strong growth and increase operating margins. How did you do that?

BOB

If I could explain it in a few sentences, then everyone would be doing it.

JENNIFER

Isn't it true a big part of that success was corporate restructuring? Laying off employees?

QUINN

Objection, relevance.

JUDGE

Sustained.

JENNIFER

Let's talk about antitrust laws put in place to prevent monopolies and cartels?

BOB

We are neither a monopoly or a cartel.

JENNIFER

What would you call strong arming retailers not to carry rival products?

BOB

I'm not aware of any such activities.

JENNIFER

Have you ever discussed killing deals with licensees who were doing business with MGA?

BOB

Every CEO does what's best for their company. Let's not be naive.

JENNIFER

So you consider it to be an act of integrity to sabotage a rival?

BOB

That's not sabotage, that's business.

JENNIFER

How about buying every ounce of Saran doll hair from the only manufacturer in the world, so your rival literally can't make dolls. Trying to make Bratz go bald!

BOB

I don't know what you're talking about.

Jennifer gets close to Bob and hands him the Saran document that Allison found.

JENNIFER

It seems to me there are two possibilities here, Bob. You're either lying and you knew about and condoned it...or you're incompetent. Which is it? Dirty or dumb?

QUINN

Objection, your honor. Badgering.

JUDGE

Sustained. Watch it, Ms. Keller.

BOB

I've been at the top of my profession for 30 years, I'm ranked in Forbes as a leading CEO, how about you?

JENNIFER

Me? Nobody has ever heard of me. I spent my career grinding it out representing the voiceless. So, I guess you got me there.

(beat)

Why don't we move on to the concept of work for hire. Do you believe that when an employee signs the agreement with Mattel, that Mattel has a right to *all* of their work product?

BOB

Naturally. I thought you were familiar with corporate law.

JENNIFER

Enlighten me. What about things they don't write down?

BOB

Ideas are specifically included in the contract for a reason.

JENNIFER

What about work they do on the weekends, outside of the scope of employment?

BOB

If they are related to their job as a toymaker, absolutely.

JENNIFER

I can get onboard with that. What about if they came up with the idea a year ago, before they started at Mattel but then started to work on it again while working at Mattel.

BOB

Yes. We own that.

JENNIFER

What about five years ago?

BOB

I'd say yes.

The Jurors look surprised.

JENNIFER

What about if a designer came up with a wild idea when they were eight years old, stuck it in a draw for twenty years, glanced at it while working for Mattel, then left to create a doll based on that idea they had as a little boy. Would Mattel own that intellectual property? Yes or no.

Bob Eckert pauses.

QUINN

Objection, calls for speculation.

JENNIFER

I'd like to know where he thinks the line should be drawn.

JUDGE
Overruled.

BOB
If the contract is ironclad.

JENNIFER
I'm sorry, was that a yes to owning
the ideas of an eight year old?

There is an audible gasp from the Jury.

BOB
Well, not in every situa--

JENNIFER
We get where you're coming from.
The Judge looks at the clock. It says 4 PM.

JUDGE
We're going to break for the day
and we'll pick this up at 9 am
tomorrow. Jurors, you're excused.

Jennifer walks back to the table and gives Kay a fist bump.

EXT. COUNTY FAIR - DAY

Jennifer, Charlie and Suzie walk around a county fair. Suzie
eats a corndog, while Jennifer talks shop.

JENNIFER
Thanks for coming.

CHARLIE
I'm doing this for her. I promised
we'd go to the fair.
(beat)
Any word from family court?

JENNIFER
Radio silence. I guess that's a
good thing.
(beat)
I'm sorry for taking you for
granted. It wasn't fair. Once this
case is over, I'll make it my
mission to be more thoughtful.

CHARLIE
There's always gonna be more cases.

JENNIFER

What are you saying, you don't want to be with--

CHARLIE

(smiling)

No, I'm saying I appreciate your apology, and I accept you for the flawed workaholic that you are. But also, when you win this case, we should start thinking about hiring a nanny. Or like a manny. We deserve a man servant. Down with the patriarchy!

JENNIFER

I like the we part of that.

Jennifer and Charlie kiss.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

But I don't know about winning.

CHARLIE

I thought you said you made Bob Eckert seem like a real weasel.

JENNIFER

It's not far enough. I have to show the jury that this guy is destroying a dream and he doesn't even care. He knows absolutely diddly about the toy business. Bob Eckert may as well be selling cheese whiz.

Suzie grabs Jennifer by the shirt. They come up to a game called Matching Ducks. Jennifer hands Suzie a dollar. Suzie bends down and picks up a duck. It has a brown hat. She picks up another one.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Close, that one has a bowtie. See they have to be identical.

Suzie puts it down and picks up another one. Jennifer stares at the pond. Her eyes light up.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

We gotta go.

SUZIE

But I didn't get the matching duck.

Jennifer bends down and grabs three of them at a time, breaking the rules. All the other parents give her a look of scorn. She hands Suzie two matching ducks to give to the BARKER. She hands him \$10 on the sly.

BARKER
Congratulations. You won the big elephant!

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Jennifer continues her questioning of Bob.

JENNIFER
I'd like to talk about the line you came out with this past year. The "Flavas" dolls. Tell me about that decision.

BOB
The market shifted. We reacted.

JENNIFER
So let me get this straight, after you claimed that Bratz stole your IP, you went ahead and created a knock off of their doll?

BOB
We didn't create a knock off of their doll. Barbie came out with a somewhat similar line.

JENNIFER
Admit it, you ripped off Bratz. Because you knew you didn't have a solid legal claim?

QUINN
Objection.

JUDGE
Sustained.

BOB
You're reaching. I can smell the desperation on you. We all can.

JUDGE
Anything further for this witness, Ms. Keller.

Jennifer looks at John Quinn's smug face and then turns and goes for it.

JENNIFER

I'm sorry, where is my head today?
I'd like to enter into the record
Exhibit 2A.

She pulls out a boxed doll. It's in a Bratz box. She hands it to Bob. He stares at it for a minute.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Do you know the name of this doll?

BOB

I don't.

JENNIFER

You don't?

BOB

I don't make it a practice to
memorize everyone of my competitors
lines.

JENNIFER

Really? I know the names of every
partner I go up against. I know
John Quinn loves to mountain bike,
does iron mans, and owns a samurai
sword that he scares the bejesus
out of his associates with. Because
that's what competitors do.

BOB

I know plenty about Bratz and
Isaac. For instance, he sends
people to sneak around and spy on
competitors at toy fairs!

JENNIFER

But you don't know the name of this
doll?

BOB

I know it's a Bratz doll.

JENNIFER

You know it's a Bratz. And how do
you know that?

BOB

Because I have eyes.

Jennifer walks over to the jury box.

JENNIFER

Well, I have some bad news for you, Bob. That's actually Mattel's "Flavas" line. This is Spicy Sue.

There's an audible gasp from the Jury.

BOB

What does that prove, that you're capable of a dirty parlor trick?

JENNIFER

Was that a trick? Some people know a fake when they see one. But you don't because you don't really care about the toy industry, isn't that right?

QUINN

Objection. Badgering. Are we here to insult a venerated Fortune 500 CEO with an impeccable record?

JENNIFER

Oh, there's no doubt you're the cheese king. But Isaac sleeps, eats and breathes toys. He named one after his daughter. Can you honestly tell me you care about toys the way he does?

QUINN

Objection. This whole line of questioning is irrelevant. Don't answer that.

JUDGE

I'll decide who answers what in my court room.

BOB

I'll answer it. A great CEO's job is to remove passion, make smart decisions. Isaac is a hotheaded thief and look where it got him. Carter Bryant signed a work for hire agreement and designed a product while under our employment. Period end of story. We own the IP to Bratz.

JENNIFER
Well, you sure told us.

INT. ISAAC LARIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Isaac has invited Jennifer, Charlie and Suzie over to have dinner with his entire family. Suzie plays with Jasmin and the kids in the den, while the adults eat and drink.

Isaac starts to break down in tears. His wife, Angela, puts her hand on his. Charlie holds Jennifer's hand.

ISAAC
I can't do it again. I'm not a young man. We'll have to go to Arizona, buy a small condo and learn to golf or something.

ANGELA
Even if we did that, he'd figure out a way to sell golf toys.

Jennifer and Charlie laugh.

JENNIFER
If we lose, I'll have to go back to municipal court. You saw what it was like down there, it's worse than any golf course in Arizona.

ISAAC
This is true.

CHARLIE
Gee thanks, guys. Maybe I should go work for Jennifer after she wins and you pay her a boatload of cash.

JENNIFER
I'd like that.

ISAAC
Me too.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The tension is palpable as Quinn gives his closing.

INTERCUT WITH Jennifer's closing.

QUINN

You saw a lot of theatrics. On both sides. But it doesn't change what this is really about at its core. A work for hire case.

JENNIFER

You can send a message to all the people who toil for minimum wage and let them know they won't get screwed if they dare to be great.

QUINN

Carter Bryant rose up the ranks at Mattel. He was supported and loved and even given months to clear his head. Instead, he took that time to hatch a devious plot with Isaac Larian to cheat Mattel out of money. Lots of money.

JENNIFER

Put yourself in Isaac Larian's shoes. He worked his fingers to the bone to give his family a better life. He finally got the one chance that most immigrants never get and he ran with it. He ran so hard that he became the best toymaker in the world.

QUINN

This isn't good versus evil, this is a vengeful rich person asking regular folks to exact a price from Mattel because he couldn't do it fair and square. Isaac's a man who cut his brother out of the family business just as it was starting to take off. He's no underdog! When this case is over win or lose, he goes back to his mansion. I ask that you not only make MGA pay, but Isaac Larian, hold him personally responsible for causing \$1 billion in damages to Mattel.

The Jury soaks it all in.

JENNIFER

Barbie had 50 years to do the right thing, and they squandered it.

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

If I have to see another generation of girls be boxed in, pardon the pun, I won't be able to live it down, knowing that I had the chance to look twelve of my fellow citizens in the eye and ask them to put a stop to it. You see that man and his daughter right there.

(points to Jasmin)

She knows that she can be anything she wants. All the kids out there who play with Bratz know that now. Hell, even Barbie knows it now. The world has changed. You have the power to prove it to Mattel, by awarding my clients justice.

INT. MGA OFFICE - DAY

HUNDREDS OF EMPLOYEES fill every crevice of the main floor. Isaac stands on top of a desk to address everyone.

WORKER

(whispering)

I heard we're filing for bankruptcy tomorrow.

ISAAC

So many of you have been here since we sold Nintendo parts out of my garage. Even then, my ego and my temper was too big...

(off laughter)

...but it was only because I believed in all of you, in what we were doing together. We took on the biggest behemoth to ever exist in the toy industry, and for a moment, we brought her to her knees. No one can take that from us.

Some of the EMPLOYEES start to tear up. Isaac does as well.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I have let so many of you into my home and you have done the same for me. No matter what happens tomorrow, we will always be family.

They all give him a raucous applause. He wipes away tears.

WORKER (O.S.)

Fuck Barbie!

Isaac looks out at his work family.

ISAAC
Yes. Fuck Barbie!

ALL TOGETHER
Bratz! Bratz! Bratz!

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Jennifer drops Suzie off at school.

JENNIFER
Have a great day.

SUZIE
Good luck, mom. I mean--

Jennifer squeezes her really tight. Suzie runs into school.
Amanda, the young teacher, gives Jennifer a big smile.
Chantel, the Social Worker, walks up to her.

JENNIFER
Is this a good visit or--

CHANTEL
You missed part of the biggest case
of your life and risked losing a
billion dollars for that custody
hearing.

JENNIFER
I would do *anything* for her.

CHANTEL
Don't make me regret this. We are
dismissing your case.

Jennifer starts to break down in tears a little bit.

CHANTEL (CONT'D)
Also, between you and me, it didn't
hurt that a pillar of the community
spoke to the judge.

JENNIFER
Isaac?

Chantel walks away without answering.

INT. QUINN OFFICE - DAY

Quinn stares out from his office at the LA skyline.

INT. KELLER SIMPSON - DAY

Jennifer, Kay and Allison sit at their desks, anxiously.

KAY

If they are taking this long, they
could be calculated damages.

JENNIFER

But for us or them?

KAY

I consider it a win if they just
lift the injunction.

ALLISON

I consider it a win that we got
those free bagels.

They all laugh. The phone rings. Jennifer picks up. She nods
and hangs up.

JENNIFER

Anyone know any good prayers?

ALLISON

Would you like an ancient native
American rain dance, a 12th century
Buddhist invocation for protection
or my Jewish father's prayer that
he uses for the Dodgers?

JENNIFER

I'll take all three.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

A PACKED COURTHOUSE waits with baited breath.

JUDGE

Has the jury reached a verdict?

JUROR

We have your honor.

The Judge nods.

JUROR (CONT'D)

On the matters regarding MGA culpability, on the question of copyright infringement, we find MGA not guilty.

Isaac claps his hands together in prayer.

JUROR (CONT'D)

In the matter of tortious interference of Mattel's employment contract with Carter Bryant, we find MGA guilty.

Jennifer looks distraught.

JUROR (CONT'D)

We order MGA to pay Mattel in the amount of \$10,000.

Jennifer smirks. Quinn looks exasperated. Isaac's eyes well up with tears of joy.

JUDGE

Has the jury reached a verdict on the counterclaims against Mattel?

JUROR

On the question of copyright infringement and trade secret misappropriation, we find Mattel guilty. We order them to pay MGA \$300 million dollars plus attorneys fees and a reversal of the injunction.

The courtroom breaks out in CHEERS. The Judge bangs his gavel. Everyone quiets down. John Quinn turns to Bob Eckert.

QUINN

We'll file an appeal in the morning.

BOB

Do whatever you want. I'm already interviewing at Chick-fil-A.

Isaac and Jennifer hug. Isaac's Family sobs in the courtroom.

Jennifer walks up to Carter Bryant who was hiding in the back of the courtroom. They embrace.

CARTER

Thank you.

JENNIFER

No, thank you. You're free to start creating again.

CARTER

Honestly, I'm just happy to be able to go outside again.

INT. KELLER SIMPSON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jennifer, Kay and Allison are in full celebration mode. Empty bottles of wine and Chinese food boxes are strewn about.

KAY

Don't tell my baby girl I had a sip of wine at 8 months.

JENNIFER

Hey, I barely survived a visit from child services so your secret is safe with me.

They laugh. The place looks the same as before, except there's a giant blow up Barbie Doll, hung by a noose on the ceiling fan.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Did you hear the one about the lesbian, black and the crackpot ...who toppled an empire.

They toast. The phone rings. Allison picks it up.

ALLISON

It's John Quinn! He's calling to congratulate you.

She offers the phone of up to Jennifer.

JENNIFER

John, that's quite magnanimous of you. Better luck next time.

Allison and Kay let out a giggle.

QUINN

That's not why I called. I called because I see a killer. You can come in as an equity partner, corner office. Bring your whole eccentric crew.

JENNIFER
Why would I do that?

QUINN
Because this was a fluke. You are built for the big leagues, so why not capitalize on this moment?

JENNIFER
Maybe I will.

QUINN
So you'll consider it?

JENNIFER
Don't take this the wrong way, John. Or do. I find you repellent. Even if you hadn't tried to fuck with my family, there's no amount of money that would make me give up what we have here.

QUINN
You got lucky. Bob Eckert is a cretin. And we always suspected that might turn a jury. In the grand scheme of things you'll be forgotten. Companies aren't going to beat down your door because of this one case. And if they did, they'd see what's in your little mini-mall.

JENNIFER
They sure would. They'd see we've got three fearless, brilliant women who kicked your ass. I'll see you on the battlefield, Johnny Boy.

She hangs up. Allison and Kay give her a look of admiration.

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S OFFICE - DAY

Isaac shows up with Jasmin. Jennifer has Suzie with her.

ISAAC
It's a gift. My daughter made it for you. Girls, go play.

The girls run off. Jennifer opens the box, it's a Lawyer Bratz named Jennifer, that is an exaggerated version of her.

JENNIFER

I wish I had one of these as a kid.

ISAAC

I'm sorry I was so harsh.

JENNIFER

You had a lot on the line.

ISAAC

You saved my company. My family. I owe you everything.

JENNIFER

Nonsense. I owe you too.

She puts her hand on his.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I know you made that call on my behalf.

ISAAC

I did what was right.

JENNIFER

You also gave me a chance to become the lawyer I knew I could be.

ISAAC

When I heard you talk about me up there, it made me look into my soul. I want to be the person you described.

(beat)

I am taking month long vacation around the world with my family to regain balance. And I'm going to try to release some of my anger.

JENNIFER

Well deserved after this ordeal and maybe not the worst idea. But Isaac, something tells me you're never going to become Zen. And neither will I.

ISAAC

It's not who we are. And it's why we're standing here. When I get back, we have plenty of other legal work for you.

JENNIFER

I'm gonna need a bigger office.

Jennifer points to the stacks of boxes surrounding them.

INT. MISSOURI - DAY

Carter Bryant sits in front of a computer in his bedroom of his parents house. He's on eBay. There are dozens of sealed boxes behind him.

ON SCREEN - He hits "ACCEPT OFFER." We see it's for "ORIGINAL BRATZ DOLLS - ENTIRE COLLECTION."

He closes one last brown box on his bed, containing dozens of Bratz dolls. He then lays down on the ground, takes a deep breath. That chapter of his life closed.

He wipes his tears, picks himself up and sits at a nearby sewing machine. He grabs an old pair of jeans and starts cutting furiously. Maybe we haven't seen the last of Carter Bryant.

INT. KELLER SIMPSON'S NEW OFFICE - DAY

Jennifer walks in to see a bustling office, it's much bigger, not quite glamorous, but it's not in a strip mall anymore.

ASSOCIATES, PARALEGALS, and SECRETARIES mill about. KAY has her own corner office, where she is breast-feeding her new BABY GIRL. At this all female, powerhouse boutique, no one has a problem with it. Allison walks up to Jennifer.

ALLISON

You have someone waiting in your office. I'll give you a hint. She's got an IQ of 142, a 36-24-34 body type, and she's of Nordic descent.

Jennifer walks into her office and sees Michaela sitting idly.

JENNIFER

Didn't think I'd be seeing you for a while. Should I alert security?

MICHAELA

Actually, I'm here for a *different* reason.

Michaela slides her resume across the table.

JENNIFER
You wanna work for *me*?

MICHAELA
No one is more surprised than I am.
But I was blown away by you. I
think we could complement each
other. Did I mention I went to
Harvard?

Jennifer ponders this unexpected turn.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about how I acted. I've
got anger issues, my therapists
says I repress...everything.

JENNIFER
I'm sorry, too. Don't even get me
started on *my* issues.

They share a laugh.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
When can you start?

Michaela offers her hand. Jennifer shakes it.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
You're gonna have to introduce me
to your facialist.

Michaela smiles and walks out.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Can't believe I'm hiring Lawyer
Barbie.

She stares at Allison and the new and even more diverse team.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
But I guess I already have a bunch
of Bratz.

INT. JENNIFER KELLER'S HOUSE - DAY

Suzie plays with dolls in her bedroom, while Jennifer and
Charlie watch from the doorway. Suzie talks to the dolls.

SUZIE
(holding "Jennifer" Bratz)
I'm the best lawyer ever!
(as other Bratz)
(MORE)

SUZIE (CONT'D)
I'm gonna be lawyer when I grow up
just like you mom.

Jennifer almost breaks down in tears hearing Suzie call her mom. Charlie kisses her on the cheek.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
We're going to Disney world!

Suzie puts the Bratz dolls in a little toy car.

JENNIFER
Are we really?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - PCH - DAY

Jennifer and Charlie drive on the PCH with Suzie in the backseat. The song BARBIE WORLD plays on the radio.

JENNIFER
Oh hell no!

She turns the dial to classic rock. They all start singing.

THE END

CHYRON

Bob Eckert now runs a Private Equity firm. They invest in food products, pharmaceuticals and software...but not toys.

Carter Bryant never made another doll. But he did start a children's clothing line that's in a few local shops.

Isaac Larian is still the toy king. He owns the #1 toy of 2019, George, a robotic dog. He still spends every Friday with his family.

At age 70, John Quinn recently hiked K2 for the 4th time. He's still running Quinn Emanuel, and putting the fear of God into associates. However, multiple female partners recently left to start their own spin off firm.

Keller Simpson is now the go to law firm in the country for "bet the company" cases. Jennifer Keller is now ranked in US News and World Report as one of the top ten trial lawyers in the country. But she still drives a Hyundai.

Kay Simpson is successfully juggling motherhood with her title as managing partner of the firm. Her daughter owns a very large collection of dolls that look like her.

Allison Zigfeld finally overcame her fear of public speaking and is trying her first case next year. She's been seeing her therapist three times a week in preparation for her big day.