

NIKKI

INT. NIKKI SWAGGER'S ROOM - NIGHT

NIKKI SWAGGER (9), the picture of precociousness as she reads a book and acts like she doesn't care that her daddy is home.

BOB LEE  
Kitten-mouse, shouldn't you be asleep?

Nikki doesn't look up --

NIKKI  
I just want to finish this chapter.

BOB LEE  
Chapter, what are you reading?

NIKKI  
None of your business.

Bob Lee flips the book around so it's right side up.

BOB LEE  
Practicing reading upside down?

NIKKI  
It could come in handy.

BOB LEE  
Really? When?

NIKKI  
If I'm being held by pirates and they have me hanging upside down.

BOB LEE  
Excellent point - it's time for bed.

Nikki sets the book on her night stand.

NIKKI  
Story first.

BOB LEE  
No time for stories tonight, honey.

NIKKI  
There was time for beer.

Bob Lee flashes his million dollar smile, Nikki rolls her eyes.

START  
L →

NIKKI

NIKKI (CONT'D)

That might work on mom but it won't  
work on me.

BOB LEE

You sure?

(she crosses her arms)

Ok - what do you want to hear?

NIKKI

Kandahar.

BOB LEE

Kandahar takes too long.

NIKKI

Tikrit.

(off Bob Lee's look)

Fine, Basrah.

BOB LEE

You've heard that one like six  
times.

NIKKI

Then this will make seven.

Bob Lee, no chance to escape, settles into the story.

BOB LEE

We're set up on Basan Al Amini,  
small squad.

NIKKI

-- Night vision?

BOB LEE

We're Marines, we don't need night  
vision.

NIKKI

Take your time, Daddy - I love your  
stories.

END