

~~INT. HALLWAY -- DAY~~

~~In a walk-and-talk, Nora hurries to keep up with Patti.~~

~~PATTI~~

~~We -- the girl researchers --  
report, investigate and write feeds  
for the reporters. The guys do a  
pass on the feeds, put their names  
on and the stories go to press.~~

~~NORA~~

~~Wait, really? Oz was serious. He  
wanted me to team up with Gabriel.~~

~~PATTI~~

~~The new guy?  
(off Nora's nod)  
Man, he looks so straight.~~

INT. PHOTO - NIGHT

Bumper stickers cover one wall. Candid shots of LBJ that never made it in to the magazine smother a door. Another wall is an accidental collage of war zone shots, and another, natural disaster moments and spider-vein lightning across the Midwest sky.

Burly, romantic photo editor, NED STOCKTON bends over his light table with a magnifying loop around his eye.

Seated at a light table is sensitive researcher CINDY RESTON. Cindy nurses a tumbler of vodka, likes being close to Ned. It's mutual.

START

NED

Yeah, come take a look.

He and Cindy both look up as Patti and Nora enter.

PATTI

Nedders, stuff's breaking. Your cover's fate hangs in the balance.

NED

Of course it does, because this one is done early and perfectly composed.

END

Ned POV: The cover of a G.I., in a tent, holding his own I.V. bag, a fiery sunset peeking through a tear in the cloth.

Cindy gives Ned a sympathetic laugh.

NORA

~~Did you ever put an eye loop on  
each eye and walk around the  
newsroom?~~

~~Cindy giggles as they remove their eye loops.~~

~~NORA (CONT'D)~~

~~I read the short story you left me  
last night. It was beautiful.~~

~~CINDY~~

~~Thank you. It was the last thing I  
wrote, right after college.~~

START

Ned enters. Sees Cindy's distant, sad expression.

NED

Are you okay?

CINDY

I haven't slept much lately.

He looks sympathetically at her, covers for Nora.

NED

Did you do my job for me yet?  
Which one?

CINDY

Close up hippie.

Flower.

NORA

NED (CONT'D)

I left you with two choices, and  
you present me with the same two  
choices.

(friendly)

Unacceptable!

END

Off Cindy, daydreaming about a life with Ned.

~~INT. LADIES ROOM - DAY~~

~~Jane mists hair spray all over her up do.~~

~~CINDY (O.C.)~~

~~Yes! Oh my god, yes yes yes!~~

~~She's in the stall.~~

JANE

Cindy?