

NORA Scene 1

GOOD GIRLS REVOLT

Network polish 6/3/15 17.

NORA

~~I'll find out.~~

~~INT. BULLPEN -- CONTINUOUS~~

~~Nora approaches Gabriel, as if an electrical fence surrounds the bullpen. She knows she's "not supposed" to be there.~~

NORA

~~I think I'm your researcher, and I'm supposed to help with the story Wick assigned.~~

GABRIEL

~~I've got it covered.~~

~~Off Nora as she realizes Gabriel is freezing her out.~~

~~INT. PIT -- 30 MINUTES LATER~~

~~Nora watches Patti at the desk next to hers.~~

PATTI

~~(fuming into phone)
C'mon. Answer already.~~

~~Patti moves the receiver under her chin.~~

~~PATTI (CONT'D)~~

~~(to Nora)
For those of you following along at home, I've got nothing, and the Jane clock says I have 25 minutes left.
(off Nora's look)
What?~~

NORA

~~It's like you two are fighting over the lower bunk bed in jail. Who gets to make the guys who are writing the story look better?~~

~~Off Patti, still on hold, considering Nora's point.~~

START

INT. PHOTO - MOMENTS LATER

Enter Nora as Cindy arranges lead letters for captions.

NORA

Now, I get why you stay down here.

Cindy smiles coyly and picks up her tumbler of vodka.

CINDY

Cranky reporters in the bullpen?

NORA

And testy researchers in the pit.

(beat)

Do you *like* working at *Newsweek*?

CINDY

For me, it's ideal.

Nora looks at her, incredulous.

CINDY (CONT'D)

You're not married yet, are you?

Nora holds up her ringless hand.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Lenny, my husband, gave me a year to gather material for my first novel while he finishes law school and gets a job at a firm. Probably in Connecticut. So, I chose *Newsweek*. It's a dream.

NORA

What happens after the year?

CINDY

I get serious and start a family.

NORA

A serious family? Please don't invite me to the dinner parties.

(beat)

Why don't you stay here and get stories. That's the only way to become a writer.

Cindy wells up. Nora stiffens, doesn't know how to respond.

CINDY

I'm sorry. I'm just late, for my, you know. I always use my diaphragm. I don't understand --

NORA

Maybe he put a hole in it. People do that, you know.

CINDY

Lenny doesn't even know where I keep that thing.

Off Nora's level stare, Cindy does calculations in her head.

CINDY (CONT'D)
But maybe he does.

Cindy checks out Nora...

CINDY (CONT'D)
You don't think my being a novelist
sounds like a lark?

NORA
I don't joke about writing or
cooking.

CINDY
I don't joke about drinking and
cooking.

NORA
See, we're a perfect duo.

Off Cindy, sparkling.

END

~~INT. THE PIT - NIGHT
Doug, overcoat on, walks by Patti at her desk.~~

~~DOUG
You ready, Robinson?~~

~~PATTI
Not yet. Santana's PR girl gave me
the number of the hotel room where
The Stones back-up singer is
staying. I want to talk to her.
There are rumors that the official
police account is wrong.~~

~~DOUG
Then get a list of everything the
backup singer says that contradicts
the official account and turn it
over to Jane.~~

~~He kneels down, leans in.~~

~~DOUG (CONT'D)
Those will be her leads to follow
up on. So, meet at my place in an
hour? I'll order from Vincenza's. I
just got the new Van Morrison.~~

~~She caresses his cheek. Gives him a deep, french kiss.~~

PATTI

~~We'll find a place.~~~~They squeeze by her and enter.~~

START

INT. BROWNSTONE - CONTINUOUS

Patti and Cindy take in the crush of women and see Nora talking in a restrained whisper to a FRIEND.

EMILY

He said if I break up with him, it will be too "distracting" for him at work.

A flicker of delight ripples across Nora's face as she navigates past women to get to Patti and Cindy.

EMILY (CONT'D)

And that I'd have to leave the company. But I need this job. And when I asked him if he could help me find other work, he got angry.

NORA

(hugging and whispering)
This girl's been having sex with her boss, and every time he's almost -- you know "finished," -- he whinnies like a horse. He whinnies. And she would know, because she grew up on a horse farm. What are the chances?

END

~~A WOMAN IN A DASHIKI taps Cindy on her shoulder and hands her a plate of hors d'oeuvres: melba toast and baked garlic cloves sprinkled with paprika. Cindy gulps at the overpowering stench and the unappetizing presentation.~~

EMILY

~~He said if anyone calls him for a recommendation, he'll tell them that I used him.~~

DASHIKI WOMAN

~~Baked garlic.~~~~Cindy nods, swallows sickly and passes the plate.~~

EMILY

~~But that's not true!~~~~Patti recoils from the "snack" and passes it to Nora, who waives it by without touching.~~