

'BRUCE'

Rex Is Not Your Lawyer "Pilot" - full pink 11/1/09 15.

Scene 1

6

EXT. DRIVING RANGE - DAY 2

A Driving range in Korea Town. Bruce and Rex hit balls.

BRUCE

Only a matter of time before you're back on top. I truly believe that.

REX

It's nice of you to say, Bruce.

BRUCE

Twenty years and you've always been there for me. Now I'm here for you... Mind handing me an iron? *

REX

So Lindsey won't return my calls... I stopped by the firm but they wouldn't let me in. *

BRUCE

You can't exactly blame them. You kind of left everyone in the lurch, running away to Canada... *

REX

Does she even ask about me? *

BRUCE

Rex, what do you want me to say? I mean, I'll mention you said something, but this is really between you guys. *

Rex gets ready to swing. His form is amazing, he looks great, and... whack! The ball ends up in the woods.

REX

I'll just talk to her myself when I see her at the courthouse.

BRUCE

Courthouse? What are you working on? *

REX

Little case I managed to drum up: Mabel Howard vs. Gladwell? *

REX IS NOT YOUR LAWYER

1/8

BRUCE

Seriously, Rex? She's been schlepping that wet blanket around LA for six months and nobody will touch it.

REX

Did you know the woman has to work two jobs just to survive? Husband's out of the picture. Even had to ship her three kids off to Atlanta to live with her cousins. Littlest is diabetic, by the way.

BRUCE

That's really sad... Only Gladwell didn't need a reason to fire her.

REX

But if they did use one, that would make them liable. If a person collapses in front of you, the law let's you walk right on by. But if you stop to help, well, then you're responsible for what happens next.

BRUCE

Very clever, Rex, but it's a loser.

REX

I've won with a lot less.

BRUCE

True. Only Mabel Howard hasn't.

Bruce nails the ball. Perfect.

7

INT. REX'S HOTEL SUITE - LATE AFTERNOON - DAY 2

7

Mabel sits on the couch. Rex stands in front of her, preaching from the CONTRACT he holds in his hand.

REX

...which brings us to section two-point-five: Rex is not your lawyer. You are your lawyer. If you feel malpractice has occurred, you will have no one to sue but yourself. Understood?

MABEL

Understood.

2/8

MABEL

My name is Mabel Howard, and I'm here because I was wrongfully terminated from my position as a bus driver for the Vanderfield Academy. I held this job faithfully for twenty-five years, but now this firing has left me...

Mabel drops her cards. As she bends down to pick them up, for what seems to take an eternity, Rex tries to stay calm.

MABEL (CONT'D)

(resumes reading)

I planned to hold him accountable for his vandalizing of my bus.

(flips to the next card)

With no husband in the picture, I had to send my children to Atlanta where--

Mabel realizes something is off, shuffles through her cards.

MABEL (CONT'D)

I'm a little turned around here.

Rex looks down and shakes his head, hoping it will go away.

MABEL (CONT'D)

Here we go. I got my main point.

(reading, with passion)

That is why you must give me back my job! And because retaliation is the ugliest form of wrongful termination, I believe punitive damages are also in order to the tune of...

(whispering, embarrassed)

... one-point-five million dollars.

She smiles helplessly. Rex puts his head down on the table.

TIME CUT TO:

Scene 2

12

INT. COURTROOM 2 - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 3

12

Bruce addresses the jury.

BRUCE

Our side of this story is a single unexciting piece of law... California is an employment at-will state.

*
*

(MORE)

3/8

BRUCE (CONT'D)

That means, like it or not, a private entity can release an employee without giving any reason. Now, it appears that Ms. Howard is a bit of a conspiracy theorist--

MABEL

Objection, his honor! That isn't right.

JUDGE ARVALE

That isn't a legal objection, Ms. Howard. And it's your honor.

BRUCE

She's going to ask you to believe a pretty unlikely story. That a parent at Vanderfield inexplicably orchestrated the firing of a woman she's never even met... Now I'm not saying Mabel Howard is lying. I'm sure she believes every word. But this is a court of law, and Ms. Howard has to prove her case with facts, not with what she believes.

Bruce returns to his chair. Mabel is fuming.

13

EXT. BEACH - SUNSET - DAY 3

13

The sun sets, as Rex walks along the beach with his mentor/mother, ELLEN. She's 54, neatly contained in a black PRADA SUIT and BOW TIE. Rex has taken off his shoes and rolled up his suit pants.

ELLEN

How do you intend to challenge Gladwell without any evidence?

REX

Thought you might have some advice.

ELLEN

I'm not your law professor anymore.

REX

You're still my mother.

ELLEN

Oh alright... Corporations tend to throw money at their problems. Gladwell hasn't done that, so maybe they don't think they have one...

(MORE)

4/8

MABEL

He'll just lie like his mother.

Rex is now awkwardly paddling to the side....

REX

Of course he'll lie. That's the whole point. We turn the case into his word against yours.

SOPHIA

(sees where Rex is going)
And get the jury to forget everything else. *

REX

Exactly. But we'll need something more... something to challenge his character in front of the jury.

(to Mabel)

You drove the kid for a year, you must have some dirt on him.

MABEL

Even though I think that he's evil, I'm not selling out a child.

REX

So there is something then.

Mabel keeps eating her sandwich.

REX (CONT'D)

For godsakes at least tell me if Jared knows you know about it.

MABEL

Yes, Jared knows that I saw him.

REX

Then you won't have to say it in court.

MABEL

I won't?

SOPHIA

A secret loses its power once it's revealed. All we need is for Jared to believe you'll reveal it.

5/8

REX
Now what else did you see the
little vandal do?

Score 3

25

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY 6

25

Rex and Bruce pull up in their GOLF CART. Rex takes out his
putter. Bruce locates his ball on the green.

BRUCE

I need to ask you a question, Rex.

REX

Sorry, but we're not settling.

BRUCE

Settling? Are you kidding?
What I was going to say is that I
think I'd like to start seeing
Lindsey. And I was wondering if I
might have your permission.

Rex gets down on the ground, and examines the grass.

REX

That's very big of you, Bruce.

BRUCE

It's been six months, but I still
thought I should ask.

A beat.

REX

Has it already started?

BRUCE

Not really.

REX

Not even little things?

BRUCE

Well, sure.

REX

Flirting?

BRUCE

Yes.

6/8

REX
Kissing? It's okay. These are all
little things.

Bruce nods, feeling guilty.

REX (CONT'D)
Here's another question. Can a man
ask permission for something he's
already done?

BRUCE

No.

REX
So you're not asking permission for
little things. You're asking
permission for big things.

BRUCE

(laughing uncomfortably)
Very clever, Rex.

REX
Are you in love with my fiancée?

BRUCE

Ex-fiancée.
(then)
Yes.

REX
Here's another question. Based on
your own personal experience: what
do you think is overall a stronger
force over most human beings?
Love? Or permission?

Bruce wants out of this conversation. He lines up his shot
Rex picks up his own ball and begins to clean it.

REX (CONT'D)
Well, let's just think. Of all the
books and plays and poems and songs
ever written, how many are about
love, and how many are about
permission?

BRUCE

I don't know, Rex. You tell me.

Bruce swings lightly and his ball goes into the hole.

7/8

REX

Here, I'll try to give you a question you can answer. Suppose I don't give you my permission. If you really love my fiancée, is that going to make any difference?

Bruce picks up his ball and pockets it.

BRUCE

Probably not.

REX

So you're not really asking permission for anything, Bruce. Not for little things, because you didn't wait for me on those. And not for big things, which we know are more powerful than any force on earth.

(sets down his ball)

So what I'm wondering is...

Rex stands back up and looks at Bruce.

REX (CONT'D)

If you're not asking for permission, what are you doing?

BRUCE

I'm sorry I even tried. I'll see you at the next hole.

REX

Destroying our friendship, maybe? Kicking a man when he's down? Rubbing it in? Those all seem like pretty good possibilities. Don't leave. I have the floor!

BRUCE

(walking away)

There is no floor.

REX

The answer is no by the way! I do not give you my permission!

BRUCE (O.C.)

Screw you, Rex.

CUT TO:

8/8