

DROP DEAD DIVA

"Legend of the Guardians"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

1

JANE enters from her room, all dressed for work, and greets **STACY** in the kitchen. She sings One Direction's "What Makes You Beautiful" as she goes.

JANE
*You light up my world like nobody
else --
(to Stacy)
Good morning!*

Jane grabs the carafe from the coffee pot and pours into her thermos.

JANE (CONT'D)
*But when you smile at the ground it
ain't hard to tell / You don't know-
oh-oh!*

But there's no coffee. Stacy avoids eye contact and sips her swamp-green smoothie. Jane opens the coffee canister and shakes it. It's empty.

JANE (CONT'D)
Stacy.

STACY
Yes, Jane?

JANE
Remember when you went to Whole Foods yesterday and you said you would pick up coffee?

STACY
Uhm... Well!

Stacy bounces across the kitchen and grabs another smoothie from the fridge.

STACY (CONT'D)
While I was there, I met this guy who was telling me all about Clover Cocktail.

She hands the glass to Jane. Jane eyes it warily.

JANE
But what about the coffee?

STACY
(sales pitch)
Clover Cocktail will rid our bodies
of impurities and henceforth
prepare us to succeed at our
highest potential!

JANE
Are you the new face of Clover
Cocktail?

FRED enters the kitchen and goes for the coffee pot as well.

FRED
You didn't tell me you're a
spokeswoman now!

STACY
That's because I'm not, but I am on
a cleanse to prepare for my
(sounds it out)
"em-min-nent" acting roles!

JANE
It's "imminent".

STACY
(to Fred)
I don't know what happened! Jane
went from fresh-faced musical icons
of our generation to bitter Betty
in thirty seconds or less.

JANE
Well I was supposed to be turning a
new leaf!

STACY
Clover Cocktail has lots of leafs.
(reconsiders)
Leaves.

JANE
Does it contain an "I've decided to
remove Grayson from my life as much
as possible so that I can stop
thinking about him when I'm with
Owen" leaf?

STACY
You haven't even tried it yet.

Jane glares at Stacy as she lifts from the glass... Brings it to her lips... And sips.

JANE

Yuck!

She has to force it down while she heads for the door. Fred sniffs the glass suspiciously.

2

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

2

The elevator doors slide open and Jane steps out, purse over arm -- to come face-to-face with **TERI**.

TERI

There's my favorite lawyer. I have quite the flunked up case for you this morning.

JANE

Whoa, Teri. Slow down.

TERI

Seriously. Drama. Stupidity. Misguided love.

Teri steers Jane past the kitchen.

JANE

Wait! I want a cup of coffee!

TERI

Not right now, you don't. Pretty little liar boys run amok.

They stop at Jane's closed office door.

TERI (CONT'D)

I'll take your bags. He's inside.

JANE

Oh my god. Is it Chad Lowe?

TERI

Do I look like someone who cares about Chad Lowe?

Teri takes Jane's briefcase and shoves her through the door.

Jane catches herself from tripping and steps around her desk to face **ERIC LOWERY**, mid-30s, clean-shaven, who looks like he knows his way around a department store.

JANE

Hi. I'm Jane Bingum.

ERIC

Eric Lowery. Nice to meet you.

Eric stands to shake her hand. They sit.

JANE

My assistant said you were in trouble.

ERIC

Right. I... I need to annul an adoption.

JANE

You can't just give children back.

ERIC

No! No! I would never -- I, uh... I adopted my ex-husband, Carter, in New Mexico, and now --

JANE

Wait. I haven't had coffee yet this morning, so you'll have to excuse me when I say -- "What?"

ERIC

New Mexico doesn't guarantee the same legal protections to same-sex couples that it does for heterosexual couples. An adult adoption guaranteed those protections -- hospital visitation, inheritance -- without having to coordinate a mishmash Frankenstein's monster of paperwork.

Jane has a MEMORY HIT.

JANE

Oh! Oh! I voted "No" on Proposition Eight in two-thousand eight because all the guys who did my makeup on photoshoots were totally gay!

ERIC
(confused)
Glad to hear it?

JANE
Sorry. Why do you need me?

ERIC
I came home from work six months ago to find Carter with his ex. And now I'm in L.A., I've lost seven pounds... and I don't want my ex hanging on.

JANE
(realizes)
But you can't "un-adopt" someone.

ERIC
The same rights that I wanted to protect us are now screwing me over.

4

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

4

Again, the elevator doors DING and THREE PEACOCKS ON LEASHES strut off into the lobby. **BETHANY WARREN**, 47, dashes of gray in her hair, guides them.

BETHANY
Brill! Woolworth! Holland! Wait for Mommy!

She too struts down the hall, past PARALEGALS who stop to stare and MESSENGERS who drop their envelopes.

KIM catches sight of the show.

KIM
Excuse me! Hey! You can't have those in here.

Bethany reigns in the leashes and adjusts the collar on her track jacket.

BETHANY
I'm here to meet with Mister Jay Parker.

KIM
(small cackle)
You have a meeting with Parker?

BETHANY

I spoke with him personally
earlier.

KIM

This isn't Petco, so you're going
to have to leave your --
(eyes the birds)
Peacocks at the curb.

BETHANY

Is he upstairs?

KIM

Yeah, but... wait!

Bethany brushes past Kim, her head held high, and starts up
the staircase. The Peacocks are surprisingly stair-competent.

5

INT. JANE'S OFFICE - DAY

5

Jane squirms in her seat.

JANE

Eric, I wish I could help you, but
adopting Carter was fraud.

ERIC

I know, I know. I just feel like --
I'm trying to move on with my new
life, you know? And I have this
constant reminder of my old life.
What am I supposed to do? Introduce
him to every other guy I date from
now on?

JANE

Have you tried talking to him about
it?

ERIC

The last thing he wants to do is
let me move on.

JANE

I just don't know if there's
anything I can really do to help.

Mid-sigh, Jane notices **GRAYSON** walk past her window. Eric
follows her line of sight. They stare as he talks to Teri.

ERIC

Can he help on my case?