

LINDA AND MONICA

by  
Flint Wainess



## HANDSOME

With love's light wings did  
I o'er-perch these walls.  
For stony limits cannot hold  
love out,  
And what love can do that  
dares love attempt:  
--Romeo and Juliet 2:2  
Happy Valentine's Day

M

3026

Dear Mr. P-

MSL-DC-0000621

2 March 1997

I must admit it... I am a compulsive shopper! I saw this tie and thought it would look fabulous on you. I hope you like it.

All of my life, everyone has always said that I am a difficult person for whom to shop. And yet, you managed to choose ~~the~~ absolutely perfect presents! A little phrase (with only eight letters) like "thank you" simply cannot begin to express what I feel for what you have given me. Art & poetry are gifts to my soul!

I just love the hat pin. It is vibrant, unique, and a beautiful piece of art. My only hope is that I have a hat fit to adorn it (ahhh, I see another excuse to go shopping)! I know that I am bound to receive compliments on it.

3027

I have only read excerpts from "Leaves of Grass" before - never in its entirety or in such a beautifully bound edition. Like Shakespeare, Whitman's writings are so timeless. I find solace in works from the past that remain profound and somehow always poignant. Whitman is so rich that one must read him like one tastes a fine wine or good cigar - take it in, roll it in your mouth, and savor it!

I hope you know how very grateful I am for these gifts, especially your gift of friendship. I will treasure them all... always.

Monica

MSL-DC-0000622



FADE IN:

ON A CHEESEBURGER AND FRENCH FRIES

Being loaded by a gloved hand into a take-out container while dreamy, playful music plays.

**LINDA TRIPP** (yes, that Linda Tripp; 43, tall, slightly hunched over, awkwardly dressed) takes the container.

WE'RE IN:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - MESS HALL - DAY

The music continues as Linda walks out holding the to-go container and a soda. She's in a good mood.

**CARD ON SCREEN: JULY 20, 1993**

INT. WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - MOMENTS LATER

Still holding the to-go container and soda, Linda marches through the heart of the West Wing, exchanges pleasantries with numerous people. It's a special place to be, a special place to work.

She spots PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON as he emerges from the Oval Office with a 30-something female aide. They're laughing, very hands-y.

Linda stares. *Is anyone else seeing this?* They don't seem to be...or don't seem to care. Linda runs right into a SENIOR MALE AIDE passing by.

MALE AIDE

Watch where you're going please.

INT. WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE - DAY

**VINCE FOSTER**, the White House Counsel (48, tall, handsome, distinguished), sits on the couch in his perfectly manicured office, his briefcase beside him.

Linda enters.

LINDA

Mr. Foster.

He looks up, seems to be lost in thought.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA  
Cheeseburger, fries, and a coke.

VINCE  
Thank you.

She takes a bag of M&Ms out of her pocket, pours most of the contents into the to-go container.

LINDA  
I know how you always get a sweet tooth after lunch.

Vince smiles.

VINCE  
You're too good to me, Linda.

LINDA  
Do you need anything else?

VINCE  
No. This is great.

Linda goes to leave, stops at the door.

LINDA  
Open or closed?

VINCE  
Closed please. Hold all my calls.

Linda exits. Vince reaches in a drawer, reaches past several pill bottles for depression and numerous articles attacking him, including a *Wall Street Journal* editorial with the title, "Who is Vincent Foster?"

Then Vince takes out a copy of a resignation letter he's been working on.

We see a few sentences: *I did not knowingly violate any law...the public will never believe the innocence of the Clintons and their legal staff...the WSJ editors lie without consequence...I was not meant for the job or the spotlight of public life.*

He stuffs the draft letter in his briefcase.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - MOMENTS LATER

Linda sits at her desk outside Vince Foster's office. The phone rings. Linda answers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA  
Office of the White House Counsel.

Vince emerges from his office before Linda can finish the sentence.

VINCE  
I'll be right back.

LINDA  
(on phone)  
Please hold.  
(to Vince Foster)  
Everything okay?

VINCE  
Yeah.

Vince walks out of the West Wing. Linda watches with a strange sense of foreboding.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PARKING LOT

Vince gets into his car.

INT. WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE

Linda enters her boss's office, sees his open lunch container sitting on the couch. He's barely touched his food.

EXT. MARCY PARK - DAY

Vince gets out of his car, walks into the park.

CLOSE ON: HIS HAND

He's carrying a gun. He walks out of frame, and we PRE-LAP the sound of a single GUNSHOT.

INT. WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE

Linda's head TURNS. As if she knows something terrible has happened.

FADE TO BLACK:

**THREE YEARS LATER**

FADE IN ON:

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CODE OF ETHICS

It hangs over the desk of one Linda Rose Tripp. But she's no longer in the West Wing. She now works in a small, windowless cubicle in the basement of...

INT. PENTAGON - DAY

Linda's at her tiny desk at the Pentagon, sorting through thousands and thousands of photo negatives of CIVILIANS interacting with military personnel/checking out military sites. We don't quite know what they all mean yet. All we know is she needs a lot more space and a lot more light.

INT. PENTAGON - CAFETERIA

Linda eats lunch alone - a salad - while reading a book. "Dreams from My Father" by Barack Obama.

EXT. "PIGEON ALLEY" - DAY

A small outdoor area between the D and E rings of the Pentagon.

Linda aggressively SMOKES her post-lunch cigarette along with a colleague, **WILLIE BLACKLOW** (a former hippie, now a small part of the military-industrial complex). He looks out at the Pentagon.

WILLIE

Did I ever tell you that during Vietnam I came here for a sit-in?

LINDA

Yes. You've told me that.

WILLIE

Did I tell you we tried to levitate the Pentagon with our minds?

LINDA

Yeah, Willie, a million times.

WILLIE

Still bums me out it didn't work.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He stubs out his cigarette, heads off.

INT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S CUBICLE

Linda's back sorting through photo negatives. She sees one she likes, matches it to "VIP" name - in this case, a wealthy socialite named Norma Asnes - puts it aside.

EXT. PENTAGON - DAY

Linda takes the long, long walk to her car. She has a really shitty parking spot.

INT. LINDA'S CAR - LATER

Linda's stuck in heavy traffic on I-95 South. She lights a cigarette.

EXT. LINDA'S HOUSE

Linda pulls into the driveway of her quaint suburban house in a quiet, tree-lined neighborhood. We're in:

**COLUMBIA, MARYLAND**

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE

Linda enters. Her golden retriever CLEO comes running up.

LINDA

Hi.

She pets him.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Cleo eats dinner while Linda makes herself a Lean Cuisine in the microwave.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Linda eats the Lean Cuisine while watching an early season Baltimore Orioles baseball game.

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CONTINUED:

Her daughter, **PERI** (17, all-American, easy-going), enters. Peri's dressed in riding clothes. She's a competitive horseback rider.

LINDA

Hi. You hungry?

PERI

I ate at the stables.

Peri rushes toward the stairs.

LINDA

You want to watch a movie or anything?

PERI

Can't! Homework!

Peri bounds up the stairs, closes the door to her room.

INT. LINDA'S HOME OFFICE/INT. MAGGIE'S LIVING ROOM

Linda's in her small home office. She has "BOOK NOTES" spread out in front of her as she TALKS on the phone.

The notes start with the title "Behind Closed Doors: What I Saw at the Clinton White House," by JOAN DEAN.

INTERCUT **MAGGIE GALLAGHER** (20s, recent Ivy League grad, very conservative in both politics and demeanor). She's **LINDA'S GHOSTWRITER** on this book project, furiously takes notes while sitting on her couch in her tiny New York City apartment.

LINDA

Have you heard the term 'the graduates?'

MAGGIE

The graduates?

LINDA

Women who had affairs with the President and then got set up with jobs in the West Wing.

MAGGIE

That's a great chapter title.

She writes it down, underlines it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAGGIE

But other presidents have had affairs. FDR. JFK.

LINDA

This was different, Maggie. It was a revolving door. Bill Clinton couldn't resist women, and women couldn't resist him. I had a friend at the White House, let's call her "Brenda." She was almost fifty but very attractive. Very fit. And she had an enormous crush on POTUS. Was always trying to get his attention.

MAGGIE

It all sounds so...high school-y.

LINDA

It was. One time I saw her come out of the Oval Office with her hair all over the place, her cheeks red. She said she and Bill had kissed, and that night she was going home to tell her husband she wanted a divorce.

MAGGIE

Wow. And what happened?

LINDA

He walked out of the house and killed himself.

MAGGIE

Holy shit, "Brenda" was Vince Foster's wife?

LINDA

No. That's how bad the White House culture was. There was more than one suicide.

MAGGIE

My god. It must have been awful there.

LINDA

Working in the West Wing...you're at the center of the universe. When it's good, it's the best.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDA (CONT'D)

So to be there and see so many people turn a blind eye to such unethical indecency, to have to keep so many secrets about what you're seeing day after day, it was incredibly hard for me.

INT. REGNERY BOOKS - WAITING ROOM - DAY

**LUCIANNE GOLDBERG** and Maggie Gallagher approach Linda.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Linda. Lucianne Goldberg.

LINDA

Hi.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Nice to finally meet you.

Lucianne is early 60s, an old-school, chain-smoking provocateur. The walls of this small publishing house are covered with pictures of Regnery's bestsellers, mostly trashy right-wing tell-alls.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

And you two know each other as that voice on the phone every night for the last two months.

MAGGIE

Hi.

LINDA

Hi, Maggie.

Linda goes for a handshake. Maggie goes for a hug. They compromise on a handshake.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

You feel ready?

LINDA

So how's this going to work exactly? Will he make an offer in the room or-

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Let's walk Al through the proposal, then let the lawyers handle any potential offers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

It's just that when we first spoke, you mentioned an advance of four...five hundred thousand dollars. And I haven't heard any mention of money since then.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

In due time. I promise.

LINDA

This isn't about money. But I am taking a significant risk with this - if caught, I will lose my job. So I need to know I'm protected if-

An ASSISTANT peeks her head out.

ASSISTANT

Mr. Regnery's ready.

INT. REGNERY BOOKS - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Linda, Lucianne, and Maggie sit across from several senior editors along with:

**ALFRED REGNERY, PRESENT, REGNERY PUBLISHING. FORMER REAGAN APPOINTEE.**

ALFRED REGNERY

This is a brave book, Linda. Speaking truth to power isn't easy. It takes courage.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Linda's a brave woman.

LINDA

Well not that brave. I'm using a pseudonym.

Lucianne laughs/coughs.

ALFRED REGNERY

Now, the two women you talk about in the proposal, this "Brenda" and the flight attendant...both were assaulted by President Clinton?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

No.

ALFRED REGNERY

No?

LINDA

To my knowledge, they had sexual relationships with him, but they weren't assaulted.

MAGGIE

Depending on how you define it. He's the commander-in-chief. Can they really say no?

ALFRED REGNERY

Good point. Would you be willing to name names in the book?

LINDA

I don't think that's fair to the women. It also makes it very easy to trace back to me.

ALFRED REGNERY

What about Vince Foster? You were the last one to see Vince alive, right?

LINDA

Assuming he wasn't murdered...yes.

ALFRED REGNERY

Do you think he was murdered?

LINDA

I think he was a very decent but very depressed man who was too good to work in *that* White House. And, as soon as he died, the people who claim they have nothing to hide immediately removed everything they could from his office.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

In other words, if the Clintons didn't kill him, it was his friendship with them that drove him to his death.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDA

Exactly.

ALFRED REGNERY

I love that.

LINDA

But this book isn't about Vince. Frankly he shouldn't even be in it. It just increases the odds of them finding out who wrote this.

ALFRED REGNERY

I think it's a mistake to leave him out.

LINDA

No. The book is about a White House that's more like a frat house. And...and before we go any further, I'd like to talk about an advance.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Linda-

LINDA

No, I think it's important to talk about this now. My older son still needs my assistance and my daughter's getting ready to apply to college. Lucianne had mentioned six figure-

ALFRED REGNERY

We will protect you, Linda. In terms of advance, though, it's really dependent on the revelations in the book. In order to get into a six figure number, we'd need something...bigger.

INT. PENTAGON - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A weekly staff meeting for the employees in the Department of Public Affairs at the Pentagon. About thirty people packed into the room. Mostly grey, stuffy former military men.

**KEN BACON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS,** leads the meeting.

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CONTINUED:

KEN BACON

And, finally, I'll be updating the press on the President's plan to extend the deadline for pulling out troops from Bosnia.

We land on Linda Tripp, standing in the corner along with the other lower-level staffers.

KEN BACON

Oh, and before you go, please say hello to my new assistant. She comes highly recommended by the White House. Today's her first day. Miss Monica Lewinsky.

**MONICA LEWINSKY** (22, dark-haired, apple-cheeked) steps out from behind several men. She's over-dressed and stands out for her youth and big smile.

MONICA

Hi.

Linda's eyes fall on her. She checks her out from head to toe until-

CLIFF (O.S.)

Hey, can I grab you for a quick sec?

Linda turns to see CLIFF BERNATH.

INT. CLIFF'S OFFICE - LATER

**CLIFF BERNATH, PRINCIPLE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**, is surrounded by pictures/awards from his twenty one years in the U.S. Army.

Linda sits across from him.

CLIFF

Great work on the Conference this year. How are the thank you bags coming?

LINDA

Only about four hundred thousand more photos to sort through.

Cliff laughs, though it wasn't a joke.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLIFF

You've been with us, what...two years now, Linda?

LINDA

(skeptical)  
Yeah.

CLIFF

You like it here?

LINDA

Am I being fired?

CLIFF

No no, in fact, I wanted to offer you a small raise and a new office.

LINDA

Okay. How small?

CLIFF

Twelve thousand a year. You'll be making over eighty thousand a year and there may be an expansion of benefits as well.

LINDA

For what's essentially a two month job?

CLIFF

Yeah.

LINDA

Why now?

CLIFF

You know, Linda, most people just say thank you when you offer them more money.

Cliff laughs at his joke. Linda doesn't.

CLIFF

Look. Your evals have been consistently impeccable. And we just made a bunch of new hires, which means one of them will get your cubicle and you'll get an office. Something I know you've been wanting since-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Cliff's phone rings. He puts a finger in the air, answers.

CLIFF  
(on phone)  
Yeah?

He listens for a beat, then turns to Linda-

CLIFF  
I have to take this. I assume you want the new office and raise?

Linda considers, then-

LINDA  
Yeah. Yes. Thank you.

INT. LINDA'S NEW OFFICE

Linda enters. It's spacious. There's a window. She's in heaven.

She cracks a smile, only to turn and see a wall full of 20 x 30 photo prints of Bill Clinton.

These are what are called jumbos, and they're all over the White House and Pentagon.

There's one of Bill Clinton eating on an aircraft carrier with military personnel, and one of Clinton giving a speech to a group of sailors.

Linda just can't escape the guy.

INT. PENTAGON - HALLWAY - LATER

Monica Lewinsky walks down the hall, passes by Linda's new office. Monica's eyes fall on those jumbos. She stops, stares.

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE

Linda sees Monica staring into her office. Monica opens the door, wide-eyed.

MONICA  
Nice jumbos.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

How do you know about jumbos?

MONICA

I worked at the White House.

LINDA

How old are you?

MONICA

Twenty two.

LINDA

22-years-old and you've already worked at the White House and now for the Assistant Secretary of Defense? You must be really good.

MONICA

Oh, you know, valedictorian of my high school, then Harvard.

LINDA

Wow.

MONICA

I'm kidding. My mom's dating an old rich guy who's friends with a top Clinton donor.

LINDA

Ha.

MONICA

I started as an intern and then got a regular job there.

Linda is instantly charmed by this girl. How could she not be?

MONICA

Would it...would it be weird if I asked if I could have one of those jumbos.

LINDA

If it were up to me, I'd give them ALL to you. But they're government property. I can't remove. I'm Linda, by the way. Linda Tripp.

MONICA

Monica Lewinsky.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Linda waits in a short line to order lunch when Monica walks up beside her.

MONICA

Hi.

LINDA

Hi.

MONICA

This place is enormous. I've gotten lost twelve times today.

LINDA

Oh, the Pentagon is its own city. More than twenty five thousand people work here. I can give you a tour if you want.

MONICA

I would love that. So what's good for lunch here? I'm eyeing the pasta special.

LINDA

Avoid. The special's always just whatever they repurposed from the day before.

MONICA

I shouldn't even be eating pasta anyway. How's the turkey sandwich?

LINDA

Very good.

Monica turns to order.

MONICA

I'll have the turkey sandwich. No mayo. And whatever she wants.

LINDA

That's very nice. I'll also have a turkey sandwich, mayo on the side.

CAFETERIA SERVER

Do you two want fries with that?

The dreaded question for anyone trying to eat well. Monica and Linda look at one another.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

Yeah, we'll have the fries.

CUT TO:

Linda and Monica sit across from each other eating turkey sandwiches and fries.

LINDA

A California girl, huh?

MONICA

Yeah. Beverly Hills 90210.

LINDA

My son's out in Hollywood.

MONICA

Ooh. The the movie business?

LINDA

Promoting nightclubs.

Willie and Cliff walk by, wave. Linda half-smiles, then turns back to Monica.

LINDA

So why'd you leave the White House?

MONICA

Uh, not by choice.

LINDA

Well you weren't fired, because there's no way you got a job working for Ken without a White House recommendation.

MONICA

It's complicated. The truth is, this is temporary. I plan on getting back to the West Wing as soon as possible. What about you? What do you do here?

LINDA

I run a program called the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. It's a week-long intensive where we connect prominent civilians with military men and women.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDA (CONT'D)

The civilians get to see what the men and women in uniform really go through.

MONICA

That sounds great.

LINDA

You know, I actually used to work in the West Wing too.

MONICA

Interesting. Why'd you leave?

LINDA

Another member of the 'not by choice' club.

MONICA

Sounds like we both have some juicy stories to tell.

EXT. LINDA'S HOUSE

Linda walks the dog.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE

Linda cleans up dog hair with a lint roller.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Linda eats a Lean Cuisine while watching the news.

INT. WATERGATE - MONICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Monica drinks a sparkling water and watches TV - "Mad About You" - in the large Watergate apartment where she lives. It's more like somewhere you'd imagine a grandmother living than a 22-year-old.

The phone rings. She reaches for it.

MONICA

Hello.

She lights up upon realizing who it is, turns the TV off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

Hi Handsome.

(then)

What am I wearing? Nothing,  
because I was just so hot thinking  
about you calling I had to take  
ALL my clothes off.

Monica goes to the bar, pours herself a glass of sherry  
and turns the lights down.

INT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Linda's ON THE PHONE in her office. She seems upset.

LINDA

No. Friday's my night. I don't  
care if it's more convenient FOR  
YOU. You-

There's a KNOCK at the door. Linda looks up to see Monica  
smiling at her.

LINDA

You'll see your daughter Saturday.

Linda hangs the phone up. Monica enters.

MONICA

Want to blow off work for a few  
hours?

INT. PENTAGON CITY MALL - DAY

Monica and Linda walk away from the food court, drinking  
diet sodas.

LINDA

It's been seven years since we got  
divorced and his voice still  
pisses me off every time.

MONICA

My parents are divorced. It's not  
fun.

LINDA

No, but it's more fun than staying  
in the marriage while he cheats.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

Are there any guys in the world  
who don't cheat?

LINDA

Yes. Of course.

MONICA

Well I haven't met any of them.

Monica spots a MEN'S CLOTHING STORE.

MONICA

I need to buy a present for  
someone. Can we go in?

INT. MEN'S CLOTHING STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Monica picks a tie off the rack while Linda watches. It's  
a very conservative tie.

MONICA

What do you think of this one?

LINDA

Who's it for? Your dad?

MONICA

No. For a guy.

LINDA

What kind of guy?

MONICA

Well, he's older. Very handsome.  
Successful.

LINDA

How much older?

MONICA

I don't know. Older. I like older  
guys.

(grabbing another  
tie)

Ooh, what about this one?

LINDA

It's distinguished.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

But not too serious, right? Like  
it still has a sense of humor?

LINDA

Yeah, Monica, it's hilarious.

A beat, then Monica bursts out laughing.

INT. MARGARITA BAR - NIGHT

Linda and Monica eat quesadillas and drink margaritas.  
The shopping bag's next to Monica.

MONICA

Okay. I'll just tell you. He's 48.

LINDA

48? Monica! What would your mother  
say?

MONICA

I believe her exact words were,  
*that's great, sweetie, have you  
thought about going on a diet?*

LINDA

No.

MONICA

Yep.

LINDA

Do not listen to her. You look  
great.

MONICA

I love you for saying that even if  
it's not true. You know I went to  
fat camp as a kid...

LINDA

You? That's crazy. They called me  
Gus in high school.

MONICA

Gus?

LINDA

After the NBA player Gus Johnson.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

People are awful. Should we get more drinks?

LINDA

Yeah.

She signals for the waiter.

LINDA

So tell me about this guy...

MONICA

Well, he's really smart and I think he's the first person I've ever truly been in love with...

EXT. WATERGATE - NIGHT

Linda pulls into the parking lot of the Watergate.

LINDA

I can't believe you live at the Watergate.

MONICA

It's really nice.

LINDA

Yeah. I know. Bob Dole lives here. Alan Greenspan lives here.

MONICA

And one day they'll say, Monica Lewinsky lives here.

She half-laughs at her own joke.

MONICA

It's my mom's apartment, but she lives in New York.

She gets out of the car, then knocks on the window. Linda rolls it down slightly.

MONICA

Do you have a pen?

LINDA

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

Write your phone number on my hand.

Linda does.

INT. GYM - NIGHT

Peri and Linda run on treadmills together. Peri runs with the ease of a teenager; Linda struggles, while watching the nightly news on a small TV.

It's a report about the Supreme Court delaying their decision on whether a private citizen - Paula Jones - can sue the President of the United States until AFTER the election.

SFX: A RINGING PHONE

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Linda answers the phone.

LINDA

Hello.

INTERCUT MONICA IN HER APARTMENT

MONICA

Hi. It's Monica. What are you doing?

LINDA

My daughter and I went to the gym.

MONICA

You're good. I need to work out, but I'm too lazy. I swear this job is killing me, Linda.

LINDA

Oh come on, Ken's a good guy.

MONICA

He is. He definitely is. But it's so boring. I don't know how you do it.

LINDA

I don't know. I've been much happier since I got my new office.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

Yeah. God. If you weren't there, I don't know what I'd do. So I was thinking we should go somewhere really exotic for lunch tomorrow...

As they settle in for the first of many telephone conversations, their friendship building-

INT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Linda flips through her Rolodex, finds a card labeled "New York." She dials the number.

INTERCUT LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

At her office...which is also her apartment.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Lucianne Goldberg.

LINDA

Hey, it's Linda.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

There you are. Why haven't you been returning my calls?

LINDA

I've been doing a lot of thinking and I've decided I don't want to do the book.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

No. Linda. It's a good book. An important book.

LINDA

You saw what happened with Gary Aldrich's book. No one will believe it. I just can't risk losing my job over this.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

I thought you hated your job.

LINDA

I don't hate it. In fact, lately it's been a lot better.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Don't you want people to know the truth about our president?

LINDA

I'm not doing the book, Lucy.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Who do you think you are, THE QUEEN OF FUCKING ENGLAND!!!

LINDA

I have to go.

EXT. "PIGEON ALLEY" - DAY

Linda smokes while Monica stands with her, working on her tan.

LINDA

Hey. You never told me how the tie went over. With the older guy.

MONICA

I didn't give it to him.

LINDA

Why not?

MONICA

We're sort of not seeing each other at the moment.

LINDA

Then why are you buying him ties?

MONICA

For when we do see each other.

LINDA

*Monica Lewinsky.* Is he married?

MONICA

It's complicated.

LINDA

That's the same thing you said about why you had to leave the White House. It's never complicated. They're either married or they're not.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA (CONT'D)

And, if they're married, you should not be involved.

MONICA

It's not like he had a lifetime of fidelity and then met me. You know, I think you're right though. The big creep doesn't deserve my ties or my time.

LINDA

The big creep?

MONICA

My stupid nickname for him. When I see him, I call him Handsome. When he says he's too busy to see me but still calls for phone sex, he's the big creep.

INT. GYM - NIGHT

Linda and Peri are back at it, running on treadmills. Linda's sweating less/doing better. Peri notices.

PERI

Go mom!

INT. PENTAGON - CAFETERIA - DAY

Linda and Monica eat very healthy lunches together. Skinless chicken breast, salad, a few pieces of fruit.

LINDA

What did you do last night?

MONICA

Had sex.

Linda nearly chokes on her fruit.

LINDA

With the old guy?

MONICA

No, a new guy I met in the elevator. He works in D ring.

LINDA

And he took you on a date?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

He's 28. 28-year-olds don't even know what a date is. Anyway, it doesn't matter. I couldn't stop thinking about the big creep the whole time.

LINDA

I thought you were done with him.

MONICA

I am. At least until after the election...

LINDA

What do you mean, *after the election*? Is it someone on the campaign?

MONICA

No.

LINDA

*Monica*. It's not someone in the White House, is it?

MONICA

I don't think I should say.

LINDA

Just tell me. It's not like it's Bill Clinton.

Monica turns beet red.

INT. PENTAGON - HALLWAY

Monica rushes out of the cafeteria into a busy hallway. Linda follows.

LINDA

*Monica Lewinsky*.

Monica stops, pulls Linda into a quiet corner.

MONICA

You can't tell ANYONE.

LINDA

You slept with the President of the United States?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

No. NO. We actually never had sex.

LINDA

The big creep. B.C. Bill Clinton.

MONICA

I wondered if you'd put it together.

LINDA

So, if you didn't have sex, what exactly happened?

MONICA

You know...other stuff.

LINDA

What kind of other stuff?

MONICA

I'm not going to talk about it here.

LINDA

How...how does a White House intern even get the attention of the President?

MONICA

I flashed my thong.

LINDA

You flashed your thong?

KEN BACON (O.S.)

There you are.

They turn to see Monica's boss standing there.

KEN BACON

I need you to type up a few things.

Then Ken looks at Linda.

KEN BACON

When did you two become so close?

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - DAY

Peri's flipping through a guide to college applications at a table. Linda enters.

PERI

What do you think about the University of Colorado?

LINDA

I thought you wanted to go somewhere close to home.

PERI

I was also thinking it might be nice to get out of the Beltway, you know, be surrounded by mountains and nature. They just started an equestrian team.

LINDA

I'd rather you be close to home. With your brother in California, I don't know if I could handle you being gone too.

The phone RINGS. Linda goes to get it.

LINDA

Hello.

INTERCUT MONICA

She's in her apartment.

MONICA

About today...I know I shouldn't have told you, but I haven't had anyone I can confide in other than my shrink and my mother. Which is really hard because this whole situation has just been eating away at me. What are you thinking?

LINDA

I'm thinking, I knew the big creep had predilections, but I've never known him to go after anyone so young.

MONICA

He didn't go after me. It just...happened.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Tell me the whole story. From after you flashed your thong.

MONICA

Well, it started during the government shutdown last November. Everyone was furloughed so it was just the top people and a few interns around. And whenever we'd see each other we'd smile and sort of flirt. I knew he wanted me, but I didn't know if he'd every do anything about it so one day I lifted up my dress and flashed him my thong. A few hours later he had me bring pizza to his office.

LINDA

Pizza? In the Oval Office?

MONICA

It's not like we ate the pizza.

LINDA

What did you do?

MONICA

We talked. He asked me about myself and what I wanted to do. And then we kissed. And he started inviting me to his office whenever he could, and we'd talk more and do more stuff. At one point he called it off because he said he didn't think it was right and we just be friends.

LINDA

Yeah, I'm sure he wanted to be really good friends.

MONICA

But then it would always start up again.

LINDA

But not sex?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MONICA

Never. We'd kiss and touch each other and I'd, you know, I can't believe I'm going to tell you this...go down on him.

LINDA

That *is* sex, Monica.

MONICA

What? No. Oral isn't sex. Besides, he never even finished. He said if he finished he'd get addicted to me.

LINDA

I have a question: why did he have you transferred out of the White House when he was getting exactly what he wanted?

MONICA

He didn't! It was Evelyn Lieberman.

LINDA

Did she know what was going on?

MONICA

I don't think so, but she was suspicious. She accused me of being a groupie.

LINDA

Evelyn's close with Hillary, it makes sense.

MONICA

Ugh.

LINDA

You think Hillary knows? She must know.

MONICA

Obviously she knows he's cheated in the past, but that's why I think they try to keep pretty girls away from the Oval: so he won't do it again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LINDA

I think it's a political arrangement. She looks the other way as long as she gets to stay in power.

MONICA

I don't think it's an arrangement, I think she's more like Charlie Brown trying to kick the football.

LINDA

Why do you say that?

MONICA

Because, if it were an arrangement, then why does he only call for phone sex when she's out of town?

LINDA

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU HAVE PHONE SEX WITH HIM!

PERI (O.S.)

MOM.

LINDA

SORRY! JUST A SEC!

We see Peri in the doorway.

PERI

We were in the middle of a conversation about my future.

LINDA

Sorry, sweetie, just give me one minute.

Peri heads off, shaking her head off.

LINDA

(back on phone)

Hi. I have to go in a minute. But you need to stop taking calls. Don't let him get whatever he wants whenever he wants it.

MONICA

I'm only keeping in touch so that he can get me a job back in the White House after the election.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MONICA (CONT'D)

I mean, I only got kicked out of there because of him. He owes this to me.

EXT. PENTAGON - DAY

Linda and Monica drink coffee in a remote, picturesque area outside the Pentagon. It's fall in DC now, really beautiful out.

MONICA

It's so strange to have been in love with someone and then they just disappear from your life but you still can't escape them because they're, you know, the president.

LINDA

You really think you were in love with him?

MONICA

I think I was, Linda.

LINDA

I don't think so. You never even spent time with him outside the Oval Office. You never ate a meal with him.

MONICA

Ugh, forget it. Why are we always talking about me? Let's talk about your love life for once.

LINDA

There's nothing to talk about.

MONICA

Well why not?

LINDA

I don't own any thongs to flash.

MONICA

Low blow.

LINDA

Do you know how many men have asked me out since my divorce?  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA (CONT'D)

None. Not a single one. And I'm okay with that.

MONICA

You haven't had sex in seven years?

LINDA

I don't think I've THOUGHT about sex in seven years.

They get up, start walking back toward the office.

MONICA

Did I tell you my mom's in town and we're going to a Democratic fundraiser tonight?

LINDA

No.

MONICA

The big creep's going to be there. It's going to be a ton of people, I doubt I'll even see him.

LINDA

Just promise me that if you do you will not give him the time of day. You cannot start this again.

MONICA

I agree.

LINDA

*Monica.*

MONICA

I'm not going to start again. I PROMISE.

INT. DEMOCRATIC FUNDRAISER - NIGHT

Monica walks with her mother, MARCIA LEWIS (glamorous, youthful) through a crowded fundraiser.

MONICA

I told you we wouldn't see...

Before she can finish the sentence, he enters the room. He's charismatic, handsome, engaged. He's BILL CLINTON.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He's instantly swarmed with people wanting to shake his hand.

MARCIA

Go talk to him.

MONICA

Here?

MARCIA

Yeah. Tell him you want that job  
and you want it now.

Monica takes a deep breath, heads toward him, squeezes in until she's as close as she can get.

He notices her, moves toward her. They embrace. Monica whispers something in his ear.

A PHOTOGRAPHER snaps a picture of the embrace that will eventually be shown on every newscast around the world.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Linda drinks coffee and flips through the newspaper while Peri eats breakfast, reads a book for school.

Linda's eyes land on a picture from a Democratic fundraiser. It's Clinton hugging Monica. Caption labels her "unidentified woman." Linda shakes her head.

INT. PENTAGON - COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Monica adds cream to her coffee as Linda looks on.

MONICA

How can men be so complicated and  
so simple at the same time? He  
sees me for five seconds and  
that's all it takes for him to  
call late at night.

LINDA

What did he say?

MONICA

He said to come by his office to  
talk about any open positions.

LINDA

Sex?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

No. A job. Ha! But yeah, probably the other too. Anyway, I have to go over to the White House with Mr. Bacon today so I'm going to see if I can pop by the Oval.

INT. WEST WING - DAY

Ken Bacon, Monica, and a half dozen staffers walk down the hall. Monica's wearing her sexiest dress and is more made up than usual.

MONICA

I'm going to say hi to a friend.  
I'll catch up in a minute...

Monica heads toward the Oval Office. We can practically hear her heart beating. No one notices her. She heads right for the office...

...only to be cut off by:

**EVELYN LIEBERMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS**

EVELYN

Excuse me. What do you think you're doing?

MONICA

Hi Evelyn. The President asked me to come by.

EVELYN

The President's not seeing anyone today.

MONICA

But he said-

EVELYN

You need to go.

As she escorts Monica away from the Oval Office-

INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Election night. 1996. A small party is underway. About a dozen people. The TV's set to CNN as results pour in and Monica flirts with a cute, age-appropriate boy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Peri eats pizza, looks around.

PERI

I would be so lonely living in a place like this by myself.

LINDA

(joking)

Which is why you should live with me forever.

Monica approaches, looking giddy.

MONICA

It's looking like a big night for the Democrats!

PERI

Mom's a Republican.

MONICA

You are?

LINDA

I'm an independent.

PERI

Well she does not like Bill Clinton.

MONICA

I can't imagine why not.

LINDA

Monica, this is my daughter, Peri.

MONICA

Ahh! I've heard so much about you!

She hugs Peri.

PERI

Wait, didn't I see you in the paper the other day? Hugging Clinton?

GUY AT PARTY

Hey, they're about to project the winner.

He turns the TV way up.

ON TV

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BERNARD SHAW

William Jefferson Clinton has a job for four more years.

JUDY WOODRUFF

He becomes the first Democrat since Franklin Roosevelt to win reelection to the White House.

The entire place breaks out in applause. Linda looks at Monica's face, just filled with joy.

MONICA

Four more years!

She pulls Linda in for a very awkward hug as everyone starts to chant "four more years" except for one dolt-ish young guy chanting "four more beers."

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Monica lounges on the couch in Linda's office. She looks completely dejected.

MONICA

Two months since the election and not one returned email or phone call or letter. NOTHING. Linda, I'm beginning to think he never planned on bringing me back to the White House.

Linda pulls out the latest copy of *Newsweek*. The cover story is "**SHOULD SHE BE HEARD: CLINTON V. JONES GOES TO THE SUPREME COURT?**" Accompanied by a picture of Paula Corbin Jones.

LINDA

This is probably why he's avoiding you. He can't get caught with his pants down when he's being sued for-

MONICA

-having his pants down.

They both laugh. Then Monica starts to cry, surprising Linda.

LINDA

Oh come on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

I'm sorry. I just thought everything was going to work out, I really did. But I can't make these feelings I have go away!

Crying turns to sobbing. Linda isn't sure what to do. She reluctantly consoles her. As Monica cries on her shoulder...

...Cliff Bernath passes by, does a double take.

MONICA

What am I going to do, Linda?  
Should I just leave Washington?

LINDA

Do not leave just because of him. You do realize what kind of person he is, right? Look at this Paula Jones lawsuit.

MONICA

You don't think he actually did that, do you?

LINDA

I don't know.

MONICA

Linda. Come on. That he took his penis out and said 'kiss it.' That sounds so fake.

LINDA

So you don't think he had a state trooper bring Paula Jones up to his hotel room for sex?

MONICA

Oh I think he probably did *that*. I just don't think he whipped it out and said 'kiss it.'

LINDA

This is so depressing.

MONICA

I just need some way to get his attention.

SMASH CUT TO:

THE REAL CLASSIFIED AD THAT MONICA PLACED IN THE  
WASHINGTON POST ON FEBRUARY 14, 1997

HANDSOME

With love's light wings did  
I o'er perch these walls  
For stony limits cannot hold love out,  
And what love can do that dares love attempts.

--Romeo and Juliet 2:2

Happy Valentine's Day

M

LINDA (V.O.)

*Behold me where I pass, hear my  
voice, approach. Touch me, touch  
the body of...*

EXT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Linda reads from an underlined passaged from Walt  
Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* while Monica looks on.

LINDA

The creep gave you this?

MONICA

He noticed my little Valentine in  
the *Post* and it got us talking  
again. So then last night I went  
to his radio address and brought  
some books I thought he'd like.

LINDA

What books? Just curious.

MONICA

Vox, because it has lots of phone  
sex in it, and The Notebook,  
because it's romantic. Anyway,  
after the address he invited me to  
his office and I gave him the  
books and he gave me this Walt  
Whitman poem and a hat pin.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Monica. Is that all he gave you?

She shakes her head.

LINDA

What happened?

MONICA

He finally finished. All over my dress.

LINDA

I thought he didn't want to get addicted to you.

MONICA

I told him to just let go and he said he didn't want to disappoint me.

LINDA

You know, I really feel maternal toward you. Which is why I want to say I think you're playing a dangerous game and you should get out before something really bad happens.

MONICA

I know you're right, but if I let go of this, what else do I have?

CUT TO:

**MAY 27, 1997**

ON TV. The real NBC nightly news segment.

TOM BROKAW

Paula Jones wants to sue Bill Clinton for sexual harassment and she wants to do it while he is the sitting president. His lawyers said, 'No, that would be inappropriate. It can wait until he's out of office.' Today the U.S. Supreme Court said Ms. Jones has the law on her side. She can sue now. No sitting president has ever gone through this before and we begin tonight with NBC's Pete Williams.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PETE WILLIAMS

Today's decision sweeps aside every legal obstacle that President Clinton's lawyers threw in Paula Jones' way, allowing her to become the first person ever to pursue a private lawsuit against a sitting president. She declined comment today, but her lawyers declared total victory.

JOSEPH CAMMARATA

(Paula Jones  
attorney)

What Paula Jones wants is her good name and reputation back from Bill Clinton. He's got it. She wants it. And we're going to get it for her.

REVEAL: LINDA WATCHING THIS AT HOME

She seems conflicted.

CUT TO:

INT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Linda's in her office when a man peeks his head into the window.

Mid-40s, messy hair, five o'clock shadow, this is **MIKE ISIKOFF**. He opens the door without knocking.

ISIKOFF

Linda Tripp?

LINDA

Yeah.

ISIKOFF

My name's Mike Isikoff, I'm a reporter with *Newsweek*.

LINDA

Who let you in here? I'm not going to let you write some teardown piece on the JCOC. It's a good program and-

ISIKOFF

This isn't about the JCOC.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Okay.

ISIKOFF

It's about a woman you know who had a physical relationship with the President of the United States. Allegedly.

Linda's completely blindsided. How could he know about Monica?

INT. "PIGEON ALLEY" - MOMENTS LATER

Linda nervously lights a cigarette.

LINDA

Tell me what you know and how you found out.

ISIKOFF

Well, a lawyer for Paula Jones-

LINDA

Jesus, the Paula Jones team knows about this???

ISIKOFF

Yes. They received an anonymous call from a woman who claims the President made unwelcome sexual advances toward her in the Oval Office in 1994-

LINDA

Wait. Did you say 1994? Who...who are you talking about?

ISIKOFF

Who do you think I'm talking about?

Silence. They size each other up.

LINDA

I'm not going to play games with you, sir. Who was the woman?

ISIKOFF

Kathleen Willey.

Linda exhales. He doesn't know about Monica.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Kathleen anonymously called the Paula Jones lawyers? Why would she do that?

ISIKOFF

She didn't give her name, but I was able to track her down. Now, Miss Willey denies that she was the one who called, but she did confirm the story.

LINDA

Okay. So why come to me?

ISIKOFF

She said you were there, that you could corroborate.

Linda thinks long and hard before answering.

LINDA

I...have to get back to work.  
Please don't contact me again.

Linda puts out her cigarette, walks off.

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

A sweaty, nervous Linda pages Bruce Lindsey the following message: "URGENT. MATTER OF POTENTIAL NATIONAL MEDIA SIGNIFICANCE."

INT. WHITE HOUSE - ROSE GARDEN

**BRUCE LINDSEY, SENIOR WHITE HOUSE AIDE** (late 40s, a lawyer, the President's right-hand man) walks with the President when he gets a page, looks at it, then puts his pager away.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Linda gets home from work. Peri and the dog are curled up on the couch doing homework.

LINDA

Hi. How was your day?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERI

It was fine. Hey, some guy named Mike Isikoff keeps calling. Do you want his number?

LINDA

No.

The phone rings.

LINDA

Ignore it.

INT. LINDA'S HOME OFFICE - LATER

Linda thumbs through the phone book, finds the listing for Kathleen Willey, and DIALS her number.

INTERCUT KATHLEEN WILLEY

Kathleen's fifty, pretty with a shaggy bob haircut.

KATHLEEN

Hello.

LINDA

Kathleen, it's Linda Tripp.

KATHLEEN

Hello Linda. It's been a long time.

LINDA

A reporter named Mike Isikoff from *Newsweek* ambushed me in my office. He had quite a story about what you claim happened to you back in the White House, and said you said I'd corroborate.

KATHLEEN

Well, we were friends. You know what happened.

LINDA

Yes, I do. You had a crush. You pursued it. And, of course, the pervert-in-chief went for it.

KATHLEEN

That is not true. He kissed me against my will.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Kathleen, I know your husband's suicide weighs on you, but it's not your fault and doing this won't change the truth.

KATHLEEN

I know that. How dare you.

LINDA

Then why are you lying?

KATHLEEN

I'm not lying. Why are you lying?

LINDA

Kathleen, you had no secretarial skills. No qualifications for your job whatsoever. They kept you around the White House because Bill thought you were attractive, and you stuck around because you liked him. I remember the day you say this happened. You were...happy...joyful.

KATHLEEN

Gee, thanks for calling, Linda. It's been great catching up.

LINDA

I paged Bruce Lindsey in the White House to warn him about this story. I don't want my name associated with this.

KATHLEEN

Why are you calling the White House? You hate those people.

LINDA

I have enough going on right now, I don't want to be in the middle of this.

KATHLEEN

Well guess what: I don't either. I'm not the one who called the Paula Jones lawyers.

LINDA

Really? Then who did?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Linda's other line beeps.

LINDA  
That's probably the White House  
calling me back. Hold on.

She clicks to the other line.

LINDA  
Hello.

INTERCUT MONICA

MONICA  
Hi, what are you doing?

LINDA  
Can I call you back?

MONICA  
Yeah.

Linda clicks back over.

LINDA  
Hello?

Silence. She clicks again.

LINDA  
Monica?

We're back on Kathleen.

KATHLEEN  
No. Still me. Who's Monica?

LINDA  
(ignoring)  
Do you want this to be a story or  
not? Because, if you stay quiet,  
Isikoff doesn't have enough to  
write a story.

KATHLEEN  
I DON'T want this to be a story.  
And I don't want to be a prop in  
the Paula Jones case. I just want

LINDA  
Good. Then this ends here.

PRE-LAP: A RINGING PHONE

**HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA**

INT. MATT DRUDGE'S APARTMENT - DAY

**MATT DRUDGE** (a 30-year-old Internet sleuth who lives in a messy studio apartment and bears a suspicious resemblance to Paul Rudd) answers the phone in his underwear and signature fedora.

MATT DRUDGE

This is Drudge.

INTERCUT GEORGE CONWAY

GEORGE CONWAY is mid-30s, a fiercely right-wing Yale Law graduate cashing big paychecks at a high-end law firm.

GEORGE CONWAY

Matt, it's George Conway.

MATT DRUDGE

How are you, buddy?

GEORGE CONWAY

Good. Good. I'm here with my friend Ann Coulter.

REVEAL: ANN COULTER sitting beside him. She's just like she is now, only younger and even skinnier.

GEORGE CONWAY

We've been helping out the Paula Jones legal team, and we've got a GREAT story for you.

SMASH CUT TO:

DRUDGE REPORT JULY 29, 1997: WILLEY'S DECISION. WHITE HOUSE EMPLOYEE TELLS REPORTER THAT PRESIDENT MADE SEX PASS.

INT. NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE - DAY

Isikoff stares at the Drudge Report on his computer.

ISIKOFF

Fuck.

Isikoff picks up the phone.

INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

Linda enters a swanky hotel bar, looks around nervously, until she sees the man she's there to meet: MIKE ISIKOFF.

She takes a seat.

ISIKOFF

Thank you for meeting me.

LINDA

Well you wouldn't stop calling.

ISIKOFF

It's looking more and more likely that Kathleen Willey will be subpoenaed in the Paula Jones case. And you're the only witness to this he said/she said. My editors are extremely reluctant to write about this, but once the Drudge story went live, we really had no choice.

Linda takes a long beat before deciding what to say.

LINDA

The reason Kathleen can't be a corroborating witness in the Paula Jones case is she wasn't assaulted.

ISIKOFF

How can you be sure?

LINDA

I remember it very clearly. I even wrote it down for a book proposal that I later scrapped if you want proof. I saw her come out of the Oval Office the day in question. She was flustered, happy and joyful. Her face was red and her lipstick was off.

ISIKOFF

So you're saying something happened between Willey and Clinton, but it was mutual.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Yes.

SMASH CUT TO:

We're close on a *Newsweek* cover story:**A TWIST IN JONES V. CLINTON, BY MICHAEL ISIKOFF**

LINDA (V.O.)

*Tripp, who says she and Willey were once friendly but are no longer, agreed to speak to Newsweek to make it clear that this was not a case of sexual harassment.*

REVEAL: LINDA READING THE ARTICLE AT A NEWSSTAND

LINDA (V.O.)

*Tripp's account, of course, is still damaging to the president. Bennett, Clinton's lawyer, says Tripp IS NOT TO BE BELIEVED.*

(then)

NOT TO BE BELIEVED?!

A few people on the street look her way.

(Note: you can read the actual article here:  
<http://www.newsweek.com/twist-jones-v-clinton-172394>)

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE - LATER

Linda's phone rings as Monica bursts in holding the same issue of *Newsweek*. She closes the door behind her, reads from it.

MONICA

*According to Tripp, Willey said the president had taken her from the Oval Office to his private office, a small adjoining hideaway, and kissed and fondled her. She was not in any way "appalled." WHAT THE FUCK, LINDA?*

Linda holds up a finger, answers the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Hello.  
(then)  
No comment.

She hangs up. The phone starts ringing again. She lets it ring. Monica just stares daggers at her friend.

MONICA

YOU TALKED TO *NEWSWEEK* ABOUT THE  
CREEP'S SEX LIFE!!!

LINDA

A reporter showed up in my office.  
I actually defended the creep.

MONICA

You said he cheats on his wife in  
the Oval Office! In *Newsweek*!

LINDA

EVERYONE KNOWS HE CHEATS. THAT'S  
NOT NEWS. And I...I tried to warn  
the administration. I paged Bruce  
Lindsey. He ignored me. Now  
they're calling me a liar in front  
of the entire world.

MONICA

Linda, the creep called me to his  
office. He asked if you know about  
us and if you can be trusted.

LINDA

What did you say?

MONICA

I said you don't know anything,  
but that you're a team player.

LINDA

I'm NOT on their team, Monica.

MONICA

I know, I know. But, I mean, why  
not just issue a statement saying  
you were misquoted. That you never  
saw anything happen between  
Kathleen and the creep.

LINDA

And if I refuse to?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MONICA

I don't know. Keep your doors  
locked at night.

LINDA

That's not funny. Am I in danger  
if I don't cooperate?

MONICA

Of course not.

LINDA

You know, a lot of people that  
have crossed the Clintons have  
ended up dead.

MONICA

Linda. Come on. You don't believe  
that, do you?

The phone rings again. Linda looks at Monica.

LINDA

CAN YOU PLEASE LEAVE MY OFFICE.

MONICA

Fine.

Monica walks out. Linda answers the phone.

LINDA

Yeah.

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Is this Linda Tripp?

LINDA

Yeah.

NORMA (V.O.)

Linda, it's Norma. Norma Asnes.

LINDA

Oh. Hello Norma.

NORMA (V.O.)

I've been meaning to call and tell  
you much I enjoyed my time at the  
JCOC. As a thank you, I'd love to  
invite you out to my estate in  
Greenwich this weekend.

EXT. "PIGEON ALLEY" - DAY

Linda smokes with Willie Blacklow.

WILLIE

Norma Asnes. The philanthropist  
who's friends with the First Lady?

LINDA

That's the one.

WILLIE

Why would she invite you to  
Connecticut? Is she going to  
poison you?

LINDA

The timing's suspicious, right?

WILLIE

A little bit. You're not going to  
go are you?

LINDA

Of course not.

WILLIE

First you're the last one to see  
Vince Foster alive, you seem to  
have the number of every important  
person in Washington, now you're  
in the middle of this Kathleen  
Willey thing. You're like the  
Forrest Gump of history, Linda.

INT. MONICA'S CUBICLE - DAY

Monica flips through the phone book, finds the number for  
Kirby Behre, attorney-at-law. He's at the firm of Paul  
Hastings LLP. She dials.

INT. PAUL HASTINGS LLP - DAY

KIRBY BEHRE picks up the phone.

KIRBY

This is Kirby Behre.

INTERCUT MONICA

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA  
 (fake deep voice)  
 Mr. Behre, you represent Linda  
 Tripp, correct?

KIRBY  
 Yes.

MONICA  
 As her attorney, I thought you  
 should know that she was misquoted  
 in *Newsweek*. You should make sure  
 she issues a statement retracting  
 it before legal action is taken.

KIRBY  
 Who is this?

Monica hangs up. Kirby flips through his Rolodex, finds  
 Linda's number.

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Linda's on the phone with Kirby.

LINDA  
 An anonymous caller?

KIRBY (V.O.)  
 Any idea who it could be?

LINDA  
 Yeah, I think I have an idea.

INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Monica's weeping and drinking straight out of the bottle  
 while on the phone.

MONICA  
 It's over.

INTERCUT LINDA

LINDA  
 What's over?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

The relationship. He said he couldn't do this to his daughter anymore, that he wanted her to be proud of him.

LINDA

Oh please. He's said it all before.

MONICA

I think this time it's really over. I don't even think he's going to help me get a job. I talked to Marsha Scott and she told me there was no way they were re-hiring me and that it was time for me to move on.

LINDA

Well, Marsha's right. Move on. You're young, you're pretty, you're smart, and you have experience. You can get any job you want. So JUST STOP.

MONICA

I don't think the kind of experience I have is something you can put on a resume. Which is why I'm writing him a letter proposing a new deal.

LINDA

A new deal?

MONICA

Forget Washington. I want a fresh start. I want him to get me a job in New York.

LINDA

That's good. That's smart. At least you'll be away from him.

MONICA

Linda, I'm sorry to keep doing this to you, I just have such a broken heart.

LINDA

It's okay. It's so unfair what he's done to you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDA (CONT'D)

Listen, I've been thinking: I'm going to send a retraction to Isikoff saying I have no idea what happened between Kathleen and him in the Oval. I don't want to lose seventeen years of government service over this.

MONICA

Yes. Linda. That is smart. This is the right thing.

LINDA

As long as I don't have to testify under oath, I can live with this.

MONICA

You won't. They're obviously going to settle before anything goes to trial.

SMASH CUT TO:

QUICK SHOTS FROM NEWS STORIES

--Paula Jones rejects 700,000 dollar settlement offer. Talks break down over request for Clinton apology.

--Paula Jones fires lawyers, gets new, more conservative lawyers.

--Kathleen Willey is subpoenaed in the Paula Jones case. More subpoenas coming.

--Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton look like a happy, loving family on vacation in Martha's Vineyard.

EXT. "PIGEON ALLEY"

Linda smokes alone, lost in thought. This is all clearly weighing on her.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peri shows Linda the college she wants to go to that will keep her close to home: Radford in Virginia. It's a private school. The tuition is not cheap.

INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Monica's on the phone.

MONICA

You won't believe what I just found out from Betty. Not only did the creep buy me the T-shirt I wanted from Martha's Vineyard, he got me a hat and a dress. Even though he's a big schmuck, he's surprisingly sweet!

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE

Linda's really tired of this pattern playing out over and over, mimes hanging herself with the phone chord as she listens to Monica.

INT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Linda pulls out a card from her Rolodex that's labeled simply, "New York." Picks up the phone and dials.

LINDA

Hi. It's...it's Joan Dean. Please don't hang up. I know things didn't end well between us, but I...I'm in a very difficult position right now, professionally and morally, and you're always plugged in to what's going on. I was hoping you'd be willing to talk to me about my options.

INTERCUT LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Go on.

LINDA

Kathleen Willey, who you might remember as "Brenda" from my book, is going to be giving a deposition in the Paula Jones case, and I'm probably going to be close behind.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

I wondered if Brenda was Kathleen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

I'm not going to lie under oath. Not to protect Kathleen, certainly not to protect Bill Clinton, and not to protect any others who may be involved.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

What does that mean?

LINDA

Can I trust you with a secret that's been eating away at me?

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

You can trust me, Linda.

Lucianne reaches for a tape recorder attached to her phone, turns it on. Linda takes a deep breath.

LINDA

I've become friends with a young woman who has been having an on-and-off affair with Bill Clinton, who she refers to as the big creep. She was twenty one and an intern when it started.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Wow.

LINDA

They have phone sex. They exchange gifts. I keep thinking it's all going to be over, but every time it starts back up again. She's not shy about talking about it - I mean, she calls me every night and just talks and talks - and I have this feeling it will come up if I'm deposed. Even if it doesn't - even if I just have to talk about Kathleen - it's highly likely I'll lose my position at the Pentagon. I need a way out. And I'd like it to be a way that exposes this president for what he really is.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Linda, my tabloid heart is beating fast! Let's get the book going again!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG (CONT'D)

Or, even better, get this girl on the talk shows. We can get a huge payday.

LINDA

She wants nothing to do with this. She's in love. But I am interested in getting the book going again to protect myself financially. I wouldn't use her real name, of course.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Okay. Okay. What we need to do is plant the seeds of this story, whet the public's appetite.

LINDA

How?

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

We pick a journalist. Someone close to the story. Someone with a platform.

LINDA

Mike Isikoff.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Perfect. But we need to make clear this is a real, verifiable story, not some right-wing rumor-mill. You said this girl - this intern - calls you every night?

LINDA

Yeah.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

What I want you to do is go down to Radio Shack, grab a voice-activated recorder, and tape every word she says to you. When we have enough, we play it for Isikoff. That way, if you get deposed and tell the truth, you can never be accused of lying. Not by the President's lawyers, not by anyone.

LINDA

Is that...is that legal?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG  
Yeah. Of course it's legal.

EXT. RADIO SHACK - PARKING LOT

Linda pulls in.

INT. RADIO SHACK - DAY

Linda looks at a few VOICE-ACTIVATED TAPE RECORDER options. An EMPLOYEE approaches.

RADIO SHACK EMPLOYEE  
Can I help you?

LINDA  
There's no way the person you're recording with one of these would know they were being recorded, right?

RADIO SHACK EMPLOYEE  
Once in awhile you'll get some clicking or whirring on these things. You can always turn up the radio or TV in the background if you're worried about it, though.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - DAY

Linda enters, holding the Radio Shack bag.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - LATER

Linda plugs in the tape recorder. Her hand's shaking.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - LATER

Linda watches the local news. A report about an Air Force stealth fighter that crashed, injuring six.

The phone rings. Linda takes a deep breath, goes to answer it.

LINDA  
Hello.

INTERCUT MONICA

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She's in her apartment, drinking wine, very agitated.

MONICA

Linda?

Linda remembers something.

LINDA

Hi, can you hold on just a sec?

**FIRST TAPING. OCTOBER 3, 1997. LENGTH OF CALL: ONE HOUR THIRTY TWO MINUTES.** (NOTE: WHEN POSSIBLE, I'VE USED REAL DIALOGUE FROM THESE RECORDED TAPES...WITH MINOR EDITS FOR CLARITY AND TIME.)

Linda goes back to the TV, TURNS THE VOLUME UP before returning to the phone.

LINDA

You there?

MONICA

Hi.

LINDA

They said they know what caused the Stealth Aircraft to go down.

MONICA

What?

LINDA

I don't know. Something - something about the wing. So you home?

Linda tries to remain calm.

MONICA

Yeah. Such a rotten day. I hate my job so much.

LINDA

Well with any luck you won't be in it much longer.

MONICA

Yeah, you know what? I'm going to find a different job. I swear. I hate everything. I'm moving to New York.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MONICA (CONT'D)

It's like, I talk to him and I'm happy for 24 hours and then I'm miserable again. I'm always miserable.

LINDA

What about what you told me before? That they could put you with Richardson.

**BILL RICHARDSON, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

MONICA

I don't want to work there. I don't want to work for the government anymore.

LINDA

I agree with you. You should just go to the White House. Just show up at the gate and demand to be seen. Tell the creep to get you a job.

MONICA

I can't get in there. Betty just feeds me all these excuses. *He has a radio address, he's on a trip with the Secret Service, he's at Camp David.* But, you know, it's his fucking schedule. If he wanted to see me, he would.

(sighs)

I hate him I hate him I hate him.

LINDA

Well if you really hated him you'd pack your bags and scoot out.

MONICA

My mom won't let me.

LINDA

Why?

MONICA

She doesn't want me moving to New York until I can walk away from this.

Long silence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LINDA

You are a kook.

MONICA

How do you deal with me?

LINDA

God only knows.

**OCTOBER 5, 1997. TAPE #2.**

We pick up Linda and Monica mid-conversation.

LINDA

Did the creep ever finish The Notebook?

MONICA

He did. Yeah.

LINDA

But he didn't get out of it what you thought he would?

MONICA

No. I'm like, I'm sorry, it's The Notebook, I don't think anything could be more obvious.

LINDA

Just remember, he's a guy. He might be many other things, but he's a guy. And guys are notorious for being less intuitive, less sensitive.

MONICA

I've just decided right now - I think he's on drugs.

LINDA

That's not so farfetched, you know.

MONICA

Yeah.

INT. PENTAGON - THE NEXT DAY

Linda's talking on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

She said he's on drugs.

INTERCUT LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Wow. On tape. You got her on tape saying Bill Clinton's on drugs?

LINDA

Yep.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Good for you.

INT. JONAH GOLDBERG'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A walk-up condo in Adams Morgan. **JONAH GOLDBERG** (a video editor at PBS...pudgy, quiet, strange) and his mother, Lucianne, lay out some snacks from Zabar's in New York.

The door opens. It's Linda.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Linda.

LINDA

Lucy.

They stiffly/awkwardly hug.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

You brought the tapes?

Linda pulls the cassettes out of her purse.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Great, great. Jonah, set up the cassette.

He nods, does so.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Isikoff's on his way.

JONAH

This is huge. This could bring down the President.

LINDA

Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONAH

It's my apartment.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

This is my son, Jonah. He's here to help with the cassettes.

The doorbell RINGS.

JUMP CUT TO:

Isikoff sits across from Linda, Lucianne, and Jonah. Isikoff liberally helps himself to pistachio nuts, which seems to annoy Jonah greatly.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Mike, the reason we invited you here is that Linda has been making tapes.

ISIKOFF

What kind of tapes?

LINDA

Of the woman I told you about over the phone.

ISIKOFF

The intern?

LINDA

Former intern. Yes.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

We have the tapes here. We want to play them for you.

She leans over to the tape recorder. Isikoff stops her.

ISIKOFF

Hold on. HOLD ON. Before I...before I listen to something like that, I need more information. Starting with the girl's name.

Linda looks to Lucianne, who nods.

LINDA

You won't print it?

ISIKOFF

I won't print it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDA

Her name's Monica Lewinsky.

ISIKOFF

How did she get the job in the White House?

LINDA

Walter Kaye got her the job.

ISIKOFF

One of Clinton's biggest contributors. How did she get to Kaye?

LINDA

Her family's well-off. Very connected.

ISIKOFF

And she says on the tapes that she had sex with Bill Clinton?

LINDA

Not exactly-

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

She calls him the creep. She gave him blowjobs and one time he put a cigar in her pussy. Now they're broken up but she's still obsessed with him and he's promised to help her get a job. Just listen-

Lucianne leans in, presses play. Isikoff stops the recorder.

ISIKOFF

This doesn't feel right. I mean, if you can prove that the White House is getting this girl a job in exchange for her silence, that would be a story. But right now it's just gossip.

Isikoff takes a handful of pistachios.

JONAH

He should be in jail.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Jonah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JONAH

What? He should.

Jonah grabs the pistachios, pulls them away.

ISIKOFF

I'm gonna go...

Isikoff gets up. Lucianne turns to Linda.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Linda, we need more.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Linda answers the ringing phone.

LINDA

Hi.

INTERCUT MONICA

MONICA

Hi.

LINDA

What are you doing?

MONICA

Just got home. I want to exercise, but instead I'm stress-eating.

LINDA

Yeah. Me too. I've completely stopped working out. Were you able to get in touch with the creep today?

MONICA

I couriered him my job wish-list. I decoded I want something in PR. Or George Magazine. And not as an assistant.

LINDA

Wait, you couriered the list?

MONICA

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Is that safe? What service are you using?

MONICA

Speed Service.

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE

Split-screen. Linda's on the phone with Isikoff.

LINDA

Speed Service. There are endless receipts.

ISIKOFF

With her name on it???

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - ANOTHER NIGHT

Linda's back on the phone with Monica.

LINDA

Monica, please tell me you don't use your own name when sending stuff to the White House.

MONICA

Obviously not. I use the name Louis.

LINDA

Why Louis?

MONICA

I don't know, I like the name.

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE/INT. NEWSWEEK

Split-screen with Isikoff.

LINDA

Louis. The name on them is Louis.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE/INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT

Yet another Linda/Monica taped phone call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

They want me to meet with  
Richardson on the 31st.

LINDA

Why? You don't want to work at the  
UN.

MONICA

I know. But maybe Richardson can  
find me something good.

INT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S OFFICE

Back on the phone with Isikoff.

ISIKOFF

I tracked down the courier  
receipts, but my editors don't  
think someone named Louis sending  
a bunch of packages to the  
President's secretary is enough to  
run with.

LINDA

Well, what about this: she's  
meeting the Ambassador to the  
United Nations on the 31st.

ISIKOFF

How does that help?

LINDA

What if she meets Richardson  
somewhere public? Somewhere you  
can send a reporter, see it with  
your own eyes, eavesdrop on the  
conversation?

Isikoff looks over at a colleague, **DANIEL KLAIDMAN**.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE/INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT

A Baltimore Orioles game blares in the background as  
Linda talks to Monica on the phone.

MONICA

We're going to meet in his hotel  
room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Don't you dare, Monica. You go into his hotel room and - and I will never speak to you again.

MONICA

Well, I don't know what I'm supposed to do because the alternative is what...I go to breakfast with him?

LINDA

Yes.

MONICA

But if someone sees me having breakfast with the Ambassador to the United Nations-

LINDA

Listen to me. Even if anyone saw you...there's a million things you can say. You go into his hotel room, you are setting yourself up. You are not doing it.

MONICA

Well, what am I supposed to say?

LINDA

I don't know. Pick somewhere. Tell me what the options are at the Watergate?

INT. WATERGATE - MORNING - **OCTOBER 31**

Monica nervously looks around the lobby.

MONICA (V.O.)

There's a restaurant. Aquarelle. But I think it's too public.

**BILL RICHARDSON, AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS**, and two aides approach Monica, introduce themselves.

MONICA (V.O.)

If somebody sees it and gets the wrong idea-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA (V.O.)

This is not even hard. You live there. Just say he's a friend of the family.

Monica waves Bill Richardson toward the restaurant.

LINDA (V.O.)

The only wrong idea they could get is that you're having an affair with him...let them think what they want.

Bill and his aides shake off the idea of the restaurant, walk Monica toward the elevators. As they duck out of site...

...Daniel Klaidman passes by, holding the morning paper, JUST missing them.

INT. BILL RICHARDSON'S WATERGATE APARTMENT

Bill and his two female aides lead Monica inside.

LINDA (V.O.)

You do not go to the ambassador of the United Nation's hotel fuck room.

Monica takes a seat, hands over her resume.

INT. WATERGATE - LOBBY

Klaidman looks around, doesn't see them. He sees the restaurant, Aquarelle, approaches.

LINDA (V.O.)

Monica, promise me you will not meet this guy in a hotel room.

INT. WATERGATE

Monica is interviewed by Richardson's aides. He doesn't say a word.

MONICA (V.O.)

I cannot promise you that.

LINDA (V.O.)

Yes you can.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA (V.O.)

Linda, Linda-

INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT/INT. LINDA'S HOUSE

LINDA

What if the White House is doing something sneaky.

MONICA

What is sneaky? Bill Richardson's going to say, "This girl attacked me in my hotel room?"

LINDA

Guess I'm just being paranoid. There's no way the White House would ever want an insurance policy against an intern who's claiming an affair with the leader of the free world.

INT. AQUARELLE - RESTAURANT

Klaidman looks at his watch. It's not looking good.

MONICA (V.O.)

You are being paranoid. Because I'm never going to come forward with this.

LINDA (V.O.)

Yeah, I know, but...I guess I'm just seeing too much of this Paula Jones deposition shit on TV.

INT. BILL RICHARDSON'S WATERGATE APARTMENT

The interview's over. Monica gets up. She and Richardson shake hands.

MONICA (V.O.)

You know what's really weird? I keep hearing these double clicks.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE

Linda freezes. Then-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA  
That's...my gum.

INT. NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

Isikoff sees Klaidman approaching his desk.

ISIKOFF  
Well?

DANIEL KLAIDMAN  
She never showed. You sure this  
woman's telling you the truth?

Isikoff opens a drawer, takes out the endless number of Speedy Service receipts, the picture from the paper of Clinton hugging Lewinsky, and more.

INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Monica and Linda drink wine.

MONICA  
Richardson offered me the UN job.

LINDA  
But you're going to turn it down.

MONICA  
Of course I'm going to turn it  
down. Can you even imagine a  
Jewish girl working at the UN?

LINDA  
Huh?

MONICA  
(ignoring)  
I talked to Betty, she's going to  
set a meeting with Vernon Jordan.

**VERNON JORDAN IS ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSEST AIDES AND  
CONFIDANTES**

LINDA  
Vernon Jordan? Really?

MONICA  
He can land me a big PR job in his  
sleep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

In exchange for what?

Monica finishes her wine, gets up.

MONICA

I want to show you something.

LINDA

Okay.

MONICA

It's gross.

LINDA

Sounds tempting.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Monica opens her closet. There, just hanging like it's no big deal, is the famous blue dress from *The Gap*.

LINDA

Cute, but it has a stain on it.

She starts to reach for it. Monica grabs her hand.

MONICA

Not just any stain.

Linda doesn't know what she means for a moment, then-

LINDA

Omigod. No.

INT. NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

Isikoff's on the phone.

ISIKOFF

I'm sorry, what?

INTERCUT LINDA

She's home, on the phone, pacing.

LINDA

His sperm. On her dress. From the night she went to see him at the radio address.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ISIKOFF

That's...Linda...I...

LINDA

What should I do? Should I steal it? I can get a key.

Isikoff is completely dumbfounded.

ISIKOFF

Do not steal a dress with semen on it.

LINDA

Why not? You take it to the lab, get it tested. This is the hard evidence we've been waiting for.

ISIKOFF

Tested? That's not...how would I even get the President's DNA?

LINDA

Okay. Yeah. I GUESS I'M THE CRAZY ONE FOR THINKING YOU'D REJECT THE BIGGEST SCANDAL SINCE WATERGATE JUST BECAUSE IT INVOLVES SEMEN!

She slams the phone down.

PERI (O.S.)

Mom?

Linda turns. Peri's staring at her, having heard all of this.

PERI

What is going on? AND WHY IS THE TV ALWAYS BLARING WHEN YOU'RE ON THE PHONE? WHY DO YOU WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO HOME WHEN I'M HERE NOW AND YOU SPEND ALL YOUR TIME TALKING TO A 22-YEAR-OLD?!

We hang on a very embarrassed Linda for a beat-

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG (PRE-LAP)

Hello.

INT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S OFFICE

LINDA

Lucy, it's Linda. You will not believe what I saw last night.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

This is going to be good. I have a feeling this is going to be really, really good.

LINDA

Monica has a dress, in her closet, with the creep's semen on it. I think I'm going to steal it.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Holy shit. What if you just take a sample of it?

LINDA

We have nothing to match it against. We don't have the President's DNA.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Hold on.

REVEAL: **MARK FUHRMAN**

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Mark, can months-old semen still be used for forensics?

MARK FUHRMAN

Yes. Absolutely.

LINDA

Who's Mark?

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Mark Fuhrman.

LINDA

The racist cop from the OJ trial is in your apartment?

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

We're doing a book together. He's so great.

Linda hesitates for a moment, as if she finally realizes the world of people she's dealing with. But then-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

You're right. I shouldn't steal it. That's crazy.

EXT. "PIGEON ALLEY"

Linda smokes. For the first time, so does Monica. She's falling apart.

MONICA

So all morning I'm just calling Betty over and over and over because I can't take this anymore. I NEED to see him.

LINDA

Betty's not going to let you in.

MONICA

I know. She's a liar. She kept telling me the creep was busy working and then I find out he's actually playing golf. So I went ballistic, Linda. Like, I went fucking ballistic. I told Betty I was just going to show up at the White House.

LINDA

What did she say?

MONICA

To meet her at her car. She said it would be open.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE PARKING LOT - FLASHBACK

It's pouring rain. Monica goes to Betty's car.

MONICA (V.O.)

So I get all dolled up and I go and guess what? It's locked.

She tries to open the car, can't.

MONICA (V.O.)

So now I'm standing outside in the rain. And just waiting and waiting. And thinking, how did this all happen? How did I get to this point in my life?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Where would I be if I had just  
 never come to Washington? If I had  
 never met Bill Clinton?

EXT. "PIGEON ALLEY"

MONICA  
 So I turned to leave.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE PARKING LOT - FLASHBACK

Monica turns to leave.

MONICA (V.O.)  
 But then Betty showed and snuck me  
 into the Oval Office through the  
 back.

**BETTY CURRIE, CLINTON'S SECRETARY**, approaches holding an  
 umbrella.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK

Monica looks around the Oval Office. She spots an Altoids  
 box, pops one in her mouth.

MONICA (V.O.)  
 I waited in there for awhile. I  
 could see all the gifts I had  
 given him. Vox. And that letter  
 opener. And the Jewish one. Oy  
Vey: A Guide to Jewish Wit.

She picks it up.

LINDA (V.O.)  
 Did he ever come in?

MONICA (V.O.)  
 Yeah.

Bill Clinton enters.

EXT. "PIGEON ALLEY"

MONICA  
 I was chewing an Altoid, and I  
 showed him an email about how  
 Altoids make oral sex better.  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA (CONT'D)

But apparently the President of Mexico was outside and he said he had to go to a state dinner and left.

(If you're wondering...yes, this actually happened.)

MONICA

I swear, Linda, if this doesn't end soon, I'm going to end up in a mental institute.

LINDA

You know what, Monica? So am I.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE/INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT

Linda's back on a recorded phone call with Monica.

MONICA

I'm going to see my ex in LA for Thanksgiving.

LINDA

The married one?

MONICA

They're all married.

LINDA

I don't know if I should laugh or cry at that.

MONICA

I think I'm going to wear that navy blue dress I showed you.

LINDA

The one with the...

MONICA

Yeah.

LINDA

(panicking)  
You're, wait, you're gonna get it cleaned?

MONICA

It's about time. Out with the old, you know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Monica, you have a very long life ahead of you. I would rather you had that dress in your possession if you need it years from now.

MONICA

You think that I can hold onto a dress for ten fifteen years with jizz from the President?

LINDA

Listen. My cousin is a genetic whatchamacalit. And during OJ Simpson, I questioned all the DNA and do you know what he told me? He said that on a rape victim now...if she has preserved a pinprick size of a crusted semen, ten years from that time, if she takes a wet Q-tip and blobs it on there, they can match the DNA with absolute certainty.

MONICA

So why can't I scratch it off and put it in a plastic bag?

LINDA

You can't scratch it off. You have to use a Q-tip. And I feel like this is what I would tell my own daughter-

MONICA

Well, I'll think about it.

LINDA

It could be your only insurance policy down the road. I...I never ever want to read about you going off the deep end because someone comes out and calls you a stalker and the creep confirms it.

INT. CAPITOL STEPS - DAY

Linda sits on the Capitol steps, looks out at the Washington Monument.

Lucianne Goldberg approaches, sits.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Hi Linda.

They awkwardly hug.

LINDA

How long are you in town for?

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Just today.

LINDA

It's so beautiful here.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

I always loved this spot.

Lucianne lights a cigarette. Linda does the same.

LINDA

I've made a big decision. I've decided to testify for Paula Jones.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Why all of a sudden?

LINDA

I can't take it anymore, Lucy. I've tried to be this woman's friend, I really have, but she just keeps making the same mistake over and over again. And knowing that our President keeps opening that door, with a girl barely older than my daughter, I...I want him to pay.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Are you sure?

LINDA

Yes. I want Paula Jones's lawyers to subpoena me. But I need to look like a hostile witness. No one can know I orchestrated this. Can you help me?

Lucianne looks out at the reflecting pool.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

You know, in 1974 another Democrat from Arkansas got caught with his dick out. Drove his car into that pool right there. Had a stripper in the passenger seat.

LINDA

I didn't know that.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

His name was Wilbur Mills. Ways and Mean Chairman. Very powerful. He was about to put together a deal with Nixon and Kennedy for universal health insurance, but none of that mattered compared to the desires of a horny man with a little power.

LINDA

Fucking men.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Fucking Democrats.

INT. LUCIANNE'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Lucianne dials a number on her phone.

INT. PUBLISHING HOUSE

Al Regnery is on the phone.

ALFRED REGNERY

It wouldn't look good for me to reach out to the Paula Jones lawyers personally, but let me put you in touch with a man who could. The investment banker Peter Smith out of Chicago. He's wanted a piece of the Clintons for years.

INT. PETER SMITH'S OFFICE

**PETER SMITH** is on the phone.

PETER SMITH

That's...I mean...shit, that's a game changer.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PETER SMITH (CONT'D)  
 I'm going to call you back with  
 Richard Porter and Jerome Marcus  
 on the line. Richard used to work  
 for Quayle, he's now at Ken  
 Starr's firm.

INT. RICHARD PORTER'S OFFICE

**RICHARD PORTER** and **JEROME MARCUS** talk to Lucianne on the  
 phone.

RICHARD PORTER  
 Let me reach out to George Conway.

JEROME MARCUS  
 He's close with Paula's legal  
 team, has been running black ops  
 on this with Ann Coulter.

INT. GEORGE CONWAY'S OFFICE

George Conway gets an email from Richard Porter.

GEORGE CONWAY  
 (reading email)  
 There's a woman named Lewis. She  
 indulges a certain Lothario in the  
 Casa Blanca for oral sex in the  
 pantry. There are tapes. And Betty  
 Currie's in on it.  
 (to himself)  
 Holy Keerist.

George Conway picks up the phone.

**DALLAS, TEXAS**

INT. LAW OFFICES

The phone rings. The RECEPTIONIST answers. We're in a  
 small suite in an isolated high-rise.

RECEPTIONIST  
 Law offices of Don Campbell.  
 (then)  
 Yes. Please hold.

She puts the call through.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RECEPTIONIST

I have George Conway on the phone  
for you.

INT. DON CAMPBELL'S OFFICE

**DON CAMPBELL, LAWYER FOR PAULA JONES**, stands by the fax machine as it spits out a message from George Conway. It's a print-out of the email from Richard Porter.

Campbell reads it. Then yells out-

DON CAMPBELL

DAVID! GET YOUR BUTT IN HERE!

**DAVID PYKE**, his co-counsel, enters. Don hands him the fax.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

And we're full circle, as Linda's phone rings.

DAVID PYKE (V.O.)

Miss Tripp? It's David Pyke. I'm here with Donovan Campbell. We represent Paula Corbin Jones.

LINDA

Thanks for calling. I don't know how familiar you are with my situation.

INTERCUT DAVID PYKE AND DON CAMPBELL

DAVID PYKE

I spoke with Lucy Goldberg, who filled me in on most of the details. You're at Treasury?

LINDA

Defense actually.

DAVID PYKE

Ms. Goldberg tells me you're in touch with a woman who's having a relationship with the President.

LINDA

On and off, yes. Mostly off now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID PYKE

So if we depose you about Miss Willey and ask the right questions-

LINDA

I won't lie. But I have to look hostile. This can't look like my idea.

DAVID PYKE

Your attorney is Kirby Behre, correct?

LINDA

Yes. However, Mr. Behre is a Democrat and strongly opposes my involvement in this case. He cannot know about it.

DAVID PYKE

Okay, so you'd like me to go around your own attorney?

LINDA

I'm a government employee. I cannot appear to be part of this. Do you understand?

DAVID PYKE

Now, the tapes you've been making, you're willing to turn those over to us?

LINDA

Yes. I have to take care of a few things first.

DAVID PYKE

Well then I think it's time to get that subpoena out to you.

LINDA

Getting a subpoena into the Pentagon isn't easy.

DAVID PYKE

But can you make it happen?

LINDA

Absolutely.

EXT. PENTAGON - ENTRANCE - - DAY

A PIZZA DELIVERY GUY approaches the Pentagon, talks to the security guard, who makes a call, then waves him in.

INT. PENTAGON - OFFICE

The pizza delivery hands the boxes to a guy with a VISITOR BADGE, who slides the subpoena out from it.

INT. PENTAGON - HALLWAY

The VISITOR BADGE GUY hands the subpoena to a MILITARY MAN.

INT. PENTAGON - CAFETERIA

The MILITARY MAN walks up to Linda.

MILITARY MAN  
LINDA TRIPP.

A number of people turn, including Monica Lewinsky.

LINDA  
Yeah?

MILITARY MAN  
You've been served.

He hands over the papers.

LINDA  
Served? For what?

She looks at them.

LINDA  
This is outrageous!

INT. KIRBY BEHRE'S OFFICE

Linda sits across from her lawyer, **KIRBY BEHRE**. He's looking at the subpoena.

KIRBY  
WHY THE HELL WOULD THEY SUBPOENA  
YOU? I THOUGHT YOU CONTRADICTED  
KATHLEEN WILLEY'S STORY?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

It's not about Kathleen. There's a woman I work with at the Pentagon. I have knowledge of things that happened between her and the President. And - and I've been taping her for the last few months to protect myself and my family.

KIRBY

Without her consent? You've been taping her?

LINDA

Yeah.

KIRBY

Linda, that's a crime.

LINDA

What? No it's not.

KIRBY

Yes it is. In the state of Maryland, taping another person without their consent is a crime.

The world's crashing in on Linda. How did she not know this? How could she just be finding this out now?

LINDA

So if I give the Jones lawyers the tapes-

KIRBY

You will be prosecuted.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Linda splashes water on her face, freaking out.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - LATER

Linda's on the phone.

LINDA

YOU TOLD ME I COULD TAPE HER! YOU LOOKED ME IN THE FACE AND TOLD ME IT WAS LEGAL!

INTERCUT LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG  
I'm not a lawyer!

LINDA  
So basically if I turn over the  
tapes, I go down with the creep.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG  
Forget the tapes. The tapes you  
made don't even have a smoking  
gun. You need to make new tapes  
and you need to get that dress.

LINDA  
GET THE DRESS? NEW TAPES? I  
THOUGHT THIS WAS ENDING, NOT  
BEGINNING! WHY DID I LISTEN TO  
YOU?!

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG  
Linda...Linda, I can fix this. But  
you need to get rid of Kirby. You  
need a lawyer who can protect you.  
Who understands that you were  
sucked into this against your  
will.

INT. LUCIANNE'S OFFICE - LATER

Lucianne dials another number.

INT. DON CAMPBELL'S OFFICE

David Pyke picks up the phone.

DAVID PYKE  
This is David.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG (V.O.)  
David, it's New York. Our Joan  
Dean needs a new lawyer.

DAVID PYKE  
On it.

SFX: A RINGING PHONE

INT. GEORGE CONWAY'S OFFICE

George Conway picks up the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GEORGE CONWAY

Hey, David. Uh-huh, uh-huh. This is great news. I know just the person for this.

INT. ANN COULTER'S OFFICE

Ann Coulter talks to George Conway on the phone.

ANN COULTER

You know, I don't know who's a bigger piece of shit: Bill Clinton or Linda Tripp. But, if it gets us any closer to hearing those tapes, I'd suggest my favorite fellow right-wing Deadhead. James Moody.

INT. JAMES MOODY'S OFFICE

Linda sits across from her new lawyer, **JAMES MOODY** (legally blind, a brilliant MIT-educated libertarian).

LINDA

What am I supposed to do? I'm in a perjury trap. I turn over the tapes, I'm fucked. I don't turn them over, I get called to the stand anyway and have to commit perjury or put myself in the middle of this and lose my job.

JAMES MOODY

You made a good decision coming to me. There's no way I'm going to let you get prosecuted.

LINDA

That's a relief.

JAMES MOODY

I am going to need to hear those tapes, though. You know, for legal reasons.

INT. ANN COULTER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The Grateful Dead's "Uncle John's Band" blasts over the speakers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ann Coulter and James Moody stare down at the tapes in her very well-decorated apartment. A phone is set up on speaker.

ANN COULTER  
Jerome. Richard. You there?

INTERCUT JEROME AND RICHARD IN THEIR OFFICE

RICHARD PORTER  
Yeah, we're on the edge of our seats.

ANN COULTER  
Settle in for a long night. It's about to get dirty in here.

Ann turns the music off, turns the first tape on.

LINDA (V.O.)  
You there?

MONICA (V.O.)  
Hi.

INT. PENTAGON - LINDA'S OFFICE/INT. LUCIANNE'S APARTMENT

Linda's on the phone with Lucianne.

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG  
I'm so glad it's working out with Moody. Another thing I've been thinking about...we should strike now. Go to publishers with the book proposal.

LINDA  
Yes. I agree. It's time.

INT. NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

Isikoff's on the phone.

ISIKOFF  
(in disbelief)  
A publisher? Linda, you can't be trying to sell a book while you're being deposed.

INTERCUT LINDA IN HER OFFICE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ISIKOFF (V.O.)

It completely undermines your  
credibility. And destroys any  
chance of you getting immunity.

LINDA

Well I JUST CAN'T FUCKING WIN, CAN  
I?!

EXT. PENTAGON - DAY

The same "pizza delivery guy" approaches the Pentagon.

INT. PENTAGON - DAY

The same MILITARY MAN who gave the subpoena to Linda  
Tripp walks down the hall, enters a line of cubicles.

He approaches...

MILITARY MAN

Monica Lewinsky?

She looks up from writing...what else...an email to Betty  
Currie.

MONICA

Yes?

PROCESS SERVER

You've been served.

He hands it over. Monica scans it.

MONICA

*Deposition...Jones case...January  
23...turn over all correspondence  
with William Jefferson Clinton as  
well as each and every gift he has  
given...any and all dresses,  
accessories, jewelry, hat pins.*

Monica bursts into tears.

INT. PENTAGON

Monica runs to a pay phone, takes out a business card for  
Vernon Jordan, furiously dials his number.

EXT. STREET

A LIMOUSINE pulls up. The window's rolled down. VERNON JORDAN looks at Monica.

VERNON JORDAN

Get in.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE/INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Linda's on the phone with Monica, who cries through most of this conversation. It's very charged, very emotional. Monica's not great at hiding her emotions/executing a strategy.

MONICA

HOW COULD THEY KNOW ABOUT THE HAT PIN?

LINDA

I don't know. How many people have you told?

MONICA

About the hat pin? Just you!

LINDA

Well someone else must have known.

MONICA

They question you about me under oath, you'll lie, right?

LINDA

If I have to testify, if I'm forced to answer questions and I answer truthfully, it's going to be the opposite of what you say, so therefore, it's a conflict right there.

MONICA

But it doesn't have to be a conflict. Just say you don't know anything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

How? If they say, "Has Monica Lewinsky ever said to you that she is in love with the President or is having a physical relationship with the President?" - if I say no, that is fucking perjury.

MONICA

I know.

LINDA

But, no, you really don't know, 'cause you don't believe me. I think you think this is very easy and I should just say "fuck you they can't prove it."

MONICA

I believe you, but obviously, I don't have the same feelings about the situation that you do, so I can't-

LINDA

What do you mean?

MONICA

This is how - this is how family is. I would lie on the stand for my family. That is how I was raised as family. We lied. We lied all the time.

LINDA

That is just sad.

They both sigh.

LINDA

Can I ask you something?

MONICA

Sure.

Linda peeks at the tape recorder.

LINDA

You said Vernon Jordan picked you up in a limo?

MONICA

Yeah. So?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDA

Did he ask you to lie under oath?

Monica takes a long time thinking about this.

MONICA

No.

(then)

Why are you asking that?

LINDA

I was...I was just curious.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Linda can't sleep. She's tossing and turning. Seems like there's a light outside.

She goes to the window, peeks outside. There's a car parked across the street. A faint figure looks up at her. They make eye contact. The car speeds off.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - PERI'S ROOM

Linda peeks in on her daughter. Safe and sound. Sleeping. Linda puts a hand to her own thumping chest. She's losing her mind.

EXT. LINDA'S HOUSE - MORNING

In her robe, Linda lights a cigarette, picks up the morning paper. On the front page: a picture of Bill and Hillary on the beach in St. Thomas, seemingly dancing in their swimsuits. They look very happy. Linda looks disgusted.

**NEW YORK CITY**

INT. MACANDREWS AND FORBES HOLDINGS - WAITING ROOM

Wearing a power suit and holding copies of her C.V., Monica waits to be interviewed when she sees someone reading the paper across from her. The picture on the cover: Bill and Hillary. Poor Monica. Can't trust Linda, can't trust Bill. Who the hell can she trust?

**PHILADELPHIA, PA.**

INT. DEUX CHEMINEES - NIGHT

A stupidly fancy French restaurant. Jerome Marcus and Richard Porter get up to greet the third member of their party. Wearing an oversized bowtie, a suit that hangs too loose on him, and very square round glasses, this is:

**PAUL ROSENZWEIG, ATTORNEY IN OFFICE OF KEN STARR, LAW SCHOOL CLASSMATE OF MARCUS AND PORTER**

JEROME MARCUS

Paul!

PAUL ROSENZWEIG

Jerome. Richard.

RICHARD PORTER

Bring it in.

They awkwardly hug. Paul sits.

JEROME MARCUS

We ordered a burgundy that will knock your socks off.

RICHARD PORTER

How was the train ride in?

PAUL ROSENZWEIG

Short.

JEROME MARCUS

Hey, so the reason we wanted to have dinner-

RICHARD PORTER

-other than to see your beautiful face-

JEROME MARCUS

-is that we have something kind of crazy for you. There's a witness in the Paula Jones case who's been making tapes of an intern who's having a sexual relationship with Bill Clinton.

PAUL ROSENZWEIG

I JUST saw him on the beach with his wife looking completely in love.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEROME MARCUS

Staged.

RICHARD PORTER

Definitely staged.

JEROME MARCUS

Anyway, now Vernon Jordan is helping her get a job, presumably in exchange for her silence.

PAUL ROSENZWEIG

My god. You've heard these tapes?

JEROME MARCUS

No, but other people have.

RICHARD PORTER

They were illegally made, so she's keeping them close to the vest for the moment.

PAUL ROSENZWEIG

Who's the woman making them?

RICHARD PORTER

Career civil servant. Just this real gossip-y, kind of batty mom who lives out in Maryland and works in the Pentagon.

JEROME MARCUS

Her name's Linda Tripp.

RICHARD PORTER

And get this: she used to be Vince Foster's secretary.

JEROME MARCUS

And she was friends with Kathleen Willey when she lip-locked with Clinton.

RICHARD PORTER

And it's not just a sex story. Clinton's going to have to testify, and he doesn't know about the tapes. Has no idea he's about to perjure himself under oath. If this Vernon Jordan story is true, I'm pretty sure he obstructed justice as well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JEROME MARCUS

What if you took it to Jackie and Ken?

PAUL ROSENZWEIG

Whitewater's dead. Ken's stepping down. I don't see how this could be within the scope of the Independent Counsel's authority.

JEROME MARCUS

Vernon Jordan. He's the dot that connects to both.

PAUL ROSENZWEIG

It's a reach.

RICHARD PORTER

Just promise us you'll run it by them.

JEROME MARCUS

Paul. This guy needs to get what's coming to him.

INT. 1001 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - SUITE 490

Just six short blocks from the White House, we're in the unmarked suite where the Office of the Independent Counsel of the United States has been investigating the so-called Whitewater scandal for three and a half years.

**KEN STARR, INDEPENDENT COUNSEL**

51-year-old Ken Starr is at his desk. Across from him: Paul Rosenzweig and **JACKIE BENNETT** (41, a tough former football player and bulldog of a lawyer).

KEN STARR

So it's not about sex, it's about lying?

JACKIE BENNETT

Exactly.

KEN STARR

Okay. Get in touch with this Linda Tripp. But it needs to seem like she's calling us.

JACKIE BENNETT

On it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jackie Bennett's out of his seat, ready to get to work.

INT. PENTAGON - DAY

Linda's phone rings.

LINDA

This is Linda.

INTERCUT LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Joan, it's New York. I want you to write down a phone number.

LINDA

Who is it?

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Jackie Bennett. He's with Ken Starr and the Office of the Independent Counsel.

LINDA

I know who Ken Starr is. But what does the Whitewater investigation have to do with this?

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

They believe they can link the two. And possibly get you immunity.

LINDA

That's all I have left now, isn't it? At least...I guess at least the truth will finally come out.

INT. 1001 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE/INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jackie's on the phone with Linda.

JACKIE BENNETT

These tapes that you made. They indicate that the White House has coached this witness to lie under oath?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Pretty much. Not one hundred percent. I'm not willing to turn over the tapes. For legal reasons.

JACKIE BENNETT

We can subpoena the tapes.

LINDA

But you wouldn't. I'm cooperating.

JACKIE BENNETT

And we very much appreciate that. Personally I don't want to subpoena them. I want a new tape. Legally recorded. Where Miss Lewinsky says to you that she had sexual relations with Mr. Clinton and that she's been told to lie under oath.

LINDA

You want me to wear a wire?

JACKIE BENNETT

Yes, ma'am.

LINDA

Right now she's in New York interviewing for jobs through Vernon Jordan. She gets back tomorrow.

JACKIE BENNETT

But you're willing to cooperate?

LINDA

On one condition: immunity. For the tapes that I've already made.

Jackie Bennett considers.

JACKIE BENNETT

I think that's fair. We'll get you wired up, and we'll draw up an immunity agreement for you.

LINDA

What about the girl?

JACKIE BENNETT

The girl?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDA

Miss Lewinsky. Can you get her immunity too?

JACKIE BENNETT

She's not the target here. But, if she lies under oath, I can't promise she won't be prosecuted.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - LATER

Linda enters Peri's room. Peri's in bed reading with a night light on.

LINDA

Hi.

PERI

Hi.

Linda sits on the edge of the bed.

LINDA

Some men from the FBI and the special prosecutor's office are going to be coming over.

PERI

What?

LINDA

Monica's been having an affair with Bill Clinton. He's helping her get a job in exchange for false testimony in a lawsuit. And I've been recording my phone calls with her.

PERI

Why didn't you just tell me a long time ago?

LINDA

I didn't want you to have to hear about such things.

(then)

I might lose my job over this, but no matter what happens, I will take care of you. Always.

Peri considers for a long moment. Then-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERI

I'm proud of you.

Linda hugs her daughter.

SFX: A RINGING PHONE

INT. MONICA'S APARTMENT

Monica enters, holding a suitcase. The tag on it tells us she's coming from New York. She grabs the ringing phone.

MONICA

Hello.

For once, it's not Linda. It's a woman's voice.

ALLYN (V.O.)

Monica?

MONICA

Yeah.

ALLYN (V.O.)

This is Allyn Seidman from your interview at MFH this morning.

MONICA

Hi Allyn.

ALLYN

I want to formally offer you a position on the PR team at Revlon.

MONICA

I want to accept. I definitely want to accept!

Monica looks like she's about to cry tears of joy.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Linda tidies up and dusts off some antiques when there's a knock at the door. The dog starts barking.

LINDA

CLEO! ENOUGH!

She takes a deep breath, goes to the door. Opens it. Jackie Bennett stands there with four other agents.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKIE BENNETT

We'll try to make this as quick as possible.

JUMP CUT TO:

Agents absolutely tearing the place apart as they look through everything.

Linda watches, lights a cigarette. First time she's smoked inside in the film. Is she doing the right thing? She wants to believe she is.

LINDA (PRE-LAP)

How's 2:45?

INT. PENTAGON - THE NEXT DAY

Linda's on the phone with Monica.

LINDA

At the Ritz over in Pentagon City.

INTERCUT MONICA

At her desk at the Pentagon.

MONICA

That's great. We have so much to catch up on.

REVEAL: MONICA'S COMPUTER

She's typing up her 2 Weeks Notice.

INT. SUBWAY - LATER

A steely, determined Linda rides the metro to Pentagon City.

EXT. STREET

Linda walks toward the Ritz Carlton.

LINDA (V.O.)

*This is happening. This is real.*

INT. RITZ CARLTON

Linda walks through the lobby, wipes away a stream of sweat.

LINDA (V.O.)  
*Is everyone looking? Do they know?  
 I'm so nervous. I am drenched with  
 perspiration.*

INT. RITZ CARLTON - ROOM 908

A team of FBI agents, mostly male but a few female, greet Linda, explain how this is going to go.

LINDA (V.O.)  
*A Grisham-like experience.  
 Horrifying.*

JUMP CUT TO:

One of the female agents wires up Linda.

LINDA (V.O.)  
*Monica will be fine. She's young  
 and rich and beautiful. This isn't  
 about her. It's about the people  
 who betrayed this country, who  
 kicked me out of the White House  
 for what I saw and left me to rot  
 in a basement.*

JUMP CUT TO:

Wired Linda reads over a statement.

LINDA (V.O.)  
*This is good. This is right.  
 History might not know my name,  
 but it will validate me.*

FBI AGENT  
 It states that you've agreed to be  
 wired by the FBI and that any  
 recordings you make today can and  
 will be used in court proceedings  
 by the Office of the Independent  
 Counsel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Yes. But I was promised immunity.  
Why doesn't it say anything about  
immunity in this document?

FBI AGENT

I'm sure it was just an oversight.  
You can discuss with Mr. Bennett  
later. We can't move forward  
unless you sign it.

LINDA

But-

FBI AGENT

It's in your interest to  
cooperate, ma'am.

Linda signs.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - PIANO BAR

Linda nervously smokes at a table in the corner. Monica  
approaches. She looks nervous too.

MONICA

Oh my god, happy New Year.

LINDA

Oh my god, how are you?

MONICA

I mean...

Monica hugs her. Linda quickly gets out of it lest Monica  
feel the wire. They sit.

LINDA

How did New York go?

MONICA

Terrible. I had a disastrous  
interview at Revlon. I don't think  
I'll ever get another job.

We know Monica's lying. Clearly she doesn't trust Linda  
anymore.

LINDA

Really? With the President's super-  
lawyer behind you? That's  
surprising.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A WAITRESS approaches.

WAITRESS

Can I get you ladies some coffee?

LINDA

Yes. Black.

MONICA

Sugar.

The waitress heads off.

LINDA

It's strange not seeing you at work anymore. It's lonely.

MONICA

Oh yeah, I'm sure.

LINDA

I'm serious. I left the Christmas party at 10:30.

Monica smiles, relaxes.

LINDA

Anyway, so tell me more about the job stuff and what Vernon Jordan's doing about it.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - ROOM 908

FBI agents sit around trying to listen to the conversation, but it's utter silence. Linda's transmitter isn't working.

FBI AGENT

What the hell is going on? WHY CAN'T WE HEAR THEM?

INT. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Jackie Bennett and his team gather around the phone.

JACKIE BENNETT

What do you mean it's not working? MAKE IT WORK, OR GET A TEAM DOWN THERE RIGHT NOW!

He slams the phone down.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - PIANO BAR

Linda smokes and drinks coffee.

LINDA

Are they pressuring you to sign an affidavit? Because I'd say do not sign any affidavit until you one hundred percent have a new job with a salary and a start date. You need to be very clear about that. You'll only testify the way they want in exchange for the job YOU want.

Linda's going for blood. Monica doesn't take the bait.

MONICA

You keep giving me all this advice, but what I really need from you is just to be my friend.

LINDA

I am.

MONICA

No. Do you know what a friend would say? A friend would say, I don't know anything about this crazy story of Monica and Bill Clinton having a sexual relationship.

LINDA

That's not a fair thing to ask of a friend. I won't lie under oath. I'm not going to jail.

MONICA

I know, I know. You keep saying that. It's just, you wouldn't go to jail, because who is going to contradict you? No one, Linda. We're the only real witnesses here.

Two FBI agents from the hotel room take a seat next to Linda and Monica. Linda gives them a quick look like 'is something wrong?' They turn away.

MONICA

Do you know them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

No. Why would I know them?

Monica leans in close.

MONICA

What if I wrote you a check?

LINDA

Monica.

MONICA

I'm serious, Linda. I have money.  
I'm part owner of a condo in  
Australia. I can sell it. And  
write you a big check.

LINDA

If I'm asked under oath if you and  
the President had an affair, I  
will not lie.

MONICA

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO STUBBORN?  
All of this would be fine if you'd  
just back me up. Everyone wins.  
You win, I win, the country wins.  
You're going to ruin all of that  
just because you're so damn moral?

LINDA

I have to pee.

Linda gets up, heads off. As soon as she's out of  
sight...

...Monica grabs Linda's bag, starts rummaging through it.  
She looks up, sees the FBI agents staring at her.

MONICA

Just looking for a mint.

They turn away.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - BATHROOM

Linda enters the bathroom. A FEMALE FBI AGENT is waiting  
for her.

FEMALE FBI AGENT

Your mike's broken.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

What?

She pulls Linda into a stall, reaches in Linda's bra.

FEMALE FBI AGENT

They didn't get any of that.

LINDA

You have got to be joking.

FEMALE FBI AGENT

I'm going to re-mike you.

FEMALE FBI AGENT

We need her clearly saying she had an affair with Bill Clinton, that she's been encouraged to perjure herself, and that she'd like you to do the same.

LINDA

HOW DO YOU SUGGEST I DO THAT WHEN I'VE ALREADY COVERED THAT WITH HER?!

The agent just shrugs. They both emerge from the stall just as a HIGH SOCIETY WOMAN enters the bathroom, looks dumbfounded.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - PIANO BAR

Linda returns to the table.

MONICA

Hey. Let's pay and get out of here.

LINDA

Actually, can we stay and splurge on a cheeseburger and fries? They're so good here.

MONICA

I don't think I can say no to that.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - ROOM 908

They can all hear the recording. They cheer.

INT. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Jackie Bennett hangs up the phone.

JACKIE BENNETT

YES!

Everyone cheers.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - PIANO BAR

Linda and Monica eat cheeseburgers and fries.

MONICA

Okay. You win. This burger is  
incredible and wrong in every way.

Linda smiles.

LINDA

I want you to know that I care  
about you. Which is why I just  
don't understand, after everything  
the creep's done to you, why you'd  
perjure yourself for him.

Monica gives Linda a long look.

MONICA

I care about him.

LINDA

He's a cheater. A serial cheater.

MONICA

You know all presidents cheat. The  
job's just too much.

Linda snaps, just a little.

LINDA

That's not true. These people are  
different. People are dead.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - ROOM 908

FBI AGENT

What the fuck is she doing?

INT. RITZ CARLTON - PIANO BAR

MONICA

Linda, they didn't have anyone killed. Deep down you know that, right?

LINDA

You still think you have a future with him, don't you?

Monica doesn't answer. Linda sees one of those FBI agents paying their bill.

LINDA

Sorry. Let's...

She has an idea.

LINDA

You know, maybe you're right. Maybe I should just say I don't know anything. Who's going to contradict me?

MONICA

Yes!

LINDA

I mean, how many people even know? Bill, Nancy, Betty, your ex, your mom, Vernon Jordan.

MONICA

My mom and my ex aren't going to testify against me. And Nancy and Betty and Vernon certainly aren't going to testify against the President.

LINDA

There are so many wild cards. What if - what if someone was recording you? Tapping your phone?

Monica answers obliviously.

MONICA

I asked Vernon what would happen if someone was tapping my phone and heard everything and he said, 'As long as you say it didn't happen, then it didn't happen.'

INT. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Jackie Bennett's jaw drops.

JACKIE BENNETT  
Well that is good stuff.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - PIANO BAR

MONICA  
And he promised me that no matter  
what I said on the stand I  
wouldn't go to jail.

Music kicks in.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - ROOM 908

The FBI agents listen closely.

INT. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Jackie Bennett's got a growing group around him. They're  
all rapt.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - PIANO BAR

Tables have emptied around them. Monica's still talking.  
Linda grabs her credit card to pay.

JUMP CUT TO:

Linda and Monica put on their coats.

LINDA  
This was fun. We should do it  
again soon.

Monica nods. Seems like they both know things will never  
be the same between them.

MONICA  
Hey, Linda. Do you ever wish you  
never met me?

Linda half-smiles.

LINDA  
Let's talk in a couple days.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She hugs Monica.

LINDA  
But no, of course not.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - ROOM 908

Linda enters. They all applaud for her.

LINDA  
Did you get what you needed?

She rips her own wire out.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Linda has a quiet, homemade dinner with Peri.

PERI  
You know, I've been thinking. It  
might be nice to go to college  
nearby. So we can still do this.

The phone rings. And rings.

LINDA  
I'm just going to ignore it.

Peri smiles.

INT. LINDA'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Linda is writing an email when Monica knocks at her door.  
Linda waves her in.

MONICA  
I was hoping we could go for a  
ride. There's something I need to  
show you.

LINDA  
It's not semen again, is it?

INT. MONICA'S CAR - LATER

Monica pulls the car into a parking lot, hands Linda a  
three page, single-spaced memo titled 'Talking Points for  
Affidavit.'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

What's this?

MONICA

Just read it.

LINDA

(reading)

*Regarding Kathleen Willey: you now do not believe that what she claimed happened really happened. You now find it completely plausible that she herself smeared her lipstick, untucked blouse, etc.*

(then)

*Regarding Monica Lewinsky: she should be dismissed as a huge liar. She left the White House because she was stalking the P.*

MONICA

What do you think?

INT. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Jackie Bennett looks over the talking points. Linda stands with him.

JACKIE BENNETT

If the White House wrote this, it's subornation of perjury. Did she say the White House wrote this?

LINDA

She didn't say they didn't.

INT. NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE - DAY

Mike Isikoff marches in to Dan Klaidman's office.

ISIKOFF

Are you ready for this? I just got off the phone with a reliable source who told me Linda Tripp's now working for Ken Starr. They ran a sting on Monica Lewinsky at the Ritz, and they have what they believe to be evidence of subornation of perjury.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ISIKOFF (CONT'D)

If we want to publish, we have to act real fast.

DANIEL KLAIDMAN

Ken Starr? How the fuck did it get that high?

Isikoff shakes his head.

DANIEL KLAIDMAN

How many sides is this woman playing?

ISIKOFF

I think just one: hers.

INT. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Isikoff sits across from Jackie Bennett and two of his deputies.

ISIKOFF

I know about Linda Tripp, Monica Lewinsky, the sting, the tapes. I know about the courier receipts linking Monica directly to Betty Currie. I know about how your office has suddenly shifted its entire investigation to focus on sex. And I want to publish all of it tomorrow.

JACKIE BENNETT

Mike, you can't do that. You publish now, you blow this entire operation.

ISIKOFF

I thought you already had your evidence, so how is publishing going to blow it?

JACKIE BENNETT

You know full well the moment this hits the press is the moment politics take over. And I'm not interested in politics, Mike. I'm interested in justice. All we're asking for is a few days.

Isikoff thinks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ISIKOFF

Every time I hold off, I get scooped by a nut-job who lives in a one bedroom apartment in Los Angeles and wears a fucking fedora. I don't know if you're feeding him info or Paula's lawyers are, but I need to publish what I have. The tapes. The informant. I'm naming names. Everything. I'll give you 24 hours before I go to my editors.

Jackie extends his hand.

JACKIE BENNETT

Fair enough.

Isikoff shakes his hand.

INT. MCI CENTER - NIGHT

**ERIC HOLDER, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**, sits in a suite at the MCI Center, cheering on the Washington Wizards, when his beeper goes off.

A message from Jackie Bennett: *something has come up and it could be serious.*

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: THE PHONE

Still just ringing and ringing. Finally Linda grabs it.

LINDA

WHAT?

INTERCUT LUCIANNE

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

Isikoff's about to name you in *Newsweek*. The Justice Department's giving Ken Starr permission to widen the investigation. They want to flip Monica before the story leaks. And they need your help.

LINDA

They're naming me? I'm...I'm not the story.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCIANNE GOLDBERG

I'm sure you'll be a footnote. The story is Monica and Bill.

Off Linda, knowing everything's about to change-

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - LATER

Linda calls Monica.

LINDA

Hi, it's me. Can we get together for lunch tomorrow?

INT. SUBWAY

Linda's back on the subway, trying to remain calm.

INT. PENTAGON CITY MALL

Linda walks toward the escalator.

INT. PENTAGON CITY MALL - FOOD COURT - DAY

Monica nurses a soda. She spots Linda coming down the escalator toward her.

Monica waves. Linda waves back. Monica moves Linda. Linda moves toward Monica.

And then Monica is INTERCEPTED by two very serious-looking men. They flash their badges.

FBI AGENT AT MALL

Miss Lewinsky, I'm Steve, this is Patrick, we're agents with the FBI.

Linda's POV. She watches Monica, sees the absolute fear in her eyes. For a moment we get the sense she's regretting everything she's done.

But then her FBI handlers approach Linda, and Monica can see it's her friend who did this to her.

INT. RITZ CARLTON - ROOM 1012

**MIKE EMMICK** (handsome, smooth) talks to Monica, who's seated on a couch, staring down at her feet.

MIKE EMMICK

We have you on tape promising to lie under oath, we have a knowingly false affidavit that you signed, and we have a credible case of witness tampering. These are all felonies. However, if you cooperate, there's no reason this office needs to pursue any of that further.

Monica looks up. She's crying.

MONICA

I want to call my mom.

MIKE

I understand how you're feeling right now. I want to help.

MONICA

No you don't. I want my mom.

MIKE

You're scared. And feeling betrayed.

MONICA

Yes. By that treacherous bitch.

REVEAL: LINDA

Seated on a couch nearby. Looking like she'd rather be anywhere else.

LINDA

They got me too.

MONICA

Oh really Linda? Oh they got you too? That's why you're sitting there and I'm being interrogated? How stupid am I...how stupid am I to believe you were my friend.

LINDA

I had no choice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONICA

YOU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TAPE OUR  
PHONE CALLS? TO SET ME UP? HOW  
DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE?

LINDA

This has been going on for two  
years. You could have stopped it  
at any point.

MONICA

Fuck you.

LINDA

I never asked to know. I never  
wanted to know. But you just kept  
calling.

MONICA

Yeah, keep telling yourself that.

Linda gets up.

LINDA

I'll leave.

MONICA

NO.

Monica turns to Emmick.

MONICA

Make her stay and watch. Make her  
see how she's ruined my life.

LINDA

Ruined your life? Monica, you have  
no job, no friends, and you live  
in a fantasy that you and the  
President of the United States are  
going to run away together.

MONICA

For your information, I got a job.  
This was all about to be over. I  
just lied to you because I knew I  
couldn't trust you anymore.

MIKE EMMICK

Ladies-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MONICA  
 NO. I'M NOT SAYING A GOD DAMN WORD  
 UNTIL YOU LET ME CALL MY MOTHER.  
 (to Linda)  
She'd never betray me.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Linda returns home, closes the door behind her...

...and collapses.

SMASH CUT TO:

A SERIES OF ONLINE ARTICLES/NEWSPAPER HEADLINES/NEWS  
 REPORTS PLAYING OVER A BLACK SCREEN.

THE DRUDGE REPORT, 1/17/1998: "NEWSWEEK EDITORS KILL  
 STORY ON WHITE HOUSE INTERN; 23-YEAR OLD, FORMER WHITE  
 HOUSE INTERN, HAD SEX RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT."

WASHINGTON POST, 1/21/1998: "CLINTON ACCUSED OF URGING  
 AIDE TO LIE."

NEW YORK TIMES, 1/22/1998: "PRESIDENT UNDER FIRE;  
 FRIENDSHIP OF 2 WOMEN SLOWLY LED TO THE CRISIS."

NUMEROUS NIGHTLY NEWS SHOWS CLIPS FROM 1/21-1/24 TALKING  
 ABOUT MONICA AND LINDA

TALKING HEADS ON THE SUNDAY POLITICAL SHOWS AND ON  
 CROSSFIRE ARGUING ABOUT THE ROLE OF LINDA TRIPP IN THIS.  
 SHE'S PAINTED AS THE VILLAIN.

1/26/1998: CBS EVENING NEWS; DAN RATHER EXAMINES LINDA  
 TRIPP'S BETRAYAL OF HER FRIEND MONICA

1/26/1998

Clinton's famous press conference in the White House  
 Roosevelt Room as Hillary stands beside him.

BILL CLINTON  
 I did not have sexual relations  
 with that woman.

CUT TO:

EXT. LINDA'S HOUSE - DAY

A MOB of REPORTERS and TV TRUCKS camp outside Linda's house.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE

Peri peeks out the window through a tiny crack in the blinds, then turns to her mom.

PERI

What am I supposed to do? How am I supposed to go to school? We can't even walk the dog.

EXT. LINDA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Linda takes the dog outside. Immediately reporters begin snapping pictures/yelling questions at her. About what she knows. About betrayal. About allegations she did all this to try to get a book deal.

LINDA

Excuse me/EXCUSE ME/OUT OF MY WAY PLEASE.

She tries to act like everything's normal as she walks the dog, even though reporters are following her and her neighbors are staring. She shakily lights a cigarette.

CUT TO:

**FEBRUARY 7, 1998**

ON TV

That absolutely brutal *Saturday Night Live* sketch with Molly Shannon as Monica Lewinsky and John Goodman as Linda Tripp as they just eat and eat and eat and gab and gab and gab.

INT. LINDA'S HOUSE

Linda's alone, watching. She's crying. It really really hurts. How could it not?

CUT TO:

MORE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES:

NEW YORK TIMES: LINDA TRIPP'S SECURITY FORM DRAWS INQUIRY

CNN: TRIPP DIDN'T DISCLOSE SHOPLIFTING ARREST ON PENTAGON JOB FORM

INT. PENTAGON - DAY

Linda packs up all her things.

**LINDA WAS PLACED ON LEAVE AND LATER FIRED FROM HER JOB AT THE PENTAGON.**

**THE STATE OF MARYLAND FILED THEN DROPPED CHARGES AGAINST LINDA TRIPP FOR WIRETAPPING.**

INT. GRAND JURY ROOM

Monica Lewinsky testifies before a grand jury.

**THAT SUMMER MONICA LEWINSKY RECEIVED IMMUNITY FROM THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR IN EXCHANGE FOR TURNING OVER THE STAINED BLUE DRESS. WITHOUT LINDA TRIPP, THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE LEARNED ABOUT IT.**

INT. COURTROOM - LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

JUDGE SUSAN WRIGHT presides.

**THE PAULA JONES CASE WAS DISMISSED. CLINTON LATER SETTLED THE LAWSUIT FOR EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS WITHOUT ADMITTING GUILT.**

INT. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

The printer spits out copy after copy of The Starr Report.

**ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1998, INDEPENDENT COUNSEL KEN STARR SUBMITTED THE 453-PAGE STARR REPORT TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE INVESTIGATION, WHICH BEGAN WITH WHITewater IN 1994, COST MORE THAN 70 MILLION DOLLARS.**

INT. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A vote is held on the impeachment of William Jefferson Clinton.

**BILL CLINTON WAS IMPEACHED BY THE REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ACQUITTED BY THE SENATE.**

**BILL AND HILLARY CLINTON REMAIN MARRIED.**

INT. HOUSE - DAY

A lovely little house in Virginia. Linda (we only see her from behind) prepares a lovely dinner.

**LINDA TRIPP SUED THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FOR RELEASING CONFIDENTIAL PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THE PRESS. THE CASE WAS SETTLED FOR SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.**

**LINDA BEGAN DATING AGAIN, AND WENT ON TO GET REMARRIED. SHE NOW LIVES IN VIRGINIA, WHERE IT IS LEGAL TO TAPE SOMEONE WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.**

**SHE NEVER PUBLISHED HER BOOK.**

The door opens. We don't see her husband but we hear him.

LINDA'S HUSBAND (O.S.)

Honey, I'm home.

Linda turns. She's had EXTENSIVE plastic surgery. Seeing yourself played by John Goodman will do that.

She smiles. She looks great.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS

Monica Lewinsky walks down the street. People stare.

**MONICA LEWINSKY MOVED TO NEW YORK CITY IN 2000. SHE WAS PAID 500,000 DOLLARS TO ASSIST WITH THE WRITING OF THE BOOK *MONICA'S STORY*, AND MADE ONE MILLION FOR PARTICIPATING IN A BARBARA WALTERS INTERVIEW THAT DREW 70 MILLION U.S. VIEWERS. IN 2014 SHE GAVE A TED TALK ON CYBERBULLYING.**

**LINDA TRIPP AND MONICA LEWINSKY NEVER SPOKE AGAIN.**

As Monica turns a corner, we CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A CASSETTE TAPE SPINNING

As we begin hearing one of the REAL TAPES of Linda and Monica talking on the phone. It's a mundane conversation that shows nothing other than two friends having someone to talk about their problems with after a long day of work.

**THE END.**