

THE FAMILY OF MANN

BELINDA STANDS AT THE DOOR OF ED'S OFFICE

BELINDA: You wanted to see me?

ED: Yeah, come on in. Have a seat.

(She does. Ed looks up and speaks easily but abruptly.)

ED: I've been thinking about this, and I don't think you'll ever be happy here, and I think you should leave the show. It's up to you, but that's what I think.

(Pause.)

BELINDA: *(In shock.)* Okay.

(Ed looks at her, stunned and outraged.)

ED: All right. Fine. *(Pause.)* That's all

(He gestures to the door. She stands and looks at him, confused.)

BELINDA: Wait a minute. Is this what you really want? You want me to leave the show. That's what you want?

ED: I think... you are never going to be happy here, and ...it's up to you, but I think you should leave.

BELINDA: Yesterday you told me I was talented, and valuable and ---now you want me to leave? I don't understand.

ED: It's your decision.

BELINDA: For heaven's sake, Ed, you're the executive producer. If you want me to leave, it's not my decision!

ED: It's interesting to hear you say that. You didn't seem to feel that way yesterday.

BELINDA: Yesterday, what? You mean last night? What did I say? I said, I thought that grafting Dave into the episode might not—

ED: I don't graft. I DON'T GRAFT. And if you're not willing to rewrite, then—

BELINDA: You wanted to rewrite an episode that worked!

ED: I decide what works!

BELINDA: Two days ago, you loved that episode. Everyone loves that episode—

ED: (*Overlap.*) And if one day I say it works and the next day I say it's shit, then that's the way it is. You clearly don't understand the process. When I was working on my movie, I would go home every night and rewrite scenes for the next day!

BELINDA: But I was willing to stay! I didn't think it was necessary, but I would have done it –

ED: You didn't think it was necessary? You're making the decisions now?

BELINDA: You were the one who called off the rewrite. You said we'd do it today! Ed, listen. I am not trying to contradict you. I have nothing but admiration for your movie . . . and your . . . brilliance. But yesterday, I listened to you with that reporter on the phone, and I thought, you seemed to be panicking. I just thought it was my job to reassure you that the episode was good, and you didn't have to panic.

ED: I don't need some little girl telling me what's good and what's not.

BELINDA: (*Flaring again.*) Look, if you're going to stick fruit loops in one of my episodes because someone crossed their eyes at you over lunch, I think I have a right to at least –

ED: Your episode? Your episode? Let me tell you something. There isn't any episode that's *yours*. There is only *my* show. *I* write this show. Don't you ever talk about your episodes again.

BELINDA: Oh, Jesus, everybody talks about their episodes, we always – Ren practically blew a gasket last week because you bumped his episode in the release order and you didn't ask him to leave!

ED: That was a different situation. I was in a different mood then.

BELINDA: So I'm being fired because you're having a bad day?

ED: It's up to you.

(*Pause.*)

BELINDA: I'll have my agent give you a call.