

ERIN +
Dr. Jaffe.

INT. DR. JAFFE'S OFFICE - DAY

A successful-looking doctor sits behind a desk in a well-appointed office. He's looking at someone off-camera.

DR. JAFFE

Uh, but you have no actual medical training?

ERIN

(off)

No. I have kids. Learned a lot right there. I've seen nurses give my son a throat culture. I mean what is it - you stick a giant Q-tip down their throat and wait. Or a urine analysis, with that dipstick that tells you whether or not the white count is high...

DR. JAFFE

Yes, I understand.

ERIN

(off)

And, I mean, I'm great with people. Of course, you'd have to observe me to know for sure, but trust me on that one. I'm an extremely fast learner. I mean, you show me what to do in a lab once, and I've got it down.

He nods. Now we see who he is talking to: ERIN BROCKOVICH. How to describe her? A beauty queen would come to mind - which, in fact, she was. Tall in a mini skirt, legs crossed, tight top, beautiful - but clearly from a social class and geographic orientation whose standards for displaying beauty are not based on subtlety.

ERIN (CONT'D)

...for instance, at one point I wanted to be an engineer, so I was working at Fleuer Engineers and Constructors in Irvine. I fell madly in love with geology.

DR. JAFFE

Geology?

ERIN

I learned how to read maps. I love maps. Did you know our present system for map-making dates back to the ancient Greeks in like the third century B.C.?

DR. JAFFE

No.

ERIN

Anyway, I was at the company and - this is interesting, actually - I helped Ramish Ginatra design, as an assistant, part of the Alaskan pipeline...

DR. JAFFE

Uh-huh.

ERIN

..But I lost that job because my son came down with the Chicken Pox and 104 temperature and my ex-husband was useless, so..ya know...But what I want to tell you is I, uh .. I had always wanted to go to medical school. That was my first interest really...but then I, you know, got married..had a kid too young and..that kind of blew it for me..

Jaffe stares at her.

DR. JAFFE

Uh-huh.

ERIN

(beat, looks around)

This is a really nice office.

INT. ERIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Erin has let Ed in. They're sitting.

ERIN

..so Donna had just put in these new cabinets - real nice, stained the wood and all - when she gets this call from somebody at PG&E saying that a freeway's gonna be built and they want to buy her house so they can make an off ramp for the plant...Meanwhile, the husband's sick with Hodgkins and she's in and out of the hospital with tumors ~~not~~ believing one thing has anything to do with the other.

ED

Because PG&E told her about the chromium.

ERIN

Get this - they held a seminar. They invited about two hundred residents from the area. They had it at the plant in this warehouse. They set up legal booths to tell them what their legal rights were. They had medical booths to tell them what their medical rights were....

Ed is listening with more and more interest.

ERIN (CONT'D)

...Telling them all about Chromium 3 and how it was good for you, when all the time they were using Chromium 6.

ED

(impressed)

You got all this from her?

ERIN

(beat. shrugs)

She made coffee. Cupcakes. She's real nice.

Beat.

ED

That document you found at the Water Board, the one that says it was the bad chromium -- you didn't happen to make a copy did you?

ERIN

'Course I did.

ED

Lemme see it, will you?

Before getting it for him, she looks at him.

ERIN

I want a raise. And benefits. Including dental.

ED

Look, Erin, this is not the way I do business.

ERIN

What way is that?

ED

Extortion.

Erin doesn't budge.

ED

Okay. A five percent raise, and --

ERIN

Ten.

of (off his look)

There's a lot of other places I could work. I could even take everything I know to another law firm.

ED

A ten percent raise and benefits. But that's it. I'm drawing the line.

She goes to her box of stuff from the office and digs out the document for him. He scans it.

ED

This is the only thing you found?

ERIN

So far. But that place is a pig sty. I wouldn't be surprised if there's more.

ED

I know how those places are run. They're a mess. What makes you think you can just walk in there and find what we need?

ERIN

They're called boobs, Ed.

Shaking his head, Ed rises to leave as he says;

ED

I can't believe you just said that...