Zoe Moon

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. ZOE’S TRIBECA APARTMENT BUILDING – LOBBY – EVENING (DAY 1)

ZOE MOON IS DRESSED TO THE NINES... SEXY AS HELL AS SHE ENTERS HER UPSCALE APARTMENT BUILDING WITH HER DATE, SEAN. THEY ARE IMMEDIATELY GREETED BY AMIR, THE BUILDING’S DOORMAN.

AMIR

Good evening, Mrs. Moon.

HE HURRIES TO THE ELEVATOR AND PUSHES THE BUTTON FOR HER.

ZOE

Good evening, Amir.

AMIR

(TO SEAN) Good evening... total stranger.

ZOE

He’s not a stranger. He’s with me.

AMIR

Of course. My apologies. (SOTTO TO ZOE) Are you sure you’re not saying that under duress?

ZOE

No. I’m saying it out loud and proud.

He’s with me! But if TMZ asks, you didn’t see us.

THE ELEVATOR ARRIVES. ZOE GRABS SEAN AND THEY ENTER.

RESET TO:

INT. ZOE’S APARTMENT BUILDING – ELEVATOR – CONTINUOUS (NIGHT 1)

THE DOORS CLOSE.
ZOE

I’m sorry about that, Sean. Amir’s like a pit bull with tassels. He’s still under my ex-husband’s spell. We lived here together.

SEAN

I get it. You were married to “The Champ.” Maybe Amir doesn’t think you’re ready to move on to a prince.

ZOE

(LAUGHS) Believe me. Me and my ex have both moved on. He just happened to move on while we were still married.

HE MOVES CLOSE TO HER.

SEAN

So you’ve moved on, on?

ZOE

Been there, done that. Have the tattoo.

THEY KISS AS THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN TO ZOE’S LOFT.

BOY’S VOICE

Hey mom!

WE REVEAL THAT THE VOICE IS COMING FROM ZOE’S SON, XAVIER WHO ON THE COUCH, IN THE LIVING ROOM WATCHING A BASKETBALL GAME.

MAN’S VOICE

Hey mom!

WE REVEAL ZOE’S EX-HUSBAND, GEMINI MOON ON THE COUCH NEXT TO HIS SON. ON ZOE AND SEAN’S SURPRISE, WE;

FADE OUT.

END COLD OPEN
WE ARE AS WE WERE AS ZOE QUICKLY BUZZES THE INTERCOM TO THE LOBBY.

ZOE

Amir?

AMIR (V.O.)

Amir here.

ZOE

Why didn’t you tell me Mr. Moon was here?

AMIR

Mr. Moon was here.

ZOE

(TO GEMINI) Explain to me why you’re here.

THE GUYS KEEP WATCHING THE GAME.

GEMINI

We got a late start after I picked X up from school, and traffic is crazy from the city to the Hamptons on a Friday night, so we decided to kick it here.

XAVIER

And, the helicopter's in the shop.

GEMINI

Oh yeah, and the helicopter's in the shop. (RE: THE GAME) Ohhhh!
The back of that head belongs to my son, Xavier.

ZOE (CONT’D)

And the back of that bigger head belongs to--

SEAN APPROACHES GEMINI AND EXTENDS HIS HAND.

SEAN

Gemini Moon!

GEMINI BEGRUDGINGLY SHAKES SEAN’S HAND WHILE STILL PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE GAME.

SEAN (CONT’D)

Big fan, Man. Huge.

GEMINI

(EYES ON THE TV) Cool cool. (RE: TV)

YES! (TO XAVIER) What I tell you, Son?!

SEAN

(TO GEMINI) That fight with Juarez in 2010. Epic.

GEMINI

Thanks, Man.

SEAN

And don’t get me started on Franklin 2008.

GEMINI

Okay. I won’t.
ZOE
You know what, maybe we should call it a night.

SEAN
3rd round. You had him on the ropes. I haven’t seen that kind of foot work since Ali-Frasier.

ZOE
We should definitely call it a night.

ZOE USHERS SEAN TO THE ELEVATOR AND PUSHES THE BUTTON.

SEAN
What happened to getting to know each other better?

ZOE
I think I have all the information I need.

SHE MOVES HIM INTO THE ELEVATOR.

SEAN
Can I call you?

ZOE
Sure. But I probably won’t answer.

THE ELEVATOR DOORS CLOSES.

ZOE (CONT’D)
(TO GEMINI) Thanks a lot.

GEMINI
What?

THERE IS A BUZZER BEATER ON THE TELEVISION.

GEMINI/XAVIER
Awwwwww!/Yes!
XAVIER
You owe me twenty bucks!

GEMINI TAKES OUT HIS WALLET.

GEMINI
Here’s a hundred ’cuz you’re a winner, Mini Me. Now let’s bounce. Traffic should have died down by now.

THEY START FOR THE DOOR.

XAVIER
Later, Mom.

GEMINI
Later, Mom.

ZOE
(TO Xavier) Wait, where’s your stuff? You’re staying with your dad for the whole weekend.

XAVIER
Dad always buys me new stuff.

GEMINI
Dad buys you new better stuff.

GEMINI BEGINS TEXTING ON HIS PHONE.

ZOE
(TO XAVIER) Contrary to how your father spends it, money doesn’t grow on trees, Baby.

XAVIER
Mom, I’m not a baby. I know money doesn’t grow on trees.

(MORE)
I know the money tree dad gave me for Christmas didn’t come from nature. It was made by under-aged kids in China, and I feel real guilty about that. But Dad’s a giver and it’s really important for our relationship that I be a taker. It’s our thing.

GEMINI, STILL TEXTING ON HIS PHONE CHIMES IN WITHOUT LOOKING UP.

GEMINI
Yeah buddy.

ZOE
(TO XAVIER) I’m going to count to three. You’d better be packing your old stuff by two and a half. (BEAT) One...

XAVIER ROLLS HIS EYES AND HEADS BACK TO HIS ROOM TO PACK.

ZOE (CONT’D)
(CALLING AFTER HIM) And pack your underwear. I’m not raising no commandos around here.

AFTER A BEAT, GEMINI FEELS ZOE’S EYES BURNING A HOLE IN HIS SOUL. CAUTIOUSLY, HE STOPS TEXTING AND LOOKS UP.

GEMINI
What?

ZOE
Can you have my back like once?
GEMINI
I got your back, Baby. (STEPPING TO HER) I got your front, too. (RE: HOW HOT SHE LOOKS) I see you.

SHE TRIES TO PUSHES HIM AWAY BUT HE STAYS CLOSE.

ZOE
This is not for you. And, if we are going to co-parent we need to be on the same page. Just because we’re divorced doesn’t mean--

GEMINI
First of all, we’re not divorced yet.

ZOE
Sign the papers.

GEMINI
(SEXY) You sign the papers.

SHE PUSHES HIM AWAY.

SFX: GEMINI’S PHONE RINGS. HE TAKES THE CALL.

GEMINI (CONT’D)

HE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

GEMINI (CONT’D)
(RE: PHONE) That was my agent.

ZOE
Umm hmm. It’s not my business anymore. And you need to mind yours. You knew I had a date tonight.

(MORE)
ZOE MOON - "PILOT"

ZOE (CONT'D)

You stuck around here on purpose just
to spy on me.

HE PICKS UP THE MAIL ON A NEARBY TABLE AND CASUALLY LOOKS THROUGH IT.

GEMINI

If you want to dip your pinky toe back
into the man pool, go ahead and dip.
I ain’t mad at you. But, it is my
business if you’re bringing some
strange dude up in my house, around my
son. And that... was a strange dude.

ZOE

(GRABBING THE MAIL) Stay out of my
business.

HE NOTICES SEVERAL LIPSTICK COUNTER-TOP DISPLAYS.

GEMINI

(RE: DISPLAYS) Speaking of “your
business.” How’s your little lipstick
thing going?

HE BEGINS OPENING THE LIPSTICKS AS SHE GRABS THEM FROM HIM.

ZOE

My “little lipstick thing” is fine.
Matter of fact, it’s so fine that
we’re expanding into a full fledged
cosmetics company.

GEMINI

Cool cool.
ZOE

I’m actually really excited. If
things go like I want them to go, we--

ANGLE ON: GEMINI AS HE IS TEXTING ON HIS PHONE.

ZOE (CONT’D)

(PISSED) Gemini!

HE HOLDS UP A FINGER AS IF TO SAY, “ONE MINUTE, BABY.” HE
FINISHES HIS TEXT, THEN FLASHES THAT SMILE AT ZOE.

GEMINI

What were you saying?

ZOE

Nothing. Go back to sexting your
agent.

AS GEMINI GOES BACK TO HIS TEXT, ON ZOE’S FRUSTRATION, WE;

DISSOLVE TO:
SCENE B

INT. ZOE MOON COSMETICS - ZOE’S OFFICE - DAY (DAY 2)

VALENTE’, ZOE’S FABULOUS AND GAY ASSISTANT IS AT HER DESK
SWIPEING THROUGH MEN ON THE TINDER APP ON HIS PHONE AS PEARL,
ZOE’S PUBLICIST LOOKS ON.

PEARL

Tinder?  Really?  I want to find a
man, but shouldn’t it be a little bit
harder than ordering a pizza?  (THEN)
Ooo, let’s order a pizza.

VALENTE’

Girl, you need to focus!  You’re the
one who wants to get married this
year.  You’re the one with the vision
board.

PEARL

It’s a Pinterest board, and I do want
a man.  I’m going to be thirty five
this year and all I’ve got to show for
it is a contact list full of regrets.
This is the year for my happy ending.

VALENTE’

Well, no better place for a happy
ending than Tinder.

PEARL

It’s just that when I imagined the
story I would tell my children about
how I met their father, it didn’t
include swiping left or swiping right.
It seems so desperate.
VALENTE’
You are a thirty five year-old, single, Black woman living in Manhattan, wearing Tory Burch flats. It doesn’t get more desperate than that, Dahling.

ZOE ENTERS AND VALENTE’ AND PEARL SCRAMBLE TO COVER.

ZOE
Morning, Team. What ‘chall doin?

VALENTE’
You’re early! I thought you had to drop little X off at school.

ZOE
He was with his dad this weekend, so I thought I’d come in early and get a jump on the week.

VALENTE’
Sweet. (SOTTO TO PEARL) I need to put a bell on her.

PEARL
(QUICKLY) Hey, good news re: Last week’s pop up boutique in the BK.
(CONSULTING HER SMART PHONE)
Everything sold out except “Zoe Moon Go Ahead Make Me Blush Blush”...
Evidently the brown girls in Brooklyn don’t do rosy cheeks. But here’s the silver lining. Lupita’s makeup artist was there.
Really?

PEARL
Yep, and she loved all of the new products. What do you think about approaching Lupita’s people about her being the very first face of Zoe Moon cosmetics?

VALENTE’
Other than your face of course.

PEARL
She’d be the “up-front” face.

VALENTE’
The “hot, young” face. Not that you’re not hot and young.

PEARL
(TO VALENTE’) Stand down. I got this.

SFX: THE PHONE RINGS.

VALENTE’
She got this. I’ll get the phone.

AS VALENTE’ ANSWERS ZOE’S PHONE, ZOE CELEBRATES WITH PEARL.

ZOE
Pearly! This is amazing. This could be exactly what we’re looking for to take the company to the next level.

THEY HUG.
PEARL
I know. I’m so excited for you, girl. When you first told me you were going to leave your husband and start a cosmetics company I was like, “she’s been smoking that ’ish,” you know what I’m sayin? But, look at you. You’re not that crazy after all.

GEMINI ENTERS WITH XAVIER.

GEMINI
What up good people? Pearl, you’re looking... Pearly. And Assistant Guy, you’re looking super fierce. Isn’t that the word you people like?

VALENTE’
Yes, and thank you!

ZOE
Why are you here? Did you forget X has school this morning?

GEMINI
Did you forget we have a parent-teacher conference this morning?

ZOE TURNS TO VALENTE’.

ZOE
Did you forget I had a parent teacher conference this morning?

VALENTE’ COVERS THE PHONE.
VALENTE’

My bad. There was a virus on my computer and it must have messed with your calendar. I was opening this attachment from “my frenemy,” Cameron... but ya’ll don’t want to hear all that. The important thing is I’m calling I.T. right now.

ZOE GRABS HER PURSE AND TURNS TO PEARL.

ZOE

(RE: VALENTE’) Keep an eye on him and his attachments. I’ll be back in a couple of hours.

SHE, GEMINI AND XAVIER EXIT TO THE BULLPEN.

CUT TO:
SCENE C

INT. ZOE MOON COSMETICS - BULLPEN/ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS (DAY 2)

MUSIC CUE: “THE CHAMP IS HERE,” BY O FRESH

SLOW MOTION, FLASHING LIGHTS AS GEMINI PASSES THE MODEST ROW OF CUBICLES AND A CONFERENCE TABLE ON HIS WAY TO THE ELEVATOR, SEVERAL EMPLOYEES SAY “HI” TO “THE CHAMP.” XAVIER FOLLOWS IN HIS FATHER’S FOOTSTEPS, HAPPY TO BE HIS FATHER’S SON. ZOE CAN’T HELP BUT FALL IN LINE. SHE SEEMS TO SHRINK IN HIS PRESENCE... FADING INTO HIS SHADOW.

END SLOW MOTION.

GEMINI

Is it hot in here or it’s just me?

HE SMILES AT A FEMALE EMPLOYEE, THEN SIGNS AN AUTOGRAPH FOR HER. SHE SWOONS.

ZOE

That, and the air conditioner’s broken.

GEMINI

What? We can’t have these good people sweatin’ all day. Especially that dude.

ANGLE ON: A VERY UNATTRACTIVE SWEATY UPS GUY WITH A SMALL BATTERY OPERATED FAN.

SWEATY GUY

(MOUTHING TO GEMINI) I’m dying!

GEMINI

I gotchu my man. (TO ZOE) I’ll call my guy.

HE GIVES THE SWEATY MAN THAT MILLION DOLLAR SMILE, THEN MOVES ON. ZOE AND XAVIER FOLLOW.

ZOE

You don’t need to call your guy. I’ll take care of it.
GEMINI

Summer’s coming. I’ll call my guy.

X, remind me to call my guy.

XAVIER TAKES OUT HIS IPHONE AND TYPES HIMSELF A NOTE.

XAVIER

Done and done.

ZOE

(TO XAVIER, RE: PHONE) Where did you get that?

XAVIER

(RE: HIS DAD) Giver. (RE: HIMSELF)

Taker. Remember?

THE ELEVATOR ARRIVES AND THEY GET ON.

RESET TO:

INT. ZOE MOON COSMETICS - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS (DAY 2)

XAVIER PRESSES THE LOBBY BUTTON AS ZOE FUMES. AFTER A BEAT, SHE PRESSES THE BUTTON FOR THE NEXT FLOOR. THE DOORS OPEN AND SHE PRESSES THE STOP BUTTON AND TURNS TO XAVIER.

ZOE

Baby, mommy’s going to need you to step outside for a minute. Daddy and I need to have a grown folks moment.

XAVIER ROLLS HIS EYES, STEPS OUT AND TAKES A SEAT ON A NEARBY BENCH.

XAVIER

Dad, what’s your iTunes password.

GEMINI

GOAT. Greatest of all times.

XAVIER

Sweet.
XAVIER TAKES OUT HIS IPHONE AS THE ELEVATOR DOORS CLOSE. THE MINUTE THEY ARE ALONE, ZOE LAYS INTO GEMINI.

ZOE
An Iphone, G? For an eight year-old?
Really?!

GEMINI
He’s my son, too and if I want to buy my son a phone, I’ll buy him a phone.

ZOE
What’s next? A Ferrari?

GEMINI
Maybe. But X is more of a Lambo dude, like me.

ZOE
What happened to co-parenting, G?
Just because we’re divorced--

GEMINI
We are not divorced yet.

ZOE
Sign the papers.

GEMINI
You sign the papers.

ZOE
Papers or not, I don’t need you buying my son Iphones and Lambos, and I don’t need you calling your guy to fix my A/C. I got this. I got ALL this.
GEMINI
Oh really? Cuz, last time I checked I was still paying the rent up in this bitch.

ZOE
Don’t you even! You know damn well I could have taken your cheating ass to the cleaners. Do you know how many Housewives and Ratchet Ex-Wives shows I turned down? That’s right, Baby. All your dirty drawers could be laying in the street as we speak, but like my spirit diva, Ms. Tina Turner, I took the high road. All I took from you was seed money to start my company, that apartment and my name.

SHE PUSHES THE BUTTON TO RESTART THE ELEVATOR.

ZOE (CONT’D)
You’re welcome.

THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN AND WE REVEAL AN EMPTY BENCH WHERE XAVIER WAS SITTING.

ZOE (CONT’D)
X?! Baby?!

SHE TURNS AND PUNCHES GEMINI IN THE ARM.

ZOE (CONT’D)
This is your fault! X?! Mommy’s coming!

AS SHE AND GEMINI EXIT TO LOOK FOR THEIR SON, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
FADE IN:

INT. THE BRAYMER SCHOOL - XAVIER’S CLASSROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

MRS. DAVIDSON, XAVIER’S TEACHER ERASES THE CHALKBOARD AS ZOE AND GEMINI ENTER.

ZOE

Sorry we’re late, Mrs. Davidson.

GEMINI

We would have been on time, but we lost X.

ZOE

We didn’t lose him. That would be wildly irresponsible.

SHE SWATS GEMINI IN THE ARM.

ZOE (CONT’D)

(QUICKLY) X has this thing he likes to do lately where he disappears for short periods of time. He always comes back though. Boys, huh? Whatcha gonna do? (THEN) I brought you a present.

ZOE TAKES A GIFT BAG FROM HER PURSE AND HANDS IT TO MS. DAVIDSON.

ZOE (CONT’D)

It’s makeup from my new line. We’re expanding so... but that has nothing to do with us losing X. Not losing X.

SHE SWATS GEMINI IN THE ARM AGAIN.
MRS. DAVIDSON

(RE: GIFT BAG) Thank you for this.

Why don’t you both have a seat?

GEMINI AND ZOE TAKE SEATS IN THE SMALL “STUDENT” CHAIRS POSITIONED IN FRONT OF THE TEACHER’S DESK. MRS. DAVIDSON TAKES HER SEAT BEHIND THE DESK. MRS. DAVIDSON TAKES NOTES.

GEMINI

These are smaller than I remember.

MRS. DAVIDSON

Well I’m sure you’ve gotten a lot bigger since you were in the 3rd grade.

THEY SHARE A LAUGH.

ZOE

Yeah. So has his ego.

ZOE LAUGHS THIS TIME.

ZOE (CONT’D)

Anyway, why did you want to see us?

MRS. DAVIDSON

I was wondering if something might be going on at home?

GEMINI

Ain’t nothing going on at home.

ZOE

And by that he means his home. X’s father has moved out. We’re getting divorced.

GEMINI

Maybe.
MRS. DAVIDSON

Oh...

GEMINI

What does “oh” mean?

MRS. DAVIDSON

Well...

GEMINI

What does “well” mean?

ZOE

(TO GEMINI) Would you go to your corner and let the woman finish?

MRS. DAVIDSON

It’s a difficult time for a child. The dissolution of the family unit. Lots of confusion, unresolved feelings.

GEMINI

(TO MRS. DAVIDSON) I’m not the one who wants a divorce. (TO ZOE) You see what you’re doing? Making our son all confused and unresolved. Before you started all this that kid was down with his “resolve”. You up and unresolved him.

ZOE

So this is my fault?

MRS. DAVIDSON

It’s really not a question of fault.
Thank you. (THEN QUICKLY) Cause for the record it’s his. (SOTTO TO MRS. DAVIDSON) Write that down.

MRS. DAVIDSON

(DEEP BREATH) You mentioned you lost—that Xavier went missing. He’s done that several times during the school year. It’s at the point now where I can’t even give him a hall pass for fear of him going over the wall.

GEMINI

“Going over the wall?” Is this a school or a prison?

MRS. DAVIDSON

Look, I don’t mean to alarm you. It's not surprising that a boy would act out not having his father in the home. We see this quite a bit. Especially in African American families.

GEMINI

Oh really? How many “African American” families you got at this Lily White school?

ZOE

G!

GEMINI

I’m just asking.
MRS. DAVIDSON
We really don’t see color here at Braymer. But, I can tell you, I’m well aware of the statistics regarding the high incidents of children in African American households growing up without their fathers. I watched The Wire.

GEMINI
Look, teacher--

ZOE
Mrs. Davidson.

GEMINI
She knows who I’m talking to. Mrs. Davidson, I may not be living in “the home” currently, but you can bet I’m involved in my son’s life. Matter of fact, I’m going to be even more involved going forward.

WITH THAT, HE LOOKS DIRECTLY AT ZOE.

GEMINI (CONT’D)
Best believe, The Champ ain’t goin’ nowhere.

GEMINI STORMS OUT AS WE:

DISSOLVE TO:
SCENE H

INT. ZOE MOON COSMETICS – ZOE’S OFFICE – LATER (DAY 2)

PEARL IS BACK ON TINDER TEXTING A POTENTIAL “MATCH” AS VALENTE’ COACHES HER.

PEARL

(STARING AT HER PHONE) I don’t know what to say. (TO HERSELF) WWSHD?

VALENTE’

WWSHD?

PEARL

What would Steve Harvey do?

VALENTE’

Chil’, he’d put on a purple suit and keep it movin’. Ain’t nobody thinking about Steve Harvey’s bubble ass. That’s the problem with you and every other single woman of a particular age these days. Ya’ll done drank so much “Self-Help Koolaid” you can’t think for yourselves. Just free your mind and text the boy what’s in your heart.

PEARL THINKS FOR A BEAT. SHE STARTS TEXTING HER NEW POTENTIAL AS VALENTE’ LOOKS ON.

PEARL

Okay. Here goes. “What are you doing November 13?”

VALENTE’

Girl, why you gonna ask a man out six months in advance?
PEARL
That’s my wedding day. November 13,
Four PM at the Plaza.

VALENTE
Damn, girl. I knew you wanted to get
married this year, but I didn’t know
you had the date. Why November 13th?

PEARL
It always been my dream to get married
at The Plaza and that was the only
date they had available for the rest
of the year. The downside, it’s a
Wednesday. The upside, it’s cheaper.
I love me some Zoe, but girlfriend is
not a big payday yet.

VALENTE’
Well, I hope I’m invited.

PEARL
The guest list is kinda tight. If you
and I are still a thing by Halloween,
you’re in.

ZOE ENTERS.

ZOE
Hey, Kids. (NOTICING) It’s nice and
cool in here for once.

VALENTE’ TAKES ZOE’S PURSE AND SHE HEADS TO HER DESK.
VALENTE’

It’s nice and cool in here. (RE: BULLPEN) But, it’s nice and hot out there... or should I say it’s nice and “Caliente’.”

ZOE

(TO PEARL) What is he talking about?

PEARL

Gemini sent over his contractor.

VALENTE’

His hot Latino contractor. And may I say, el chico es guapo.

STEAMING, ZOE GETS UP.

ZOE

(TO VALENTE’) Take me to the A/C room.

VALENTE’

There’s an A/C room?

ZOE

Just take me to the contractor.

ZOE EXITS TO THE BULLPEN WITH A HEAD FULL OF STEAM. VALENTE’ GIVES PEARL A FRIGHTENED LOOK AND CHASES BEHIND ZOE.

CUT TO:
SCENE J

INT. ZOE MOON COSMETICS - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS (DAY 2)

MUSIC CUE: "LIKE A BOSS" BY SLIM THUG

SLOW MOTION: AS ZOE MARCHES THROUGH THE BULLPEN FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY VALENTE'.

ZOE

(TO VALENTE’) Get Gemini on the phone.

VALENTE’ QUICKLY DIALS ON HIS CELLPHONE AS THEY PASS SEVERAL WOMEN AT THEIR CUBICLES GAWKING AND WHISPERING. WE REVEAL THE OBJECT OF THEIR ATTENTION AS ZOE AND VALENTE REACH A MAN STANDING ON A LADDER... ALL THAT IS VISIBLE IS HIS VERY ATTRACTIVE BUTT.

END SLOW MOTION.

ZOE (CONT’D)

(TO MAN’S BUTT) Excuse me, Mr. Caliente’-- I mean, Mr. Contractor.

MIGUEL, THE CONTRACTOR, CLIMBS DOWN FROM THE LADDER AND STANDS FACE TO FACE WITH ZOE. HIS FACE IS EVEN BETTER THAN HIS BUTT. HE IS SO HOT, IN FACT, THAT FOR A MOMENT ZOE IS STUNNED.

END MUSIC CUE.

VALENTE’

(INTO PHONE) Hold for Ms. Moon.

HE HANDS THE PHONE TO ZOE WHO IS STILL STARING AT MIGUEL.

ZOE

(WITHOUT LOSING HER GAZE) I’ll call him back.

VALENTE' HANGS UP THE PHONE AS MIGUEL SMILES.

MIGUEL

(EXTENDING HIS HAND) Hey. I’m Miguel.

HE INDICATES HIS NAME, WHICH IS EMBROIDERED, ON HIS SHIRT.

MIGUEL (CONT’D)

You must be Mr. Moon’s wife.
ZOE

Ex-wife. Look, I’m sorry. There’s been a misunderstanding. I’m not sure what my husband... I mean, my ex-husband told you, but he’s not involved in this business in any way. This business is none of his business. It’s my business.

MIGUEL TAKES A WORK ORDER OUT OF HIS BACK POCKET.

MIGUEL

Says here “the lessee of this office space, one Mr. Gemini Moon”... That’s your husband, right?

ZOE

EX-husband.

MIGUEL

(READING) “Mr. Gemini Moon contracts Maldonado Construction, Heating and Air...” We’re based in New Jersey but we service the entire Tri-State area... “to fix the Air Conditioning and bring all entities at 23 Gansevoort Street up to Code.” A/C. Done. Tomorrow we tackle the pipes.

ZOE

Look, Miguel, I appreciate your due diligence and I’m sure it was a haul for you to trek out here from Jersey. Valente’ be sure to validate him.
(TO MIGUEL) You are quite a specimen.

ZOE

I meant his parking.

VALENTE'

(LOOKING AT HIS BUTT) So did I.

THERE IS AN AWKWARD SILENCE.

MIGUEL

Are we done here?

ZOE

Yes.

MIGUEL

Cool. ‘Cuz I gotta get back to work.

MIGUEL HEADS BACK UP THE LADDER. AS HE DOES, THE WOMEN AND VALENTE' AGAIN ENJOY THE VIEW OF HIS BUTT. FRUSTRATED, ZOE IS UNMOVED.

ZOE

Excuse me, Mr. Contractor!

IRRITATED, MIGUEL CLIMBS BACK DOWN THE LADDER.

ZOE (CONT’D)

Maybe I didn’t make myself clear.

Your services are no longer needed.

MIGUEL

Maybe I didn't make myself clear. I don’t work for you. I work for your husband.

ZOE

(LOSING HER PATIENCE) We’ll see who you work for when I speak to your supervisor.

TO ZOE’S SURPRISE, MIGUEL BEGINS TO LAUGH.
ZOE (CONT’D)

What’s so funny?

MIGUEL

Your husband warned me you might be difficult. I think his exact words were “spoiled brat.” But I told him I have a lot of experience with rich bored housewives. Like I said, I’m from Jersey. Oh, and I am my supervisor. (EXTENDS HIS HAND) Miguel Maldonado, owner and proprietor of Maldonado Construction, Heating and Air.

SHE LEAVES HIM HANGING.

MIGUEL (CONT’D)

That’s right. We already met.

HE FOLDS UP HIS LADDER.

MIGUEL (CONT’D)

See you tomorrow. Actually, I’ll probably be here for a while. This place is a mess.

MIGUEL TAKES HIS LADDER AND WALKS OFF LEAVING ZOE FUMING. AS SHE STORMS BACK TO HER OFFICE ZOE YELLS TO VALENTE.

ZOE

Tell Gemini to meet me at the loft tonight. It’s going down!

ON THIS, WE;

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO
ZOE ENTERS, READY TO HAVE IT OUT WITH GEMINI ONLY TO FIND THE ROOTS BAND SET UP IN HER LIVING ROOM ALONG WITH ERYKAH BADU.

ZOE QUICKLY BUZZES THE INTERCOM TO THE LOBBY.

ZOE

Amir?

AMIR

Amir here.

ZOE

Why didn’t you tell me The Roots and Erykah Badu were here?

AMIR

You only told me to tell you if Mr. Moon was there. You did not tell me—

SHE LET'S GO OF THE INTERCOM BUTTON.

ZOE

Uhhrrggggg!

GEMINI

Relax, Baby. I ain’t trying to spar tonight. (RE: SONG) Remember this?

GEMINI CUES QUESTLOVE WHO HITS THE DRUMBEAT AND ERYKAH BEGINS TO SING.

MUSIC CUE: “YOU GOT ME,” BY THE ROOTS

ERYKAH BADU

“If you were worried 'bout where... I been or who I saw or... what club I went to with my homies baby don't worry you know that you got me...”
GEMINI TAKES ZOE’S HAND AND BEGINS TO DANCE WITH HER.
ZOE PULLS AWAY.

ZOE
Where’s X?

GEMINI
In his room listening to music.

ZOE
Are you sure?

GEMINI
I have Amir watching all exits and a
SWAT team on the roof. We’re good.

ZOE ROLLS HER EYES, THEN TAKES EVERYTHING IN. SHE WAVES TO
QUESTLOVE. QUEST WAVES BACK.

ZOE
(TO GEMINI) Don’t think you’re slick.

GEMINI
Slick?

ZOE
You always do this. When you know I’m
about hand you your ass, you try to
butter me up with some grand gesture.

GEMINI
Wow. Wow. Now my feelings are hurt.

ZOE
You’re lucky that’s all that’s hurt.
Where do you get off calling your
contractor/spy when I specifically--

GEMINI
Remember the first time we heard this
song?
What?! Yeah, I remember. Do YOU remember?

GEMINI
You came to watch me spar after school. You had to creep because your mom hated me.

ZOE
Sometimes mother knows best.

GEMINI
You were wearing a pink dress.

ZOE
I was wearing purple culottes. (THEN) It was the 90’s.

GEMINI
Whatever. You looked good. You had one of those two length haircuts.

ZOE
(LAUGHING) Like Jada Pinkett back in the day. I was fly. I should bring that back.

GEMINI
Naw. You’re good.

THEY LAUGH AND IT IS CLEAR THERE IS STILL CHEMISTRY BETWEEN THE TWO.

GEMINI (CONT’D)
I kissed you on the walk home.

ZOE
You didn’t have a car.
GEMINI
I got that bad Mustang coop after I won the Olympics. We did more than kiss in that bad boy.

ZOE
Yeah, we made X.

GEMINI
We had some good times.

ZOE
And we had some bad times, too.

GEMINI
Okay, buzz kill. But we can get the good times back.

ZOE CAN'T HELP BUT GET A BIT CAUGHT UP AS GEMINI THEN TAKES HER HAND, KISSES IT, THEN LEADS HER OUT TO THE TERRACE.

RESET TO:

EXT. ZOE'S TRIBECA LOFT - TERRACE - CONTINUOUS (DAY 2)

ZOE AND GEMINI STEP OUT ONTO THE BALCONY. THE NEW YORK SKYLINE CAN BE SEEN BEHIND THEM.

GEMINI
Today, in the teacher’s office, I felt like a fool. And not just ‘cuz I was sitting in them itty bitty chairs. I feel like a fool for letting things get to this point. For almost losing my family. (TAKING OUT HIS PHONE)

Look up.

HE QUICK DIALS HIS PHONE.

ZOE
(SOTTO) Here we go again with the phone.
GEMINI

(INTO PHONE) Yo. Let ‘em go.

AFTER A BEAT:

SFX: BIRDS FLYING.

ZOE

Are those doves?

GEMINI

Twenty of ‘em. One for each year

we’ve been together.

HE KISSES HER.

GEMINI (CONT’D)

How ‘bout we make it twenty more.

Let’s keep our family together, Baby.

HE KISSES HER AGAIN. THIS TIME, SHE KISSES HIM BACK. THINGS
GET HOT UNTIL GEMINI’S PHONE RINGS. HE STEALTHY PRESSES
IGNORE, THEN PUTS THE PHONE BACK IN HIS POCKET.

GEMINI (CONT’D)

Where were we?

HE GOES TO KISS HER AGAIN, BUT HIS PHONE ALERTS THAT HE HAS
AN INCOMING TEXT.

GEMINI (CONT’D)

One sec.

HE QUICKLY LOOKS AT HIS PHONE, THEN TYPES A QUICK RESPONSE
AND GOES BACK TO ZOE.

ZOE

(RE: PHONE) Is there something you

need to take care of?

GEMINI

No, baby. You got me. Get it? Like

the song.

HE TAKES HER FACE IN HIS HANDS AND KISSES HER. AGAIN, SHE
KISSES HIM BACK. THEY GET LOST IN EACH OTHER FOR A MINUTE,
THEN THEY FINALLY PART. THEY LAUGH.
ZOE
You still got it.

GEMINI
Never lost it, Baby.

ZOE TAKES HIS HAND AND GUIDES HIM AS THEY TAKE A SEAT ON A BENCH AND LOOKOUT OVER THE CITY. ZOE LAYS HER HEAD ON GEMINI’S SHOULDER.

ZOE
You know, when we first moved here... after you won your first title fight, I thought that was our happily ever after.

GEMINI
It was.

ZOE
Yeah, for you. You’re living your dream. You’re the champ. I just became (PANTOMIMING A PHOTOGRAPHER) “Out of the way, please. Just one with the champ alone. Thanks.” Do you know how it feels to be invisible?

GEMINI
Uh, not really.

ZOE
Exactly. Let me tell you, it’s not a good feeling. I lost sight of myself for a minute. Life was all about you and X... and that was cool because I love my family and I love being a mom.

(MORE)
But now X’s getting older and I need to be a whole person, you know. I want him to be proud of his mom... not just his superstar dad. This company, G. (HER EYES BEGIN TO LIGHT UP) It’s the dream I never knew I had for myself. I mean it’s a lot of hard work, but anything worth having, you have--

WE REVEAL THAT GEMINI HAS GONE BACK TO TEXTING ON HIS PHONE.

ZOE (CONT’D)

Gemini!

GEMINI

I’m sorry, Baby. What were you saying?

ZOE EXPLODES.

RESET TO:

INT. ZOE’S TRIBECA LOFT – GREAT ROOM/KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS (DAY 2)

WE SEE ERYKAH AND THE ROOTS POV AS THEY WATCH ZOE UNLOAD ON GEMINI THROUGH THE WINDOW. FINALLY WE SEE ZOE GRAB GEMINI’S PHONE AND THROW IT OVER THE BALCONY.

QUESTLOVE

Pack it up.

THEY ALL PACK THEIR EQUIPMENT AND LEAVE AS GEMINI AND ZOE ENTER FIGHTING.

GEMINI

You’re crazy.

GEMINI HEADS FOR THE ELEVATOR AND PUSHES THE BUTTON.

ZOE

Where are you going?
GEMINI

To get my phone.

ZOE RUNS TO THE ELEVATOR AND PUSHES THE BUTTON TO CLOSE IT.

ZOE

No. You are going to stand here and listen to me. No distractions.

GEMINI CROSSES HIS ARMS AND TAPS HIS FOOT. AFTER A BEAT...

GEMINI

This is stupid.

ZOE

You can’t do it, can you?

GEMINI

You know I don’t like to talk.

ZOE

You don’t like to listen... to me!
And you know what, maybe that’s because until now, I haven’t had a lot to say. But now I do, so here goes.
The way you treated me in our marriage was not okay. The Ho’s and THOTS, not okay. You making me feel invisible, not okay. Look at me for once! See me for once!

SHE FINALLY HAS HIS FULL ATTENTION.

ZOE (CONT’D)

Now watch me walk away.

MUSIC CUE: “YOU GOT ME” BY THE ROOTS.

ZOE HEADS TO THE KITCHEN AND TAKES SOME DOCUMENTS OUT OF A DRAWER. SHE SIGNS THEM, THEN HANDS THEM TO GEMINI. THEY ARE THEIR DIVORCE PAPERS. GEMINI TAKES A BEAT, STUNNED.
It’s time for me to do me. To follow my dreams. To make my son proud. To make myself proud.

GEMINI HALF CHUCKLES.

GEMINI
You really think you’re going to be able to make it without me?

ZOE THINKS FOR THE BEAT.

ZOE
We’ll see.

GEMINI TAKES THE PAPERS AND SIGNS THEM.

GEMINI
Yeah, we’ll see.

HE TOSSES THE PAPERS ON THE TABLE, THEN EXITS. AFTER A BEAT, ZOE NOTICES XAVIER THERE WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES. SHE GOES TO HUG HIM BUT HE PULLS AWAY.

XAVIER
I hate you!

HE RUNS OUT TO THE TERRACE.

RESET TO:

EXT. ZOE’S TRIBECA LOFT – TERRACE – CONTINUOUS (DAY 2)

ZOE ENTERS TO JOIN XAVIER WHO IS SEATED ON A BENCH CRYING. SHE SITS DOWN NEXT TO HIM.

XAVIER
Go away.

SHE PUTS HER ARM AROUND HIM.

ZOE
I’m sorry, Baby. And, I know you don’t hate me, you just hate what’s going on right now, and that’s okay. I hate it too.
XAVIER

It sucks.

ZOE

I know. And I know that’s why you “get lost” a lot lately, huh?

XAVIER

I’m not lost, I’m just taking a breather.

ZOE

That’s kind of what mommy’s doing too. I’m taking a breather from Daddy because I need to feel better about myself. Figure things out. Understand?

XAVIER

I guess.

ZOE

But, just because your dad and I are taking a breather doesn't mean you are any less important to either of us. Gemini is still your dad and he loves you more than life... and so do I. So... if you want to see your dad during the week instead of just on the weekend... that's up to you. You can see your dad whenever you want... as long as you keep up your school work... And stop taking breathers.
XAVIER
That’s cool. But that’s not so much what I’m worried about.

ZOE
What are you worried about?

XAVIER
If dad’s not here, who’s going to take care of you?

THIS HITS ZOE WHERE IT HURTS.

ZOE
We’ll take care of each other.

SHE GIVES HER SON A KISS ON THE HEAD.

ZOE (CONT’D)
Don’t worry. Your mommy’s a big girl.

(ALL VIBRATO) Your Daddy’s not the only fighter in this fam, you heard?

We gone be alright.

SHE THROWS A COUPLE OF JABS, THEN HUGS HER SON. AFTER A BEAT, A DOVE DROPPING LANDS ON HER HEAD AND XAVIER FALLS OUT LAUGHING.

ZOE (CONT’D)
That’s okay. I hear it’s good luck.

ON THIS WE;

FADE OUT.

THE END