

The Newsroom - Alan Sorkin, 2012

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

Sloane Sabbath has just wrapped up taping a financial segment for the broadcast.

The show's producer, MacKenzie, applauds.

SLOANE

Hello.

MACKENZIE

Sloane. I'm MacKenzie McHale.

SLOANE

I know. It's good to meet you.

MACKENZIE

It's nice to meet you. Do you have a minute?

SLOANE

Sure.

They walk through the newsroom.

MACKENZIE

You know I was watching you earlier and you were talking about two companies, Capital One and um...

SLOANE

Baxter.

MACKENZIE

Baxter. And the prompter said both of whom are hinting at good numbers and you said both of which are hinting at good numbers. Was that an accident?

SLOANE

No. I didn't write that copy. I changed it to which because whom is for people. Is someone in trouble?

MACKENZIE

No. Do you mind coming into my office for a second?

SLOANE

Sure.

MACKENZIE

What's the difference between a corporation and a person?

SLOANE

Have you ever held a door open for someone?

MACKENZIE

Yes.

SLOANE

Did you ask them for money first?

MACKENZIE

No.

SLOANE

That's the difference.

INT. MACKENZIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

MACKENZIE

That's the right answer.

SLOANE

Am I taking a test?

MACKENZIE

I've asked around. People say that you don't belong here, that you could be making a lot more money as an analyst at Goldman.

SLOANE

Couldn't you be making a lot more money producing reality television?

MACKENZIE

I do produce reality television.

They sit at respective sides of MacKenzie's desk.

SLOANE

I don't know what to tell you. I like my job.

MACKENZIE

Do you feel working longer hours?

SLOANE

They talked to me about doing a morning show a couple of times, but I can't do that. I'm not interested in cooking. I make sandwiches. I get that I don't necessarily look like it, but I'm an economist. Thanks though.

MACKENZIE

Yeah, I meant in primetime. I want to give you five minutes every night to talk about where we are and how we got here.

SLOANE

Are you serious?

(MacKenzie nods)

There are people more qualified than I am. I can put you in touch with some of the professors I studied under, and...

MACKENZIE

Yeah, the thing is, they're not going to have your legs. I'm sorry, but if I'm going to get people to listen to an economics lesson I've got to find someone doesn't look like George Bernard Shaw. I would not ask you if I didn't think you were qualified.

SLOANE

You want me to do pole-dancing while explaining sub-prime mortgages?

MACKENZIE

If you're up to it, sure.

SLOANE

Alright, I get it.

MACKENZIE

We'll start a conversation with Will about our goals and how we're going to get there.

SLOANE

Great.

MACKENZIE

I think you and I are going to be good friends.

SLOANE

I'd like that.

MACKENZIE

Me too.

SLOANE

Okay.

MACKENZIE

I mean it. I don't have any friends.

SLOANE

Oh, you know, you're new in town, so...

MACKENZIE

Yeah.

SLOANE

You know, you and I have something in common.

MACKENZIE

What's that?

SLOANE

I had a boyfriend who cheated on me too.

MACKENZIE

Ah.

SLOANE

The week of our wedding.

MACKENZIE

Oh... Oh. (a moment) I don't understand.

SLOANE

I know about Will.

MACKENZIE

Yeah. Yeah. I still don't understand. (another moment) Wait... Will didn't cheat on me.

SLOANE
I used to deny it too.

MACKENZIE
Will didn't cheat on me.

SLOANE
Oh. Okay. Sorry.

MACKENZIE
I can't talk about what happened,
but I can tell you that will didn't
cheat on me.

SLOANE
You know I shouldn't have mentioned
anything, so...

MACKENZIE
Sloane, listen to me. Will didn't
cheat on me. Yes, we were together
for two years and we broke up. I
can't tell you any more than that
but he never ever never cheated on
me. Who told you that?

SLOANE
Everybody.

MACKENZIE
That's what people... No no no.
That's, that's not what happened.

SLOANE
You don't have to tell me what
happened.

MACKENZIE
I can't tell you what happened. He
doesn't want anyone in the office
to know, he made me promise.

Sloane gives her a look.

MACKENZIE (CONT'D)
No, not because... I can't talk!
Even though in this situation I
think he'd prefer... No, he really
doesn't want the office to know
anything. He didn't cheat on me.

SLOANE
I should get back to work.

Sloane exits the office, MacKenzie follows.

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS

MACKENZIE

You need to tell people that.

SLOANE

You're enabling an ass.

MACKENZIE

He's... Whoa. He's not an ass. Come here.

Sloane steps closer.

MACKENZIE (CONT'D)

Will's not an ass. He's the opposite of an ass. Even if he did cheat on me, which he absolutely didn't, he's definitely not an ass. Do people think that?

SLOANE

You have to have known that.

MACKENZIE

I thought they thought he was gruff but loveable.

SLOANE

No, they think he's an ass who cheated on you.

MACKENZIE

Well that has to be corrected.

She grabs Sloane by the hand, dragging her back into the office.

INT. MACKENZIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

SLOANE

I have to set up a work order...

MACKENZIE

Okay, okay. You need to do this. You need to go from person to person and tell them that Will is an extraordinary man with a heart the size of a Range Rover, that there's a long story that has to do, a lot to do with me, but also other things, I can't tell you the story of his life but he's the good guy. Will you tell people that?

SLOANE

Every chance I get.

MACKENZIE

You're not going to, right?

SLOANE

No, I'm not.

MACKENZIE

Okay.