

## START Sc. 1

INT. OFFICE

4

HARTLEY HOMES LOBBY: COO **CHARITY GIBBONS** (██████), super kind, caring, loyal and ALL HEART is talking with Vice President of Finance **JIMMY (30's)**, a numbers guy - practical, logical, MBA educated and business savvy. He is dressed in a high dollar suit and he is grilling Charity.

JIMMY

(whispering)

I think it's time to begin sales discussions.

CHARITY

The company's not for sale, Jimmy.

JIMMY

The market will not recover in time to save it. We're 3 months behind on payments. It's Hartley's best option.

CHARITY

I'm not comfortable talking about this.

JIMMY

We need to convince Preston to look at offers. He'll listen to you. He trusts you.

CHARITY

It's too early to consider selling.

JIMMY

It's not, Charity.  
(beat)  
Bank's play hardball. We have to get ahead of this.

CHARITY

I'm going to pretend this conversation never happened.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Believe it or not - I do have his best interest at heart.

Charity looks at him.

CHARITY

(pointed)  
Do you have an angle here?

JIMMY

That's a low blow.  
(beat)  
I think you're too close to this and it's clouding your judgement.

CHARITY

What does that mean?

Jimmy ratchets it up a notch.

JIMMY

You and Preston dated in high school, didn't you?

CHARITY

(shocked)  
Who told you that?

JIMMY

Small town, Charity.

Charity thrown.

CHARITY

It was a long time ago.

JIMMY

I know the numbers. And we need to sell.

There is a ring at the glass side door. Jimmy takes this as his cue and exits. Charity watches Jimmy leave and then looks toward the door. It's Elena. She waves at Charity from outside. Charity tries to regain her composure as she heads over.

**END**  
**Sc. 1**

22

INT. BREAK ROOM

22

Elena grabs the aspirin and turns as Charity enters.

CHARITY

Elena?

ELENA

Hi, Charity.

A bit of discomfort between them since the meeting outside with Preston.

CHARITY

(cold)

How are you today?

ELENA

Good. Just head down...working away.

CHARITY

Can I talk to you a minute?

Elena's heart sinks. Her face DROPS.

CHARITY (CONT'D)

Somewhere private.

ELENA

(guttled)

Okay.

Charity exits. Elena, dejected, follows Charity out. She knows she is about to get fired.

CUT TO:

23

INT. OFFICE

23

Conference Room. Charity looks out the window - tears in her eyes. They are mid-conversation. Elena sits at the conference table STUNNED. This is not at all what she thought was about to happen.

CHARITY

...he was my first true love. And there's been nobody that has compared to him since.

Elena processing all she just heard. Scrambles.

(CONTINUED)

**FYI  
ONLY**

**START  
Sc. 2**

ELENA

Charity, nothing happened with Preston. Nothing *has* happened. I promise.

(beat)

We had lunch, that was it.

Charity turns.

CHARITY

At the lake, right?!

Elena doesn't want to answer this for some reason (THE MYTH, maybe?). She nods.

Charity looks like Elena just knocked the wind out of her.

CHARITY (CONT'D)

I imagine it's obvious how I feel about him?

ELENA

(sheepish)

It crossed my mind.

Charity lets out a sweet laugh. She takes her time. THEN.

CHARITY

I've been trying to let these feelings go for 15 years.

ELENA

(understanding)

I know how hard that is.

CHARITY

You do?

ELENA

I was jilted at the altar two years ago.

CHARITY

(surprised)

No!

ELENA

It's the main reason I moved.

CHARITY

(probing)

Did moving help?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

ELENA

(candid)  
NOT AT ALL!  
(exasperated w/ self)  
I think about him every day.

They both laugh. 2 women connecting about heartbreak.

CHARITY

I've known Preston my entire life.  
(vulnerable)  
He's never looked at me the way he  
already looks at you.

ELENA

Really?

CHARITY

Really.  
(beat)  
He's a "one of a kind" no  
different from his dad.  
(beat)  
I wanted you to know. I'm not  
about to stand in your way.

Charity shows immediate relief despite how hard this is  
for her to do. They share a nice moment.

**END**  
**Sc. 2**