B-Roll
Pilot
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SUNY New Paltz Honors Thesis 2024
EXT. PARKING LOT - A SUMMER MORNING

ANGLE ON a hand pulling on a locked door.

WE CUT TO security camera footage from above. Here's MORGAN — twenty, adorable, a little weird in an endearing way — trying to open the door to the station. She's dressed in what she thinks is "business casual" looking a little rough around the edges. She looks up into the security camera and waves. She points at the door, awkwardly.

Suddenly, we see a goat walk into frame behind Morgan. She doesn't notice until it "BAAAAH"s, scaring the shit out of her.

MORGAN
What the/

ANGLE ON the goat wandering to a car in the parking lot and trying to rip off the hubcap.

We see Morgan's phone move into frame, snap a picture of this, and tweet it with a #FirstDay.

WE CUT:

CHYRON: Fifteen minutes later.

Morgan is sitting on the ground, petting the goat. She's on the phone.

MORGAN
Yes, right outside W-HAT News Station, North Hattington. Yes, a goat. No, this is not a prank call, it's seven in the morning. No, I'm just an intern. Well, I'm about to be, hopefully.

WE CUT AGAIN:

CHYRON: Fifteen minutes later.

Morgan pats the door of the Hattington Animal Control truck as it drives away. The station door opens. It's LINDA, the front desk lady. She looks like your grandma but meaner.

LINDA
You are?
MORGAN
Morgan Landing.

LINDA
Landing where?

MORGAN
Um. Here?

LINDA
(Turning around)
Dust off.

Morgan follows her inside.

INT. NEWS STATION - MORNING

MORGAN
I was just out there trying to deal with that goat.

LINDA
A little early for you to be calling people names, young lady.

Linda shuffles back behind her desk. She hands Morgan a card.

LINDA
Walk in and sign in tomorrow. Don't sit on the ground.

Morgan taps the sign in sheet.

MORGAN
Do I have to sign in now?

LINDA
(Wide-eyed, mean)
Well, are you here?

Just in time, GINO SNEAKER rounds the corner, sharp in a button down, with a great smile. Earnest, warm. Like the nicest gym teacher.

GINO
You! You must be Morgan. Gino Sneaker, sportscaster here at W-HAT.

Morgan extends her hand for a shake.
GINO
Firm handshake. Respect.

MORGAN
My dad always said, 'you're only as hard as your handshake.'

A beat.

MORGAN (CON'T)
Or, no, um/

GINO
So!

WE MOVE DOWN THE HALLWAY:

GINO (CON'T)
Miss Morgan Landing. You've made it to our front lobby, to Linda's post. We have guests coming in and out throughout the day, and your job is to wrangle them.

MORGAN
(Taking out a pen and paper to jot)
Wrangle, okay.

GINO
You'll take 'em to the greenroom, see if they need coffee, water, whatever.

MORGAN
Like, K-Cups? Or/

GINO
And then when it's time, you'll just take them back through the studio. Just be sure to take them up the ramp and not up the stair.

MORGAN
(Writing)
Not up the stairs.

GINO
No, sorry, stair. The stair. It's one stair but if they trip and break something, we're done for. We cannot survive a lawsuit right now, you feeling me?
Linda scooches through them into the bathroom.

    MORGAN
    I'm feeling you, yeah.

    LINDA
    None of that.

WE CUT TO:

INT. THE OFFICE - 5 MINS LATER

ANGIE LARK - early thirties, rough and dry but effortlessly beautiful - sits at her desk. A knock on the wall.

    VALENTINA
      (O.S)
      Angie?

    ANGIE
      Yeah?

VALENTINA ROSSI - early thirties, super-model-gorgeous, adorably pregnant, way over the top - struts in.

    VALENTINA
      You got a sec?

That sing-songy tone. They're clearly at odds.

    ANGIE
      Not really/

    VALENTINA
      /I saw this email of the rundown from last night...and what's this...rally?

    ANGIE
      Well, it's a protest. The local environmental advocacy groups are protesting the single-use diapers/.

    VALENTINA
      I mean, Angie. We're gonna get on our talk show and talk about...diapers?

    ANGIE
      We're gonna get on the morning news and talk about climate change, yes.
VALENTINA  
(Horrified)  
Climate change? "Goin' Down Upstate" is not a place for politics.

ANGIE  
It's a place for objective storytelling.

VALENTINA  
SUBjective storytelling. With me! The subject!

ANGIE  
It's... the news. I produce the news.

VALENTINA  
WE produce the news AND my talk show.

ANGIE  
A talk show... on a news channel.

VALENTINA  
And really, Angie. Have you no reverence for my Mommy Vlog channel? And my pregnancy? You want me to bad-mouth diapers on our show and then endorse them online? That looks bad for me. As a pregnant figure.

ANGIE  
I don't think your figure looks that pregnant yet.

VALENTINA  
Angie. Trust me on this one. Let's not ruffle any feathers, huh? Not when ABC could cut us off at any second.

Finally, Angie throws her hands up.

ANGIE.  
Fine. It's axed.

VALENTINA  
You're the best!

Valentina gets up to leave.

ANGIE  
So, two months?
VALENTINA
(Patting her belly)
Two months!

ANGIE
Your boyfriend must be really excited.

Val falters in her movement towards the hall.

VALENTINA
Actually, it's just me and Kayla at home.

ANGIE
How exciting. A big HALF sister.

Valentina flashes perfect white teeth and exits. Angie rubs her head and punches the backspace button.

INT. NEWS ROOM

Gino and Morgan have arrived in the news room.

GINO
Wow. Your first time in the news room. Let that sink in.

Gino closes his eyes. This is serious.

GINO
We're interrogating the world itself in this room. Scavenging for truth. Demanding answers in a world of lies. Hunting the beasts of deception
(He slays an invisible beast)
AH! And disinformation
(Another one)
AH! And asking the questions no one dares to ask!

VOICE (O.S.)
Who took my goddamn yogurt from the fridge!

GINO
(Quietly, eyes closed, serious)
Watch out, misinformation. We're writing history.

MORGAN
Miss Information... the drag queen?
MOVEMENT DOWN THE HALLWAY:

GINO
Okay, here are our offices. In here, executive producer of twenty years, Toby Cane. Highly respected guy in the industry. Built W-HAT from the ground up, really. Kind of wrote the broadcast rulebook for New York in the seventies. Very humble about it, though. Let's see if the big boss is in.

Gino knocks on the door.

GINO
Tob?

Gino peeks his head in. Here's TOBY CANE - in his early seventies, silver fox - his office is a wreck, and he's swinging a fly fishing rod over his shoulder.

TOBY
Oh, good, Gino. I got some questions for you. One, when is daylight savings? Two, how do you make a Tinder?

GINO
(Embarrassed)
Toby, this is our intern, Morgan. I was just telling her about your broadcast experience.

TOBY
(Scoffing)
Broadcast.
(Casting the fishing rod again)
Now this... this is a broad cast!

Gino is closing the door.

GINO
We'll come back here later! He seems busy.

AVID (O.S.)
He seems like he should've retired five years ago.

Gino and Morgan turn. AVID - a little older than Morgan and
nerdy, with a little edge - is in an editing booth behind them.

GINO
Avid, stop. The man has hobbies.

CAMERA MOVES down the hall with Gino and Morgan.

GINO (CON'T)
And here, this is our office, where our Important Women sit. We have a number of women producing here, the most of any station in the area.

MORGAN
Oh, sweet, how many?

GINO
Two! One of whom is Angie Lark, maybe you've heard of her. Big NBC producer.

MORGAN
NBC? Like, NBC, NBC?

GINO
She interned here actually, just like you, and me!, and then left us for the big city.

Beat.

GINO (CON'T)
But now... she's back!

MORGAN
(Writing in her notebook, unsure)
She's... back.

GINO
Angie's great. Genius, really. And she's helped us a ton. There's a reason she made it to New York.

MORGAN
And back again?

AVID (O.S.)
Well.

Avid has appeared in the next editing booth behind them, somehow.
AVID (CON'T)
For the more technical guys like myself, Angie has been a lifesaver. She's picked our ratings up, fed them, bathed them, given them water/

MORGAN
Your ratings are down?

GINO
(Embarrassed)
Well.../

AVID
Down like Valentina's winter coat. At the end of the year, we had about one thousand, six hundred, and thirty eight people watching every morning.

MORGAN
Hattington has like, what,/n

AVID
One hundred and ten thousand.

MORGAN
What? Why? I grew up watching W-HAT.

AVID
Why watch the news? It's all Twitter and Hinge and E-Harmony.

GINO
Only one of those give you news.

AVID
The rest give you nudes.

Gino and Avid high five. Gino directs Morgan to the office.

GINO
So. You'll be in here with Angie and Val.

MORGAN
Valentina Rossi.

GINO
She's a real Hattington celeb. You know, she had pneumonia for a two weeks last winter and we had some old
ladies line up outside, demanding her back. They love her!

Linda scooches by.

LINDA
Best two weeks of the damn year.

GINO
So, let's see, what have we got here?

WE FOLLOW Morgan and Gino into the office. He's smiling.

GINO (CON'T)
Oh! What's this? Your own desk!

ANGLE ON the desk. It's a cardboard box covered by a tablecloth with a pillow to sit on.

MORGAN
Ohhh, coool, a tiny desk. Like NPR.

She turns back to find Gino gone. She drops down on her pillow and sets up her laptop. Next to her is a desk that clearly belongs to Valentina, adorned with pictures of her daughter, a huge mirror, the stuff of a diva. Morgan finds herself staring, moving closer.

Suddenly, Valentina comes in. Morgan flies away from the desk, avoiding being seen.

VALENTINA
Oh. Intern? Long time since we had one of those.

MORGAN
I'm Morgan, yeah, I'm/

VALENTINA
When you print the rundowns, just highlight my segments in pink and leave it on my desk, would you?

Valentina exits. Morgan sits back on her pillow. As Angie enters, Morgan shoots back up, startling Angie.

ANGIE
Jesus/

MORGAN
/Hi, sorry!
ANGIE
What's your name?

MORGAN
Morgan.

As Morgan says this, she notices Angie staring at her clothes. The two are in similar outfits. Embarrassing.

ANGIE
Where do you study?

MORGAN
A state school. But I'm, um, taking time off.

Beat.

ANGIE
I'm a state school girl.

MORGAN
Wow. Good to know a state school girl can make it to NBC!

A beat. Oops.

ANGIE
Word travels fast.

Angie exits.

MORGAN
(Calling after her, tapering off)
What am I... supposed... to do?

She plops back down on her pillow.

OVER MORGAN'S SHOULDER, we see her start the NYT crossword.

WE CUT:

Morgan slams her pencil down. The crossword is done.

Suddenly, Toby enters.

TOBY
Intern!

MORGAN
Morgan.
TOBY
Mora! We've got our first guests in the lobby. You wanna wrangle?

MORGAN
Like, round them up?

TOBY
Yipee-ki-yay cowgirl! ROUND EM UP!

MORGAN
What should I, um/

TOBY
How much is it gonna cost for you not to ask me a question right now?

MORGAN
What?

A beat.

MORGAN
Twenty bucks?

Toby fishes through his pockets and hands a twenty dollar bill to Morgan. She takes it.

TOBY
Smart girl. That's why I hired you, Mora.

Toby walks off. WE FOLLOW Morgan down the hall.

INT. LOBBY

TRUDY and DON - sweet ol' people with sweet ol' accents - are today's guests. Trudy strokes a small piglet in her lap. Linda sits at her desk. Morgan approaches, awkwardly.

MORGAN
Uhh, hey guys.

LINDA
(Without looking up)
'Good morning, how are you doing?'

MORGAN
Uh, Good morning, how are you doing? Can I take your, um, piglet?
Awkward beat. Morgan's unsure of what to say.

    LINDA
    (Without looking up, monotonous)
    'They're setting up your segment/

    MORGAN
    /They're setting up your segment/

    LINDA
    /in the studio now'/

    MORGAN
    /in the studio now! Can I get you
    guys, uh, water? Coffee?

    DON
    Aw, would ya?

    MORGAN
    Yes! Is it okay if it's a, um, K-Cup?

INT. OFFICE - 10 MINUTES LATER

Gino peaks his head in.

    GINO
    Angelica! You got run downs?

    ANGIE
    Angelina! - and - no! This desktop
    isn't working.

    GINO
    Mine is bad, too. Shut down after the
    Lewinsky story broke.

    ANGIE
    You haven't had a working computer
    since Monica/?

    GINO
    No, sorry, Steve Lewinsky. Local
    convict who escaped in the north
    country. Turned out to be double
    jointed. In EVERY joint!

    ANGIE
    Of course.
GINO
Maybe use Valentina's? I used to.

ANGIE
Well, that's.

GINO
Different.

ANGIE
Different. I'll ask her.

WE CUT BACK TO:

INT. LOBBY - SAME TIME

Morgan carries two cups of coffee to Don and Trudy.

MORGAN
Your accents are so awesome, where are you guys from?

DON
Whale, born and raised here!

TRUDY
In Hattington!

MORGAN
(Confused)
Upstate New York?

DON
Known each other most of our lives, too.

MORGAN
(Horrified)
But not... all? Right?

TRUDY
Don't forget, Billy's outside waitin' for us.

MORGAN
Billy?

DON
Oh, Billygoat. He don't like to wait inside.
TRUDY
But he's done TV before and he loves it.

DON
Oh, here, I got his leash for ya.

Don shakes the leash in his hand. Morgan's stunned. Panic.

MORGAN
Riiight. Right right right. Well. You two hang tight.

Morgan does a half-run, half-walk away.

LINDA
WALK.

WE FOLLOW MORGAN as she runs into the office.

INT. OFFICE

ANGIE
Woah, intern.

MORGAN
Morgan.

ANGIE
You all good? Any questions?

MORGAN
(PANICKED)
Does animal control kill the animals?

ANGIE
What?

Valentina enters before Angie can process this.

VALENTINA
You're at my desk. You can't do that.

Morgan runs away.

ANGIE
My computer is fried, I/

VALENTINA
Just don't touch anything.
Valentina collects her lipgloss from her desk and sits at Angie's. They sit, awkwardly doing their respective tasks. As she's printing, Angie takes stock of what's on the desk. Self help books, single mom books, daily affirmations...

VALENTINA
Are you snooping around my desk?

ANGIE
What? No! I'm just, I'm printing/

Valentina grabs the freshly printed rundowns and throws them on Angie's desk.

VALENTINA
Here, all done, we can switch back now.

They switch back as Toby enters.

TOBY
We got rundowns?

ANGIE
Toby Cane asking for a rundown?

TOBY
It's petting zoo day. I love petting zoo day.

Avid peeks his head in.

AVID
We need thirty thousand to report to ABC today, folks. Thirty thou.

ANGIE
Thirty? That's ridiculous. How the hell are we gonna swing thirty on petting zoo day?

TOBY
This is why we have Emmy nominee ANGIE LARK!

VALENTINA
Aww, you didn't win? Who won?

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY - 5 MINUTES LATER

Don, Trudy, and Gino are anxiously looking around for Billy.
Morgan approaches them.

TRUDY
He's not inside, is he?

MORGAN
Not that I saw, no.

DON
Did you check the bathroom?

Angie exits the studio and marches towards them, confused. Toby trails behind.

ANGIE
What the hell is going on? We're thirty to air, why are you out here?

TRUDY
/My goat is missing!

ANGIE
Right, of course.

DON
We left him right out here this morn.

ANGIE
I mean, we could check the security/

MORGAN
Wait!

A beat. Everyone turns to Morgan.

MORGAN
(Trying to be earnest)
Um. Guys, maybe this is our segment.

GINO
This?

MORGAN
A, you know, a call to action. Hashtag Bring Billy Back.

This sinks in.

TOBY
We need good ratings, I don't care how we do it.
ANGIE
Bring Billy Back. Good, good, this is good. Gino, get the handhelds, Toby, stay out here with Don and Trudy, I have to reprint these cue cards, give me a few minutes.

As the group disperses, Angie locks eyes with Morgan and gives her a small nod of approval. She heads inside.

ANGIE
(Calling)
Morgan! Let's go!

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

Gino, running to get the handheld cameras, crashes into Valentina. It's an awkward moment, but Gino catches Valentina and it's sweet. They smile quietly and head in opposite directions.

WE PAN as Valentina heads into the bathroom and Angie and Morgan head into the office.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE

Angie hops back on Valentina's desktop. Morgan sits at Angie's desk. It's awkward for a minute.

MORGAN
So, you interned here, right?

ANGIE
(Without looking up)
I did.

MORGAN
And now you produce. That's what I wanna do one day. Produce.

ANGIE
This is a fine place to start.

MORGAN
Even though the ratings are bad?

Angie looks up.
ANGIE
Who told you that?

MORGAN
Is it true?

ANGIE
It was Avid, wasn't it?

MORGAN
But it's why they brought you back, right?

ANGIE
That's one way to put it, sure.

Morgan leans forward to see Angie's computer.

MORGAN
You get to write Valentina's lines every day?

ANGIE
Depends on the segment but usually.

Morgan eyes Valentina's desk. She nudges one of the books.

MORGAN
"You're Not the Worst Mom, Volume Six?"

She catches herself, but Angie's laughing.

We PAN to Valentina, who hears them mocking her. Sharply, she pivots away.

We PAN back to Angie and Morgan, who are taking the new cards and rundowns outside.

WE FOLLOW ANGIE AND MORGAN:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

A GRIP is outside with the handhelds and a Avid is getting lavs on Trudy and Don.

ANGIE
Alright guys, new rundowns, we're on in five minutes, where the hell is Valentina?
Valentina shuffles outside in her heels.

VALENTINA
Nobody wanted to tell me we're outside today? I would have put on some bronzer or something.

ANGIE
Sorry, Val, change of plans.

VALENTINA
What about the animals in the studio?

ANGIE
It's under control.

SMASH CUT:

Gino and Toby are running around the studio chasing chickens.

WE CUT BACK OUTSIDE:

Angie hands Valentina the new talking point cards.

ANGIE
We're on in ninety seconds. Study up.

Valentina moves to stand in the shade. Morgan helps position Don and Trudy in front of the camera, as the GRIP directs her.

ANGIE
Alright everyone, we're gonna start with Val and then we'll have Don and Trudy come in and say their piece, we're on in sixty.

Everyone gets in position. Angie counts down from ten, the last three numbers silent and signaled by her fingers. She cues Valentina, who immediately steps into her TV persona, which is even more elevated.

VALENTINA
Good morning Hattington, this is Valentina Rossi and you're watching Goin' Down Upstate. Now, you may notice we're not in the studio this morning, and that's because we have a very important message for you all, don't we, uh, (Checking the card)
Trudy?

TRUDY
My Billygoat is MISSING.

VALENTINA
You heard that right, folks, we have a goat on the loose in Hattington this morning. Trudy, can you tell us a little bit about Billy?

CUT TO NEWSCAST:

TRUDY
(Fighting back tears)
He's the smartest goat I ever known. We give him money in the morning and he goes and picks up groceries for us, he can flush the toilet, he's even a dependent on our taxes.

Valentina, Trudy, and Don with a lower third that says "#BringBillyBack" and a school photo of Billy in the corner.

VALENTINA
If you could say one thing to Billy right now, what would it be?

TRUDY
(Directly to camera)
Come home, Billy. Come home.

VALENTINA
Billy the goat was last seen around the W-HAT News Station in North Hattington at about seven this morning. If anyone has any information about the whereabouts of this goat, they can call us here/

WE CUT BACK:

Gino runs out of the station covered in chicken feathers. He comes up behind Angie and Morgan, who watch from behind the cameras. The broadcast continues in the background.

GINO
It's like a zoo in there.

MORGAN
A petting zoo.
EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

CHYRON - 30 Minutes Later

Don and Trudy are showcasing a few more animals on camera. The grip pans back to Valentina.

VALENTINA
Thank you for your prayers, Hattington. We're well into the search for Billy. Keep looking! We'll be right back.

ANGIE
Commercial! Two minutes!

The grip lowers the camera. Avid comes jogging outside.

AVID
(Panting)
Who the heck tweeted Bring Billy Back?

ANGIE
What?

AVID
Someone tweeted #BringBillyBack.

Toby runs out, also covered in feathers.

GINO
Who has Twitter?

Slowly, everyone turns to look at Morgan.

MORGAN
I thought it'd be good for views.

AVID
(Showing them his phone)
It's trending.

GINO
Trending! Already?

MORGAN
(Blasé)
I'm kind of big on Twitter.
SMASH CUT TO:

Graphics of Morgan's phone. Here's the Billy picture from this morning getting 10k, 50k, 100k likes. Then a quote retweet with #BringBillyBack. This gets 100k, 500k...1M.

SMASH CUT BACK:

TOBY
Trending? What is trending?

AVID
We're famous, Toby.

TOBY
Thirty-thousand-famous?

GINO
(Showing them his phone)
One-million-famous.

ANGIE
Okay, OKAY, let's not get ahead of ourselves, we're almost back.

TOBY
Angie, come on, sunshine, you did it!

ANGIE
Not yet. This story needs an ending.

In the background, we see a van start to pull into the parking lot.

ANGIE
Morgan, can you go flag down that van and tell them to go through the back entrance? Can't they see the cameras?

Morgan obeys. She jogs over to the van, which is awkwardly stopped a few feet behind Valentina.

ANGLE ON The inside of the van. A young DRIVER, tattooed, bearded, a few teeth missing, looks at Morgan with a big smile.

MORGAN
Hey, um/

DRIVER
Hey lil lady! Boy do I got good news
for you!

MORGAN
We're filming right here so if you could just/

DRIVER
I got yur goat!

Morgan freezes, stunned.

MORGAN
You have?/

DRIVER
Hattington Animal Control, we have yur goat!

MORGAN
Oh my God/

DRIVER
This guy's sure a talker.

Billy baaaahhs.

DRIVER (CON'T)
I was sittin' in our office and that pregnant lady was up on the TV talkin' bout the goat I just picked up from here this morn. Sounds like a reglier goat mixup.

MORGAN
Wait, wait, um... you can't mention that anyone called animal control.

DRIVER
They're gonna make me talk on the TV?

MORGAN
No! - or - I don't know - but you can't mention that part to anyone, okay? That someone called you? It ruins, uh, the mystery! You know! TV magic!

DRIVER
The mystery?

Morgan digs into her pocket and pulls out the twenty dollar
bill from Toby. She shoves it through the window.

MORGAN
HERE. Here. Just, take this as a tip and DON'T mention it.

DRIVER
You got it, lil lady.

Exhausted, Morgan runs back to Angie.

MORGAN
THEY GOT IT! They got it! This is it!

ANGIE
This is it?

MORGAN
This is our goat!

TRUDY
This is Billy?

TOBY
This is our goat!

ANGIE
We're back in five, four...

VALENTINA
Hello Hattington! We're back just in time for a miracle here at the station, we just had this, this, um, chariot pull up here...

As she speaks, Driver pulls up behind her and lifts Billy triumphantly out of the back of the van.

VALENTINA (CON'T)
Thanks to you, Hattington, and all of you at home, here's Billy!

A sweet reunion of Billy and his parents.

GINO
Unbelievable.

TOBY
This is getting picked up!
GINO
Our story?

TOBY
No, I finally set up that Tinder, I'm getting swiped on!
   (Texting aloud)
Hey... 2 u 2.

MORGAN
   (Looking at her phone)
No, we're getting picked up. Look! ABC News, NPR, NBC...

ANGIE
NBC, huh.

WE SEE Valentina, still on air.

VALENTINA
Later, we're heading back inside for our weekly segment, Mommy Said So. This week, could "breast" be the next alternative milk? More at twelve.

ANGIE
Commercial for two! Avid, ready the graphics for the outro, let's go!

Angie follows everyone inside. Morgan lingers, patting Billy.

MORGAN
   (To Billy, quietly)
Sorry, bud.

WE FOLLOW Morgan back inside.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Gino and Angie are standing in the lobby with clipboards.

GINO

LINDA
Billy? The goat that animal control took?
A beat. Everyone turns to face Linda at her desk.

GINO
No, Linda, animal control RETURNED the goat, silly. Angie? Studio?

Angie nods and Gino leads them out of the lobby. Angie turns back and looks at Morgan, who is heading into the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO - 2 MINUTES LATER

The studio looks like a bunch of farm animals were just running around (they were). Gino and Angie give each other a look, grab two brooms, and get to work.

GINO
I like that Morgan.

ANGIE
She's smart.

GINO
And what a crazy day. We went viral, we're sweeping up feathers...this was, like/

ANGIE
A disaster?

GINO
Are you kidding? Angie, that was awesome.

ANGIE
It was a mess! It IS a mess, look!

GINO
We had all of New York watching. We had MORE than New York watching.

ANGIE
Because of a tweet, not because of our quality or our storytelling or/

GINO
Does it matter?

ANGIE
No, none of this matters.
A beat.

GINO
I don't know. It matters to me. Like a lot.

ANGIE
I know.

GINO
And he's, you know, out of it sometimes, but it matters to Toby.

ANGIE
(Rolling her eyes)
And Valentina. Too much.

GINO
(Laughing)
Listen, I know.

A beat.

ANGIE
I think I piss her off. I know I piss her off. And she pisses me off! And if we don't like each other then this whole place is doomed. She's just a lot to handle. I know you know that, though.

Another beat.

GINO
Well. She finally took the ring off.

ANGIE
Did she give it back to you?

GINO
Nope.

ANGIE
That's messed up.

GINO
I'll consider it a small price for not having to/

ANGIE
Right.
Angie starts to laugh.

GINO
What?

ANGIE
It's just funny, most people would pay for a diamond ring to marry someone, you payed for a diamond ring...

GINO
Not to.

Gino rolls his eyes and they laugh together as we

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM - SAME TIME

Valentina stands, arms crossed, in the control room. She watches this conversation unfold in the studio through the monitor. We see through the camera that Gino and Angie are standing under boom mics. Someone left a camera rolling. Valentina squints at the monitor. Oh, it's on.

WE CUT:

INT. OFFICE - 5 MINS LATER

Morgan's at her tiny desk. OVER HER SHOULDER, we see her search "Valentina Rossi."

The "Who's Your Mommy" channel comes up, along with headshots. One article is towards the bottom of the search results, with a headline that reads "I Lost Everything..."

ANGIE (O.S.)
Almost forgot to sign out of this thing.

Morgan jumps, slamming her laptop shut. Angie sits at Valentina's desk. She eyes Morgan.

ANGIE (CON'T)
You okay?

Morgan nods. As Angie gets up, she stops, stepping on something. It sounds like she stepped on glass.

ANGIE (CON'T)
What the/ What was that?
MORGAN
Under the desk?

They move to see what's under Valentina's desk. Three empty wine bottles, toppled and broken, and a Velcro pregnant belly.

Morgan and Angie exchange a glance. Quickly, they destroy the evidence, tossing the shards into a garbage bag. Angie ties the bag and picks it up.

A beat.

ANGIE
You wanna go get lunch?

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Gino walks down the hallway, picking the last feathers off of his shirt. He hears something down the hall. He stops.

VALENTINA (O.S.)
I'm just saying. Really? Nobody's looked into why she couldn't make it at NBC?

Gino peers around the corner. It's Valentina bothering Linda.

VALENTINA
Well I'm gonna find it. And I'm gonna air it like a weather report. So just keep your eye out for anything, okay?

Valentina exits. We see Linda, picking at her salad and shaking her head.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - AFTERNOON - 20 MINUTES LATER

Angie and Morgan sit in a small diner. Angie has a cup of coffee and Morgan has a glass of water. They each have a sandwich. They sip in silence.

ANGIE
You sure you don't want coffee?

MORGAN
No, thank you.
A beat.

MORGAN (CON'T)
I'm allergic to caffeine.

ANGIE
Allergic? Like how?

MORGAN
I, like, break out in hives and become too conscious of my own mortality.

ANGIE
You sound like me at twenty.

MORGAN
You're allergic? Did it go away?

ANGIE
(Sipping her coffee)
Nope.

A beat.

ANGIE (CON'T)
So. Lucky first day, huh.

MORGAN
What do you mean?

ANGIE
You ended up at W-HAT on the most exciting day we've had in the two months I've been there.

MORGAN
(Shrugging)
Everyone worked really hard, I guess.

ANGIE
Well. Sorry it's not NBC.

MORGAN
It's a fine place to start, like you said.

ANGIE
It's the tenth circle of hell, apparently. You start here, you end here.
Morgan laughs to herself.

ANGIE (CON'T)
What?

MORGAN
Nothing, I just, I feel like you're always kind of in this mood.

A beat. Angie's taken aback but she can't argue.

MORGAN (CON'T)
Like. I'm kind of always in this mood, too. So. That's not a dig.

A beat. Morgan stares into her sandwich.

ANGIE
Weird that Linda thought animal control took the goat.

MORGAN
Yeah. I mean, for a news station, there sure is a lot of miscommunication.

ANGIE
Hey. I can dig at W-HAT.

MORGAN
Okay, sorry.

ANGIE
It's something you earn.

MORGAN
Right.

A beat.

ANGIE
The timing of Billy's return today, too. Impeccable.

Beat.

MORGAN
Sorry, are you insinuating?

ANGIE
You had a stellar, above average first
day. It's lucky.

Another beat.

ANGIE (CON'T)
(Softening)
I'm just saying, um, I would understand if/

MORGAN
If what?

ANGIE
If you felt pressure to make a good impression on your first day and you/

MORGAN
Framed Billy? I didn't frame Billy/

ANGIE
I'm not trying to be a bitch, I just understand.

MORGAN
Understand what? I didn't do anything.

A beat.

MORGAN
I just wanna produce. That's why I'm here. I wanna work in news.

ANGIE
Then you can't be in the business of lying.

Another beat.

MORGAN
What about Valentina?

Angie shakes her head.

ANGIE
I don't know about Valentina, that's/

MORGAN
Not our circus, not our monkeys.

ANGIE
Sure.
MORGAN
Are you gonna tell everyone?

ANGIE
About Valentina or your call to animal control?

A beat. Morgan wants to fight this, but decides against it.

MORGAN
Both.

ANGIE
No, I'm not.

MORGAN
But you just said you can't lie.

ANGIE
Sometimes we just have to decide what happened and live based on that.

MORGAN
And I probably have to earn that, too.

ANGIE
Now you're getting it.

MORGAN
And I probably have to earn asking what brought you from NBC to here.

Angie sips her coffee, saying nothing.

MORGAN
What are you doing Friday?

ANGIE
Me?

MORGAN
My band is playing at Murphy's. You should come hang out. Bring Gino or something.

ANGIE
That's not like... too young of a scene for me?

MORGAN
No. My friend's Dad is the drummer.
And we play stuff from the nineties. We're called Yellow Snow.

ANGIE
I have a lot to do at the station tonight.

Morgan nods and bites into her sandwich.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Morgan sits on her pillow. OVER HER SHOULDER, we see her posting the clips from the day's show. She's getting it.

TOBY (O.S.)
Mora?

Morgan looks up. Toby's peaking his head in.

TOBY
Good job this morning, you're done. Can't afford to keep you on all day.

MORGAN
(Softly)
You're not paying me.

TOBY
(Smilung just a little)
I know.

INT. MURPHY'S BAR - FRIDAY EVENING

A dive bar. Angie enters. It's not very crowded. She eyes Morgan onstage, singing "Dirty Work" and playing guitar. The band is perfectly okay. It's earnest but funny. It's Morgan.

As Angie's looking around, she spots Gino sitting at a hightop nearby. She laughs to herself, walking over.

ANGIE
Is anyone sitting here?

GINO
Angie Lark in Murphy's!

ANGIE
You got the invite, too?
GINO
I did, I felt special. I didn't realize everyone got it.

A beat, they watch.

GINO
Little Morgan! Who knew!

ANGIE
No, I'm not surprised.

The song ends. Sparse applause from the crowd, a standing ovation from Angie and Gino. Morgan hops offstage and comes to greet them.

MORGAN
Want these?

They're band T-Shirts. The front says "Don't Eat The" and the back says "Yellow Snow." Morgan's wearing one, too.

GINO
Um, YES.

Gino shimmies into the shirt.

GINO (CON'T)
I'm telling Toby about this first thing tomorrow. Let's get your band on the show! A musical guest!

MORGAN
Toby's here. I invited him, too.

She nods to the pool table.

MORGAN (CON'T)
He's about to win the pool tournament.

Gino runs over to Toby, who is chest bumping a towny.

AVID (O.S.)
Don't be fooled.

The ladies jump. Avid has somehow appeared on Gino's chair.

AVID
I won the first round. It's really a game of geometry. Angles. Angles...
Avid exits.

Now it's just the ladies. And it's a little awkward.

    ANGIE
    You're good up there.

    MORGAN
    Thanks. It's my side hustle. Actually,
    I better get back up. See ya.

Morgan smiles and runs back up. Angie checks her watch. Should she go home?

    GINO (O.S.)
    Angie!

Gino's at the bar with Toby and Avid, holding a beer for her.

Angie smiles. She walks over to them, takes the beer, and watches the music start up again with the guys.

Morgan's here for the summer. Maybe this will be fun.

    END OF PILOT