

Lie, Cheat, Steal

by
Lisa Halpern

WGA Registered

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INT. STELLA'S APARTMENT -EVENING

Stella is lining her lips with a lip pencil. Not satisfied, she wipes it off and starts again creating the illusion of bigger, fuller lips.

INT. BOUTIQUE - SAME EVENING

Lena is in a hurry, closing up her funky clothing shop. She scribbles a note that we can't read, turns off the lights on her way out and sticks the note on the door as she leaves.

CLOSE UP on the note which reads:"closed early due to family emergency."

INT. OFFICE MEETING ROOM -SAME EVENING

Jody is sitting in a meeting with her boss and a male co-worker. Everyone is all smiles until the boss slides an important looking file towards the co-worker who is elated. Jody tries to keep her game face but is obviously disappointed.

The boss shakes co-worker's hand, they all stand and the two men walk out slapping each other on the back and talking.

Jody slowly puts on her coat, grabs her notebook and purse. As she walks towards the door she notices a \$20 bill on the floor. She picks it up, casually stuffs it in her pocket and walks out with a smile.

INT. STELLA'S APARTMENT -LATER

Stella is looking in a hallway mirror, finishing putting on her lipstick. Her boyfriend Jess passes by with an admiring look.

JESS
You look great.

STELLA
Like I can take your word for it.
You think I look good in my workout
clothes.

JESS
You do.

STELLA
Puh-leaze.

There is a knock at the door.

STELLA (CONT'D)
Would you get it? Tell them I'll
be just a minute. I gotta change.

Jess opens the door as Stella slips into the bedroom.

JODY
Don't tell me...she's changing her
clothes.

JESS
It's my fault. I told her she
looked good.

Stella enters, grabs her purse and sweeps by Jess

STELLA
Hey girl.

The girls head for the door

JESS
Have fun kids.

JODY
You too. Stay outta trouble
tonight, fella.

INT. HALLWAY

As the door closes behind them Stella rolls her eyes

STELLA
I wish he'd get in trouble once in
awhile.

INT. BAR - LATER FIRST MEETING

The girls are in deep dish mode.

LENA
So, did you get that big account?

JODY
The Weasel got it.

LENA
He got the last one!

JODY
And the one before that.

STELLA
Just cuz she doesn't have a penis
doesn't mean she doesn't have
balls, people.

JODY
I could so kick ass on that
account.

STELLA
No doubt about it. I wish Jess had
half the balls you've got, girl.

JODY
Hey, Jess is a good guy.

STELLA
Yeah, and a professional barista.
No ambition.

LENA
Be thankful you have someone sweet.

Stella yawns.

LENA (CONT'D)
I'd give anything to have someone
like Jess.

STELLA
Take my boyfriend, please.

LENA
I'm serious.

STELLA
You're not thinkin clearly cause
you're baby crazy.

LENA
Oh, so wanting a baby makes me
crazy? I don't think so. I know
what I want, I just can't seem to
get it.

STELLA

Yeah, me either. I just want a guy who makes a decent living and isn't always giving away his time away... for free.

LENA

Hello -volunteering is a good thing.

STELLA

I'm just saying he could be making some real money.

JODY

-- because he's a guy -- on the other hand - no matter how hard I work, I'm never going to get to make any money. How does a girl get to the next rung on the fucking ladder?

STELLA

I'm tellin' ya. It's just so not fair.

JODY

Yup. There's absolutely no reward for being a decent person.

STELLA

So who are these shmoo who are getting what they want out of life?

LENA

Liars, cheaters and thieves.

JODY

You mean politicians.

LENA

Super models.

JODY

Enron executives. Mafia.

LENA

Anybody who doesn't give a shit about the consequences.

STELLA

That's not a bad idea.

LENA

Huh?

STELLA

I mean, come on, we've been having this same conversation for a million years. We're stuck. We're frustrated -- so, what're we going to do about it?

JODY

You got a point.

STELLA

Lie. Cheat. Steal. How wicked!

LENA

Wait a minute --

STELLA

Come on. Haven't you always fantasized about doing something bad? Totally tabu?

Stella rummages through her purse setting things on the table as she hunts. She pulls out a drugstore box of fake finger nails - pulls out three slightly different lengths and holds them in her hand.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Okay. Pick a nail any nail. Longest one is Lie, Middle is Cheat, shortest is Steal. You first Lena.

JODY

That's not fair, they're your nails - someone else should hold them.

LENA

I'll hold them. You first Stell.

Stella picks the shortest one.

STELLA

This sucks. I can't be Steal. I was a big klepto in highschool. Been there, done that. I want something new and exciting. Lemme go again.

Lena looks at Jody, who nods.

LENA
Okay. One more time then.

Stella picks again. This time it's the longest one.

JODY
Okay so you're Lie -

STELLA
I'm sorry you guys but really,
lying is like, second nature to me.

LENA
You don't lie.

STELLA
Remember when I had to miss your
birthday party last year because my
cousin was in town?

LENA
Yeah.

STELLA
No cousin. Had a date.

JODY
Okay look, a little "get out of a
party" lie, isn't a big deal.

Lena looks hurt.

JODY (CONT'D)
Sorry Lena, but really -

STELLA
'Member when you were in the
hospital and you asked me to get
your pajamas and toothbrush from
your house for you?

JODY
Yeah - but I understood - I mean,
you had that -

STELLA
All My Children. I was watching
All My Children.

JODY
You suck, Stell.

STELLA
I know. But I don't cheat, and
I've always wanted to. So that
settles it - I'm Cheat. Next?

JODY
You really suck.

She pulls a nail.

STELLA
Oooh. You're lie. This oughta be
good.

JODY
I'm not talking to you right now.
Lena, I guess you're Steal.

LENA
But -

STELLA
So do your dirty deeds and we'll
meet next week and dish. Now that's
all settled, gotta run.

LENA
Hold on a minute, did I miss
something?

Stella gets up and grabs her bag.

STELLA
I gotta work early tomorrow --

JODY
It's Saturday.

STELLA
Oh alright - I'm not working, but
if get home soon, Jess might still
be awake and I'm in the mood.

LENA & JODY
You suck Stell.

STELLA
Yeah, if I hurry. See ya girls!

Stella leaves.

LENA
Want another?

JODY
You have to ask?

Lena makes her way to the bar. Jody looks up absently sees a guy across the bar looking at her. He smiles and waves.

JODY (CONT'D)
Oh brother.

He pats the empty stool next to him. She shakes her head "no", and points to Lena. he shakes his head "no" and points to Jody.

Lena returns carrying two pints of beer and looking pensive. Jody is mangling her straw absently.

LENA
Stella and her crazy schemes.

JODY
Yeah. So, are you gonna do it?