

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

RUTH WILDER, 30s, wearing a gorgeous black and white geometric power suit, stands at the head of a large conference table.

RUTH

In this world there are good guys and bad guys. And we are the good guys. You see that name on my door? That's my father's name, sonofabitch. But this isn't about him. This is about justice. This is about holding on to what is ours. This is about my firm, and my name.

She holds the moment, in full control of the room.

RUTH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

And I will not be bullied into submission.

REVEAL MALLORY, the casting director, (50s) a blousy woman in leopard print stilettos, and an ASSISTANT working an ENORMOUS camcorder. Ruth breaks character.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Can I just say-- Thank you so much for bringing me in. There aren't parts like this for women right now. It's great. Really powerful.

Ruth smiles broadly.

MALLORY

You were reading the man's part.

RUTH

I was? Oh. God. I'm sorry. I figured Mel was short for Melanie. And then the other part was-- Okay.

MALLORY

Would you like to start again?

RUTH

Yes. I would.

CASTING ASSISTANT (O.C.)
This is about my firm and my name
and I will not be bullied into
submission.

A beat. Then.

RUTH
Sorry to interrupt. Your wife is on
line 2.

CASTING ASSISTANT
Thank you

Ruth starts to walk out. A beat.

RUTH
Could I get some feedback on my
audition.

MALLORY
If you want feedback, call your
agent.

RUTH
I don't have an agent. Turns out if
you don't work for two years people
stop caring about you. I do have an
answering machine.

MALLORY
Still. This is extremely
unprofessional.

RUTH
You call me in a lot and you never
cast me. If there's something I
need to change I want to change it.

MALLORY
(deep breath. Then.)
Every director says "Get me someone
I don't know. Someone I haven't
seen. I want a girl who's real." I
bring you in so they can see that
they don't actually want the thing
they think they want. What I think?
If it was 1940, you'd work. But
it's 1985. Everyone wants Jane
Fonda or Jamie Lee Curtis.

RUTH
Okay. Well. Do you have any advice?
Besides going back in time.

Mallory takes a beat. Looks at her.

A beat.

CASTING DIRECTOR
Would you consider doing erotica?

RUTH
...Porn?

MALLORY
Obviously, I'm not suggesting you
go have sex on camera unless that's
something you're interested in.

Ruth watches Mallory in the mirror. Then.

RUTH
What I'm interested in are real
parts. Not secretaries telling
powerful men their wives are on
line 2.

Mallory stops and turns to her.

MALLORY
You read the man's part on purpose,
didn't you.

RUTH
It's the better part.