

ACT ONE, SCENE NINE

A DUMPY TRAILER has appeared. ELLE, with EMMETT by her side, turns to PAULETTE.

ELLE

Paulette, are you ready?

PAULETTE

I don't know, Elle. Dewey scares the crap outta me.

ELLE

And that's okay. Channel that fear and tell yourself you are a strong, independent woman. You MUST be reunited with your dog.

EMMETT

Anyone who bakes their dog a birthday cake deserves nothing less.

PAULETTE

(displays cake)

It IS shaped like a bone.

ELLE

And that kind of devotion cannot be ignored.

PAULETTE

It's not easy to find dog-friendly chocolate substitutes.

PAULETTE POUNDS on the trailer door.

Meet DEWEY. He sees PAULETTE, opens the door and stands in the door frame.

DEWEY

Crap, not you again! Paulette, get your fat ass offa my property!

PAULETTE

I wanna see my dog, Dewey! I gotta right! I bet you didn't even know it's his birthday today.

DEWEY

(taunting, sings)

It's your birthday, it's your birthday... Well, you can't see him, Jelly Gut!

DEWEY takes the Bone Cake.

Best decision I ever made? Throwin' you out!

DEWEY slams the door.

PAULETTE'S breaking down.

PAULETTE

Can you believe I lived with that for 10 years? That cheap-skate never even got me a ring!

EMMETT pulls ELLE aside.

EMMETT

Elle, they lived together for 10 years -

Instantly, ELLE gets where he is going.

ELLE

Of course! Emmett, you're a genius!

Emboldened, ELLE knocks on the door again. DEWEY comes out of the trailer.

DEWEY

Now what?

ELLE

Mr.... Dewey, we are Ms. Buonofuonte's legal team.

DEWEY

(nervous)

Lawyers?

ELLE

(marginally meandering)

I don't think you understand that the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes your 10-year relationship with Ms. Buonofuonte as a Common Law marriage, which entitles her to equitable division of property.

DEWEY

Huh?

ELLE

Translation:

ELLE looks to PAULETTE:

ELLE & PAULETTE

We're taking the dog!

#10 - Run Rufus Run! / Elle Reflects

RUFUS RUNS out the trailer to Paulette, attacking her with kisses, which she eagerly accepts.

DEWEY

Whatever.

PAULETTE

Oh, Rufus, my angel! I love you! Oh, Elle, I missed this face! This is the nicest thing anybody's ever done for me, bar none...

ELLE looks right at happy RUFUS, and something dawns on her.

ELLE

WAIT — WAS THAT LAW?
IS THIS THE POINT OF LAW?
I'M FEELING KIND OF...HIGH...

EMMETT

You okay?

ELLE

THIS IS WHY WE ALL STUDY AND SLOG:
TO HELP THE UNDERDOG!
I SO IDENTIFY!

AARON enters, interrupting.

AARON

Hey, guys! Callahan got a big murder trial defending exercise queen Brooke Wyndham and needs extra help. He's posting his internship today!

Everyone chatters, excited.

CALLAHAN

Ladies and gentlemen, I need the best and the brightest. Congrats to the choice few. And as for the rest of you, welcome to the middle. Emmett, I'm making you my co-counsel on the Wyndham trial. Prove yourself here and the term "associate" isn't far off.

EMMETT

Yes, sir!

CALLAHAN

We start Monday, 9:00 a.m. sharp.

CALLAHAN slaps the Internship List on the wall; everyone's crazed to see who made the cut.

Make sure everyone dresses appropriately.

Callahan strides off.

ELLE

Emmett, that's so great! I'm so proud of you.

ELLE and EMMETT have a moment.

