LIFE BY PROXY

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COLD OPEN

INT. P&T CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

A large conference room is filled to bursting with LOUD MUSIC, laughing, drinking and shouting emanating from the doors. A sign is posted "OH SNAP! THIS IS AN UNPLUGGED PARTY. CELL PHONES OFF, PLEASE."

The boisterous business CROWD of young brand executives, mid-level team leaders and seasoned execs intermingle in relief and joy.

CHIP (50s, Blagstaff team leader, big personality) brings in a fresh case of champagne. The CROWD cheers, assembling a makeshift plastic champagne glass pyramid.

CHIP
(popping a cork)
To Blagstaff and P&T!

CROWD
To Blagstaff and P&T!

JULIE (mid-40s, mom-ish assistant) stands on a chair to pour the champagne, while ERNIE (late 20s, still looking crisp and fresh, with an engaging smile) glides over to hold the chair.

CHIP
Thanks Julie! Hey where's Chuck, he's never one to miss a celebration.

JULIE
He flew to New York tonight.

Chip sees LOTTIE (early 30s, stylish, magnetic, and in her element) in the dance line crowd and waves her up.

CHIP
His loss! Let's hear it for our fearless P&T Project Manager! She has put the "Winner" in this "Winner, Winner Chicken Skinnier" Campaign!

The Crowd begins to chant and lift Lottie up mosh-pit style carrying her around the conference table to Chip. Lottie is in heaven!

CROWD
Lot-tie! Lot-tie! Win-ner! Win-ner!

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VERONIKA (late 20s, understated-elegant) is unnerved by the attention on Lottie. KATHERINE (early 20's, slightly peevish, looking to get in good with someone above her level) approaches Veronika.

KATHERINE
Didn't you contribute to this campaign?

VERONIKA
(sighing)
Yes, but we all know that it's the Lottie show around here.

Chip hoists Lottie onto the table, and the Crowd demands a speech.

CROWD
Speech! Speech! Speech!

Veronika exchanges a hopeful glance at Katherine and discreetly pulls out her phone to record the speech.

LOTTIE
Oh my goodness - where to begin? Blagstaff and P&T have had a storied relationship for over 25 years. I want to thank Chip and Chuck but most of all I want to thank -

Veronika leans forward expecting Lottie to credit her as a wonderful co-manager.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)
The relentlessly hungry customers who love their Chicken Skinnier!

The Crowd CHEERS, MUSIC kicks in, and Chip indicates the conference room table as her catwalk.

KATHERINE
Not even a mention. That is harsh!

Veronika seethes with anger at being overlooked and continues recording as Lottie breaks out an exaggerated runway strut.

VERONIKA
Are you kidding me?

Lottie strikes a cirque du soleil-esqe pose but slips off the table.

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In doing so, she knocks over a sign that reads: P&T AND BLAGSTAFF - WINNERS WINNERS," as well as kicking over the champagne tower onto herself and next to Chip.

VERONIKA (CONT'D)
This is gold!

Attempting to recover from her fall, Lottie picks up some glasses next to Chip's crotch area, which from Veronika's angle, looks comically lurid.

Lottie turns, straightens her hair, wipes off spilled champagne from her face, and holds up a full glass.

LOTTIE
Didn't waste a drop!

Lottie bows. The Crowd goes wild.

Veronika cannot get over her luck at filming this. Smiling smugly, she slips out of the conference room, checking to be sure the video is saved.

Veronika freezes on Lottie wiping her face in the foreground of Chip's crotch.

END COLD OPEN

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ACT ONE

A series of FLASHBACKS from the 90's.

INT. LOTTIE'S CHILDHOOD HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lottie dances around in a carefree, goofy way with her sisters and their mom. An "America's Next Top Model"-esque show comes on and she stops dancing, her eyes aglow in wonder as she watches.

INT. LOTTIE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - DAY

Lottie practices "smizing" in the mirror and walking like the reality show models.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Middle school-aged Lottie and LISA (age 14, artistic, grounded) write a comic book together. Lisa illustrates and Lottie writes. They call it, "L&L Boom."

POPULAR BOYS take notice and marvel at Lisa's artwork (without commenting on Lottie's writing) as they move on to chat up the POPULAR GIRLS.

Lottie crumples up her copy and studies the Popular Girls' accessories.

INT. MALL ACCESSORY SHOP - AFTERNOON

High school-aged Lottie and Lisa shop and pass a kiosk selling Tony Robbins-esque self-help DVDs. Lisa keeps walking towards an art supply store but Lottie STOPS.

Lottie is transfixed by the video of successful, attractive people saying mantras. She can't afford the tapes but repeats some of the affirmations.

INT. FRAT HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

University-aged Lottie and Lisa are drinking at a college party. Lisa is in the midst of a drawing contest with other STUDENTS.

Lottie makes quick quips about each drawing, and Lisa draws inspiration from the quips. They feed off of each other and nearly start to read each other's minds.

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The PARTY CROWD loves Lottie's quick wit, but Lottie doesn't absorb it. She is more concerned with the YOGA GIRLS in the next room doing interesting poses / cirque du soleil moves.

Lottie leaves Lisa to join the YOGA GIRLS as Lisa continues by herself. Lottie tries some of the yoga moves. She falls over immediately, and the girls laugh and leave. Alone, she keeps trying.

INT. LOTTIE AND LISA'S DORM ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

LISA
Hey, so everyone liked what we were coming up with.

LOTTIE
What? When?

LISA
At the contest. Your words. My art. We should revisit our comic book.

Lottie points to ZVA (early 20's, an up-and-coming influencer on social media).

LOTTIE
Um, maybe. What do you think of her hair?

INT. LULULEMON-ESQUE STORE - DAY

Amidst the colorful lights and posters of influencers wearing the workout clothes (including Zva), Lottie works here and tries to emulate the fashion and the poise of dancers and wannabes that come in.

INT. CLOSET IN A MANSION - DAY

Lottie works as a personal assistant for a HIGH POWERED WOMAN (50's very chic). High Powered Woman gives Lottie a large bag to donate and a small bag for Lottie to keep.

EXT. RODEO DRIVE - CONTINUOUS

Lottie exhibits confidence as she runs errands in her donated designer-wear, but she has toilet paper on her shoe and doesn't realize it. Once she notices the toilet paper on her shoe, she laughs it off.

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INT. P&T ORIENTATION - DAY

Lottie and Veronika sit next to each other at Intern Orientation. Lottie's clothing is stylish but not expensive. An ASSISTANT comes by to hand them materials.

ASSISTANT
(to Lottie, overlooking Veronika)
Welcome to P&T! So glad to have you on board! By the way, we were all just talking about your style - love it!

INT. WEWORK-ESQUE LOBBY NETWORKING FUNCTION - AFTERNOON

Lottie (early 30's) watches influencers on her phone waiting in line at the bar. A video of Zva doing a makeup tutorial is interrupted by an ad of a young business guru talking about how to be successful with clients.

ADAM (early 30's, fit, stunning), behind Lottie in line, notices her watching this video ad.

ADAM
I love this guy. But he is a bit manic.

LOTTIE
Yeah-

Lottie answers without looking up. But takes a moment to meet his gaze and is immediately attracted to him.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)
But mania can be good in the right context.

ADAM
Very true. I am Adam.

LOTTIE
Lottie.

ADAM
What brings you here?

LOTTIE
I work at P&T. I am always on the hunt for fresh ideas. No better place than a networking event to meet like-minded people.

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ADAM
That is almost word for word what I told my buddy before coming here tonight. I was hoping to meet someone interesting and BOOM!

LOTTIE
Well, hope is not a strategy. And you strike me as a strategic kind of guy.

ADAM
I gotta have your number.

CUT TO:

Lottie and Adam going on Insta-perfect dates. Lottie gushes about them in her social media posts.

CUT TO:

Lottie and Adam going on Insta-perfect trips. Lottie makes fun posts about them.

CUT TO:

Lottie and Adam moving in together. Lottie posts about it. Almost every post is Adam hugging, kissing or snuggling Lottie.

CUT TO:

Lottie and Adam are at a networking dinner with Adam's business partners. They laugh hysterically at something Lottie just said and then nod and shake hands with Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(toasting)
To our launch and my lucky, Lottie charm!

INT. CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER - ADDY'S-LIKE AWARDS DINNER - NIGHT

Lottie and Adam, gorgeous in their formal wear, enter an elaborately designed venue. Lottie sees Veronika and they briefly lock eyes and wave politely.

LOTTIE
(to Adam, annoyed)
I can never read Veronika. One day she's friendly, the other icy cold.
(MORE)

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LOTTIE (CONT'D)
I even gave her a spot on the campaign, but ever since we have wrapped, she's barely said two words to me.

ADAM
Don't dim your light just because she can't find her own.

Lottie squeezes Adam's hand and then looks at him.

LOTTIE
(nervous smile)
Oh boy - here we go!

ADAM
(kissing her lightly)
You look beautiful, babe. You own these awards!

INT. AWARDS NIGHT, P&T TABLE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Lottie and Adam socialize with the P&T team around the tables. Adam easily hits it off with CHUCK, Lottie's boss.

Lottie takes selfies of the group, looking effortlessly elegant.

CHUCK
That's our documentarian. She loves a selfie.

LOTTIE
They're not all selfies. Those photos you use in the P&T presentations need to come from somewhere. I'm your all-in-one photo-team!

They are interrupted by the start of the program.

EMCEE (O.C.)
Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats as we are about to begin awarding ourselves!

MONTAGE

Nominees and winners coming to the stage and giving speeches. Overlap of various moments of stage and table. Merriment, excitement take over the evening.

END MONTAGE

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The group category is announced.

EMCEE (CONT'D)
And the winner is...P&T's campaign for Blagstaff called, "Winner Winner Chicken Skinnier"!

The table goes wild as the team waltzes up to the stage. Chucks hugs Lottie and Veronika as the two women approach the microphone for their acceptance speeches, but Chuck suddenly mic bombs them.

He holds the award to his heart before speaking.

CHUCK
This team. This award. This campaign. This campaign was about health. But this team was about heart. And the heartbeat of this team was...
(gestures to Lottie and Veronika)
Go P&T!

Lottie and Veronika smile. The group high fives and hugs as they leave the stage. Chuck hugs Lottie enthusiastically, then Veronika as an afterthought.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
What a night, hey kiddo?

LOTTIE
Yeah, congrats...to us. To you!

Chuck is still looking at the award. Adam is at another table chatting. Lottie fixes her makeup and takes a selfie and hashtags #winner. She uploads it.

INT. AWARDS NIGHT, P&T TABLE - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Everyone is back at the table. Adam holds Lottie's hand.

EMCEE
And now for the Campaign Concept Executive of the Year Award! All four of these nominees have been rising through the ranks for the past several years, pushing the envelope and each other. Two of them even work at the same firm!

The P&T Table cheers and everyone looks at Veronika and Lottie. They briefly look at each other.

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EMCEE (CONT'D)
The winner is...Lottie (last name muffled over cheers) of P&T!

Lottie beams! Veronika forces a smile. Adam gives a shout of victory with a fist pump.

ADAM
That's my girl!

As the table bubbles with congratulations, Veronika becomes more withdrawn, attempting to hide her anger. Julie tries to console her.

JULIE
I know how hard you are working - I'm sorry. But trust me, all that attention can be a two-way street. You just do you! It will all come together.

As Lottie, Chuck and the rest of the table celebrate, Katherine catches Veronika's eye from the next table, rolling her eyes at Lottie's win. She points to her phone to remind her of the incriminating Lottie-Blagstaff party video footage.

Veronika pulls out her phone and finds the recording. She makes a few edits, making the video look like Lottie was being entirely inappropriate. She sends it anonymously to P&T's CEO and coolly nods to Katherine.

KAREN (mid-50's, executive assistant) 4 drinks in, receives the video at the table next to Lottie. Wide-eyed, Karen dissolves into laughter, sharing it with the table.

In moments, the room is aghast with giggles and shock. The video #whatawinner goes viral. Lottie receives stares.

INT. P&T OFFICES, LOTTIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Ernie consoles a stunned Lottie.

ERNIE
Breathe . . . Look at it this way - you looked gorgeous!

LOTTIE
So many views! On so many various apps! From Campaign Executive of the Year to meme of the day...one million views!?

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