

THE GIZMO

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INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - PEWS OUTSIDE A CONFESSIONAL - DAY

A card above the priest's door on the confessional indicates that a priest is there on duty.

NIKI ARCHER, 21, glasses, pretty but nerdy, sits in a pew awaiting her turn to go into a confessional. She wears a t-shirt with the words "Talk Nerdy To Me" on it.

A prim LITTLE OLD LADY, 80, exits the penitent's side of the confessional, making the sign of the cross. She smiles and holds the door for Niki, who enters the confessional.

LITTLE OLD LADY
I warmed him up for you, Dearie.

INT. CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Inside the confessional, Niki kneels. A PRIEST opens the screen between them. They can hear each other, but they can't see each other.

NIKI
Bless me, Father. I have sinned.

PRIEST
Yes, my child?

NIKI
I am a very virtuous woman. I hate to admit it but I'm still a virg...virg...uh, a virtual idiot. I have terribly licentious dreams over and over again.

PRIEST
What kind of dreams, my child?

NIKI
Disgusting dreams.

PRIEST
Be more specific, dear.

NIKI

I can't talk about them.

PRIEST

Then why are you here, my child?

NIKI

They're dirty, kinky, sexy. I try to get rid of them but I can't.

PRIEST

How do these dreams, uh, climax?

NIKI

I try to stay pure but something comes over me.

PRIEST

And do you, uh, pleasure yourself when you have these dreams?

NIKI

Well, uh, why do you want to know?

PRIEST

So I will know what penance to give you, my child. Who is in the dreams with you and what do you do?

NIKI

The one last night had both a guy and a ... Wait! You're getting off on this aren't you, Father?

PRIEST

What! Of course not!

NIKI

You know what I think? I think this is entertainment for you! You like to listen to teenage boys telling you about all the times they masturbated, and to teenage girls who tell you about getting so excited they almost let little Billy go all the way, don't you, you dirty pervert!

PRIEST

Who's in your dreams?

NIKI

(her voice rising)

Why am I telling my deepest, most private sexual thoughts to a man? What is wrong with the Catholic Church that it won't let women become priests? A woman priest would understand, but not you, you sex-obsessed moron! Priests should be allowed to get married so they aren't sex-starved virgins when they climb into the confessional and listen to stories that would make the editor of Penthouse blush. This is just X-rated entertainment for you, isn't it, Father?

PRIEST

Calm yourself, my child.

Niki starts shouting.

NIKI

Father, my ass! You're not a father and I'm not your child! You've probably never been with a woman. You just listen to confessional porn and then you go up into the rectory and pound away, right, Father? Maybe you're pounding your pud right now, listening to my erotic dreams. I'm right, aren't I, Father?

Niki dashes out of the confessional and tears open the door to the priest. There is the young priest pleasuring himself. (We see him from behind, so we don't see his face or genitals. We do see Niki's reaction to him.)

NIKI (CONT'D)

Aha! Caught you red-handed and purple-headed!

Suddenly, Niki is back in the confessional, gasping.

It is obvious that Niki only imagined yelling at the priest.

PRIEST

Miss, did you hear me? Say two rosaries, read a passage from the Bible, and do an act of kindness this week. Understand?

NIKI
 Yes, Father. Two Bibles, read the
 rosary, and do a good ... Is it
 okay if the good deed is ...

The priest slides the divider shut.

NIKI (CONT'D)
 ... for me?

INT. LIVING ROOM, NIKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Niki enters and locks the door as her dog, BUDDY, runs up to her. She pets him fondly.

NIKI
 Someday, Buddy, my prince will
 come. He'll be smart, handsome,
 nice. Like you.

Buddy barks.

NIKI (CONT'D)
 No, Buddy, he doesn't have to be
 rich. Just madly in love with me.
 Like you, Bud-Bud.

INT. BEDROOM, NIKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Niki and Buddy enter her bedroom. She goes to the nightstand next to her futon. An old Bible is on the stand, as well as a thick, well-worn journal. Hand-written on the cover of the journal is "Niki: Naughty and Nice". She reaches for the Bible but then grabs the journal instead. She grabs a pencil and opens the journal.

NIKI
 Naughty or nice, Buddy?

Buddy barks.

NIKI (CONT'D)
 Okay, naughty. Oh, I got a good
 one. A farmer's daughter, a hired
 hand, and a hayloft.

Buddy sniffs Niki as she starts to write in her journal.

NIKI (CONT'D)
 (to Buddy)
 How can an innocent like *moi* have
 such naughty dreams? I'm glad you
 don't have dreams like that.

Buddy starts humping her leg. Niki doesn't notice as she
 thumbs through her journal.

CLOSE ON THE JOURNAL

There are many descriptions of Niki's erotic dreams in the
 journal. One reads: "You say 'clitOris' and I say 'CLIToris.
 Let's call the whole thing off."

NIKI
 (singing)
 You say clitOris and I say
 CLIToris. Let's call the whole
 thing off.

Buddy barks with a wheeze. Niki writes in her journal: "Last
 night I dreamed..."

NIKI (CONT'D)
 Buddy, listen: "Last night I
 dreamed about what it's going to
 feel like the very first time."

Buddy starts to wheeze and cough.

NIKI (CONT'D)
 Buddy!

Niki scoops him up. Buddy wheezes even louder.

EXT. EMERGENCY VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Niki's car screeches to a halt in front of the emergency vet
 clinic. Niki grabs her dog carrier and leaps out of the car.

INT. EMERGENCY VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

PAUL SWANSON, 25, sits at the reception desk. He is dorky in
 a militaristic way. He wears camouflage and has a buzz hair
 cut but doesn't look tough enough to be a real soldier. Paul
 is trying to create a website, *Paul's World*, on a computer.

Niki rings the buzzer.

NIKI
Help! Buddy is dying!

Paul pushes a button. The door clicks. Niki rushes in.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Gotta see the doctor!

Paul hands her some forms.

PAUL
Visa or Mastercard?

NIKI
(filling out the forms)
How much?

PAUL
One twenty five for the
consultation. More if she does
something for the cat.

NIKI
Puppy! I'm a little short at the
moment. Maybe a buck a month?

PAUL
(lasciviously))
Maybe something that rhymes with
"buck a month?"

Niki reacts with a Yucch. She sees his website on screen.

NIKI
(buttering him up)
You know HTML? Wow!

Flattered, Paul puffs up.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Now, let me see the vet!

PAUL
Moola first. No bucks, no schmucks.

ERICA McCOY, 25, the Vet Tech on duty, attractive even in
scrubs, enters the reception room from the exam room.

ERICA
(to Paul)
Going for java.

PAUL
All the way to Indonesia?

Paul laughs. Erica doesn't, as if she's heard this too many times before. He ogles Erica's butt.

PAUL (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Nice arss, Baby.

Erica shakes her head. She's heard this before, too. Then she sees Buddy in Niki's basket.

ERICA
Oh, baby, what's the matter?

Erica heads for Buddy, walking close to Paul. As she passes him, he pats her fanny. Niki sees this and grabs his arm. She twists it up and into a half-nelson. Paul whines.

Paul
Okay! Okay!

NIKI
Apologize.

PAUL
Why should I? She shakes her naked butt at total strangers.

Niki bends his arm. Paul winces. Erica watches, fascinated.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Okay! Okay! I'm sorry.

NIKI
And I'll never ...

PAUL
And I'll never pat Erica's firm, round, sexy ass again.

Niki jerks his arm and Paul winces. Then she lets him go.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Unless she shakes it at me again.

Niki feints a move at him. Paul jumps. Paul glares at her.

ERICA
(to Niki)
Forget him.

Erica carefully takes Buddy in her arms.

ERICA (CONT'D)
 (to Niki)
 Follow me.

Niki follows Erica into the exam room. Scowling, Paul watches them. As the door closes behind them, he mumbles and looks at the form that Niki started to fill out. It has her name on it, "Niki Archer". He turns to his computer.

INT. VETERINARY EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Erica places Buddy on an exam table.

ERICA
 Thanks for busting Mr. Arsshole.
 You're a true Wonder Woman.

NIKI
 Think that'll reduce the odds he'll
 ask me out?

ERICA
 Paul? Ew!

Niki laughs. Erica examines Buddy.

ERICA (CONT'D)
 Could be a bowel obstruction, in
 which case we should operate, and
 if we don't, he might die. But a
 dull pain might mean pancreatic
 cancer, in which case operating
 might spread the disease.

Erica feels Buddy all over. Buddy whines lightly.

ERICA (CONT'D)
 (to Buddy)
 Buddy, is it down here or up there?

Buddy gasps. Erica grabs an unusual band with wires and electrodes on it and wraps it around Buddy's head. Then she puts a larger band with electrodes on her own head. The bands are connected by an electrical wire.

NIKI
 What the heck is that?

ERICA
 I'm trying to make a device that'll
 let me feel what animals feel.
 Damn. Still doesn't work.

Erica grabs a syringe and a scalpel.

ERICA (CONT'D)
I wish I could feel what he feels.
Then I'd know for sure.

Erica prepares the syringe as she gently squeezes Buddy's thorax. Buddy coughs. Something comes out of his mouth.

ERICA (CONT'D)
Hah! Here's the culprit.

Erica holds up a hairball. Buddy is okay. Niki hugs Buddy.

NIKI
Thanks, Dr. Erica. You're a
lifesaver. Uh, how much I owe you?

ERICA
For a hairball? And for knocking
that cocky arsshole down a few
pegs? A cappuccino.

INT. RECEPTION AREA, VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Erica and Niki walk past Paul, who is working on his computer.

PAUL
(without looking up)
Five nine zero one, number eight.

Niki is startled. She follows Erica out the door.

EXT. VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

As Erica and Niki exit the vet clinic, Erica turns to Niki.

ERICA
What did he say?

NIKI
My address.

ERICA
Don't worry. He's all bluster.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Niki and Erica sip cappuccinos.

ERICA

So tell me all about you.

NIKI

Not to brag but I'm a whiz with computers. Majored in computer science at UCLA. Took an elective in filmmaking. Now I'm hooked on making movies. I want to make a wholesome family film. Where'd you go to vet school?

ERICA

Can't afford it yet. I'm just a tech. Work nights. Call the real vets if I can't handle something.

NIKI

You gotta go to vet school. You're fabulous with critters.

ERICA

Saving up. Got a second job. Snoopy Paul, uh, mentioned it, the bastard. I dance my off nights.

NIKI

Dance?

Niki mimes opening her blouse.

ERICA

Yep, I'm a stripper.

NIKI

I've never met a stripper before.

ERICA

Pay's great. Guys seem to like my T and A. Make more at the club than at the clinic. Come by sometime. It's a hoot. Guys get so stupid around T and A.

NIKI

Money stupid?

ERICA

Yep. That, too.

They laugh. They like each other.

NIKI

I can't imagine getting naked in front of a bunch of strangers.

ERICA

Some can. Some can't. It's a trip. Just between us, I got great boobs!

They laugh.

NIKI

Your boyfriend mind you dancing?

ERICA

Harry could not care less. He works nights, too. TV reporter.

NIKI

Tell me about that gizmo.

ERICA

I'm trying to make a device that'll let me feel what animals feel. But it's tougher than I thought.

NIKI

By wiring into their brains?

ERICA

Not into their brains. I'm trying to amplify their brain waves so I feel the pain they feel.

NIKI

Pain? Hmm. And pleasure? Maybe it'll work for sex, too.

ERICA

Sex?

NIKI

Yeah, so lovers feel what their partners feel.

ERICA

Wow! Hadn't thought of that.

NIKI

Sure. Make it so a lover feels exactly what her or his partner feels. Record it so it can be stored and replayed. That way I can feel what it's like to have sex without actually having to do it.

ERICA

You don't mean you haven't...?

Niki puts her hand over her face. Erica nods.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Jesus. Well, gotta make it work for cats and dogs first.

NIKI

Hey, what works for one pussy will work for other pussies, too.

ERICA

Funny. Gotta go. Great talking.

They get up to leave. Erica gives Niki two cards.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Here's my vet card and here's a pass to my club. Come see me dance.

NIKI

Me go to a strip club?

ERICA

Time to expand your horizons.

NIKI

I'd be too embarrassed.

ERICA

You? You're not the one with her knickers down!

They laugh.

INT. BOB AND NANCY'S BLOOD AND GUTS PRODUCTION COMPANY - DAY

Niki walks into the production company's waiting room. A sign reads: "Actors, writers and directors: Wait here".

Several actors wait to audition. Niki signs in and sits next to shy, handsome SCOTT, 25, and tattooed tough guy, BRAD, 30. They hear an actress auditioning through the thin walls.

WOMAN'S VOICE

I have never been so humiliated!

The door to the producer's office slams open and an attractive ACTRESS, 25, storms out, tucking her blouse into her skirt. Her face is red with anger. She stomps by.

ACTRESS
 (jerking her thumb back)
 Assholes!

MAN'S VOICE
 (from the office)
 Next!

Brad stands proudly. He brushes back his hair and walks into the office. Scott shyly looks at Niki.

SCOTT
 You an actor?

NIKI
 No, writer. And director. Been in anything I might have seen?

SCOTT
 You probably missed "Our Town" at Podunk High. What's your pitch?

NIKI
 "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm".

SCOTT
 Man, you got the wrong company.

NIKI
 It's the only one to let me pitch.

The door opens and Brad swaggers out. He gives a confident double thumbs up to Scott and Niki and leaves.

MAN'S VOICE
 (from the office)
 Next!

Bashful, Scott gives Niki his actor's business card.

SCOTT
 Let me know how your pitch goes.

NIKI
 Break a femur.

SCOTT
 They say you only get one out of a hundred.

Scott enters the office. He doesn't close the door tightly. Niki watches him through the opening. Scott reacts to requests from the producers. He pretends to draw a gun, shoot and duck. Then he stands tall, hands on hips.

Niki is surprised to see him take off his shirt, apparently in response to a request by the producers.

He's a hunk. Then Scott sags as he apparently hears a negative comment from the producers. He grabs his shirt and leaves the office. Scott approaches Niki, shaking his head.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
Only ninety nine to go.

NIKI
Sorry.

He waves at Niki as he leaves. She watches him go. There seems to be an attraction between them.

BOB'S VOICE
(from the office)
Next!

INT. PRODUCER'S OFFICE - DAY

Producers BOB and NANCY, 30s, listen to Niki's pitch.

Niki
They're wholesome farm girls with
All-American values who never cheat
or lie or do anything naughty.

Bob and Nancy exchange a look.

NIKI (CONT'D)
It's sad when Mary's mother dies
but her best friends, Muffet and
Red, help her through this sad time
by baking cookies together and
reading their favorite nursery
rhymes, like "Sing a Song of
Sixpence, Pocket Full of Rye."

Bob slyly gives a finger down the throat gesture.

NIKI (CONT'D)
They call themselves Miss Muffet,
Mary Lamb, and Red Riding Hood.
They go to Sunday school and think
boys are icky. It's like Tom Sawyer
and Huck Finn...

NANCY
... in drag.

NIKI

No! It's a very sweet story of three BBFs. I think there's a huge audience for clean family movies. That's why I think the time is right for "Sunnybrook Farm".

NANCY

We're not known for family movies.

NIKI

Maybe it's time to expand your horizons.

BOB

You know what sells in Hollywood? Sex. Not graphic sex. Just enough to titillate all those Iowa farm kids you seem to know so well, to plant the seeds of desire, of passion. Not porn but sexy. Boys go to see the sexy girls on screen, and girls go where the boys are. They all buy tickets and we make money. Lots of money. And so do you. It's a very simple formula.

NANCY

If you had pitched "Jack and Jill Went Up the Hill and Down On Each Other", or "Animal Husbandry Sex Secrets", or "The Cow's in the Meadow and the Stud's in the Damsel", we'd say yes.

NIKI

Or "The Farmer's Daughter, the Hired Hand, and the Hayloft?" That was my sexy dream the other night.

BOB

So, you have naughty secrets, eh?

NIKI

But I wouldn't share them!

NANCY

Sweetie, take your naughtiest dreams and bring them to life on the silver screen.

NIKI

I couldn't!

NANCY

Pretend they belong to your
heroine. We intercut her sweet
awake life with her uninhibited
dream world, like you.

Niki

No! I couldn't do that!

Nancy shrugs. Niki is crushed. She storms out.

INT. NIKI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Dejected, Niki enters her apartment. She cuddles Buddy. There is a knock. Niki peers through the peephole.

MAN

(from outside the door)

It's Dan from the rental company. I
got the legal thingy right here.

Niki reluctantly opens the door. DAN, 40, enters waving a paper. He is followed by two WORKERS. Buddy sniffs them.

DAN

(to Niki)

Repossession is such an ugly word.
Let's just say I'm helping you live
a simpler life. Much, much simpler.

(to the workers)

Todas muebles!

The workers pick up the couch. Buddy hides. The workers angle the couch around the door. They bump the woodwork, nick the walls and scratch the floor. Buddy barks at them.

INT. NIKI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Niki, crushed, heads to her bedroom fighting back tears. The phone rings. Niki answers it.

NIKI (INTO THE PHONE)

Yes?

MASTERCARD OPERATOR

(recorded message)

This is Mastercard. Your credit
card privileges have been revoked.
Make an immediate payment or...

Niki slams the phone. She calms herself with deep breaths. Suddenly the phone rings again. She picks it up.

MRS. PETERSON

(from the phone)

This is the print store. We made copies of your script yesterday. Unfortunately, your check bounced. No money, no script.

NIKI

Uh, sorry. Be right there to write you another check.

MRS. PETERSON

(from the phone)

You must fancy yourself a comedy writer. Cash. No cash, no script.

NIKI

Okay, okay. Uh, next week, maybe.

Niki hangs up. She sees herself in the mirror, a mess. Suddenly, the mirror is snatched away by the workmen.

Her phone rings again. Automatically she picks it up.

MS. JOHNSON

(from the phone)

Niki Archer? This is the IRS.

NIKI

Yes. I mean no! Well, maybe.

MS. JOHNSON

(from the phone)

Your back taxes are one thousand two hundred seventy six dollars and, with interest and penalties, another eight hundred twelve dollars and thirty seven cents is due. How would you like to pay?

Niki slides to the floor.

NIKI

Please, just go away.

MS. JOHNSON

(from the phone)

This is the IRS and the IRS never goes away. Never.

Niki hangs up.

DAN
 (from the hallway)
 Okay, Miss. Just your signature.

All of the furniture is gone except her futon. Teary-eyed, Niki signs the paper and opens the door for Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)
 Need a place to stay, Miss? I've got a very big, very firm ...

She slams the door.

DAN (CONT'D)
 (from behind the door)
 ... king-size bed!

She hears his footsteps fade away. There are sounds of new footsteps arriving at the door. There is a knock.

LANDLADY
 (from the door)
 Open up! It's the landlady!

There is a key in the lock. The door opens. The LANDLADY steps in. She looks around the empty apartment.

LANDLADY (CONT'D)
 Skipping out without telling me?

NIKI
 No! Uh, I'm getting new furniture.

LANDLADY
 Before you spend a penny on furniture, pay the last three months. Certified check or cash.

NIKI
 Okay. No problem. Next week. Maybe.

The landlady touches the woodwork damaged by the movers.

LANDLADY
 Wild parties, eh? There goes your damage deposit. I'll pick up a certified check tomorrow or your new home will be under an impasse.

NIKI
 You mean "Underpass"? On second thought, impasse.

The landlady leaves. The phone rings. Niki answers it.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Yes? Mom! I'm so glad you called.
It's been one heck...Dinner?
Chinese? My place? Uh, okay.

Niki shuts off her phone and looks at her empty apartment.
She picks up her Bible.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Niki enters the confessional. The usual happens.

NIKI

Bless me, Father, for I have
sinned. But first I have a
question. In the Christian
calender, B.C. stands for Before
Christ, right? And the Christian
New Year, AD, Annus Domini, starts
on January First, right? But Jesus
was born eight days earlier, on
December Twenty Fifth, BC, right?
Christ was born when it was BC. So
Christ was born before Christ.
Right? That doesn't make sense.

PRIEST

Well, uh, it's, uh, just a, mmm...

NIKI

You'd think we'd start the New Year
on the day Christ was born but
instead it's on January First, the
Feast of the Circumcision. Our
calendar, THE calendar for most
people, starts on the day the tip
of Jesus' penis was cut off.

The priest slams the slider shut.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Right?

INT. NIKI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Niki and her mother, JANE, 45, sit on the floor and eat
Chinese food from take-out boxes perched on an upside down
cardboard box. Buddy watches.

JANE

So how'd the pitch go?

Niki
Awful. I want to make "Rebecca of
Sunnybrook Farm" but they want T&A.

JANE
Tits and ass?

NIKI
Yes! They wanted me to change
Little Miss Muffet to Little
Misses' Muff, Mary Had a Little
Lamb to Mary Had a Little Ass, and
Little Red Riding Hood to Little
Red Clitoral Hood.

Jane laughs.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Mother! Those are NOT funny!

JANE
I can imagine what they wanted you
to do with "Who Killed Cock Robin."

NIKI
I didn't wait for it.

JANE
Well, as Larry Flynt says, "Relax,
it's just sex."

NIKI
Who's Larry Flynt?

JANE
The producers just want you to
spice it up a bit. Make what sells.

NIKI
Who'd have guessed it's my mother
who's the sexually liberated woman
in the family while I'm the, uh ...

JANE
"Virgin" is not a naughty word,
Dear. But it's a funny one when
you're twenty-one. Been out with
any guys?

NIKI
One, a jerk.

JANE

Honey, it's not normal for a girl of your age to still be a virgin.

NIKI

I don't want to talk about it.

JANE

Relationships are important. Sex is important.

NIKI

I met an actor at the pitch meeting. A doofus but kinda cute.

Niki finds Scott's business card in her purse. It has a photo of Scott on it. She shows it to her mom.

JANE

Nice. So ask him out.

NIKI

I can't ask him! Besides, he'd see me for what I am, a computer nerd.

JANE

He'd love you, a smart, attractive woman who writes computer code.

NIKI

The guys who like nerdy women are nerds, too. They don't interest me.

JANE

You're bright, cute, a fine catch.

NIKI

You think I'm a mackerel? Look in Wikipedia under "nerd" and you'll find my avatar, glasses and all.

Jane picks up Scott's card. She opens her cell phone and punches in his phone number.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Mom! No!

JANE

(into her phone)

Scott? You don't know me but you met my daughter Niki at an audition today. She'd love to go out with you but she's too shy to ask, so I'm doing it for her.

Niki is mortified.

JANE (CONT'D)
 (into her phone)
 Yes, she's available tonight.
 Seven? Perfect. Her address is 5901
 Coldwater Canyon, Number 8. Bye.
 (to Niki)
 Let's pick an outfit.

Niki is stunned. Jane leads Niki to Niki's closet. Niki picks out several conservative outfits but Jane shakes her head no. Jane finds a very low cut black dress. Niki shakes her head no. Jane forcefully nods her head up and down.

JANE (CONT'D)
 Try it on.

Reluctantly, Niki takes off her jeans and t-shirt and puts on the dress. Her bra shows.

JANE (CONT'D)
 Tonight, no bra.

NIKI
 What! I can't do that!

JANE
 (gives Niki three dollars)
 Yes, you can. Buy a bottle of Two-
 and a Half Buck Chuck. After dinner
 invite him in for a glass of wine.
 And then - voila! - seduce him.

NIKI
 What! On the first date!

JANE
 Wouldn't be the first time.

NIKI
 Mom! You're a pimp!

JANE
 No, I'm just a caring mother.

NIKI
 Can you loan me some money?

JANE
 Sorry. My business is down, way
 down. But if you can help me, maybe
 you'll help yourself, too.

NIKI
Doing what?

JANE
You know my mail order website?

NIKI
Yeah. Lingerie and stuff, right?

JANE
"Jane's Boudoir" needs help. My inventory is like Victoria's Secret but they make millions while I starve. What's Victoria's secret?

NIKI
Marketing.

JANE
You're a computer whiz. Use your skills to market it on the Internet. Sell the hell out of it.

NIKI
Got nothing else to do.

JANE
Perfect! Fifty fifty?

NIKI
Wow! I'll make videos that flaunting your lingerie.

Jane hands Nikki a key.

JANE
Great. Here's the warehouse key.
Let me know if you need any help.

EXT. NIKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Scott parks his car in front of Niki's apartment and opens the door for Niki. They walk up to her front door.

NIKI
I loved that Thai place. Thanks.

SCOTT
You're welcome.

Niki opens her door and pauses, not sure what to do.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
Well, gotta get...

Suddenly, Niki grabs Scott's face and kisses him. She is almost as surprised she did this as he is. Then she opens the front door and gestures for Scott to come in.

INT. NIKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Niki and Scott enter her apartment. She is ravishing in the black dress. Scott seems to be a bit tipsy. Buddy sniffs Scott approvingly. Scott looks at the empty apartment.

SCOTT
Nice decor. Do it yourself?

NIKI
Naw, I had professional help.

Keys still in hand, Niki hands a corkscrew and a wine bottle to Scott. He opens it and pours wine. They toast and sip.

Scott awkwardly moves in for a kiss. Flustered, Niki drops her keys. They both duck down for the keys. They knock heads. Reeling, they stand up.

He tries to kiss her but she moves left as he goes right. He tries again but she goes right as he goes left.

She tries to help him kiss by holding still but he misses her mouth and instead kisses her nose.

Finally, Scott kisses her shyly, then passionately.

They lie down on her futon. He fumbles around, touching her. He jerks spasmodically. Suddenly, he has an orgasm before he even gets his pants off.

SCOTT
Sorry.

NIKI
It's okay.

Both are embarrassed. Niki lies there. Scott stands up, smiling stupidly.

SCOTT
Gotta go.

Scott kisses her quickly and leaves. Niki starts to cry.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Niki and Erica drink coffee.

NIKI
Do female animals have orgasms?

ERICA
Some seem to. Why?

NIKI
Because I didn't. Why are the best
looking guys the worst lays?

ERICA
You had sex with that actor?

NIKI
Scott. Not quite. Never even got
his pants off. He was up and out
like a second story burglar.

ERICA
Been there, done that.

NIKI
What? You're a burglar, too? He
didn't have a clue. If guys could
just feel what we feel. Or don't.

ERICA
Men!

NIKI
To men understanding women!

They toast with their coffee cups.

ERICA
That'll be the day.

NIKI
So, you finish the gizmo?

ERICA
I'm still working on digitizing
animals' brain waves from their
pleasure centers.

NIKI
Pleasure centers?

ERICA

The amygdala and nucleus accumbens.
They light up like a Roman Candle
when a critter has an orgasm.

NIKI

Sounds simple.

ERICA

I wish.

NIKI

For a whiz kid like you? Piece of
ass ... I mean cake. No, ass.

ERICA

Sure, easy. You want world peace
with that, too? Maybe a cure for
Ebola? Be able to carry a tune?

NIKI

No, just good sex.

EXT. SMALL WAREHOUSE, INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX - DAY

Niki parks her car and walks up to a small warehouse. Buddy follows. She unlocks the warehouse door with her mom's key.

INT. ERICA'S WAREHOUSE OFFICE - DAY

Niki enters Erica's warehouse and turns on the lights. She sees shipping supplies and metal racks filled with merchandise. Niki opens a box, revealing various lingerie items. Buddy sniffs some mannequins dressed in lingerie.

INT. ERICA'S WAREHOUSE SIDE-OFFICE - DAY

Niki walks into the small office. The computer and VHS player are ancient. There is a locked safe, stacks of bills, a business checkbook, and a cheap point-and-shoot camera.

Niki turns on the computer and opens the "Jane's Boudoir" website. It's a very basic website with a few slightly out of focus photos of the mannequins modeling the sexy lingerie. She studies an underwear line called "Unmentionables".

Niki can't open the safe. She looks at the bills.

She throws her purse on the desk. Erica's card and the pass to her strip club fall out. Niki picks them up.

EXT. EDEN STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

A MAN with a moustache and bushy eyebrows, wearing a bulky Dodgers warm-up jacket and cap, walks into the club.

The man sits alone at a small table in the crowded club.

On stage, a stripper, THUMBELINA, finishes her routine on the pole by throwing her bra into the all-male audience, which throws money at the stripper. She picks up the cash.

ANNOUNCER

Gentlemen, give it up for the red
hot Thumbelina.

The men applaud and throw more money onto the stage.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Now, a special treat: delicious,
delectable and delovely LuLu!

The audience applauds wildly. A STRIPPER approaches the pole. A WAITRESS approaches the man in the Dodgers jacket.

WAITRESS

What'll you have, Miss?

MAN

What? You could tell?

The "man" is Niki in disguise!

WAITRESS

We get a lot of 'em dressed up like
you. Checking up on their
boyfriends or husbands. Maybe both.
Maybe just curious. Or maybe
looking for a galfriend. And you?

NIKI

None. I'm just here to see ...
(realizing the stripper is
Erica)
Oh! There she is!

WAITRESS

You got good taste, Lady, but don't
get your hopes up. She's straight.

NIKI

That's not why I'm here.

WAITRESS

Sure, and the bear's Catholic and
the pope shits in the woods. Cosmo?

On stage, Erica dances sexily. Niki watches her, spellbound.
Then Niki gets up and starts to leave. Erica sees her.

ERICA

(from the stage)

Niki! That you? Stay for the show!

(to the audience)

Hey, everybody! That's my shy
friend Niki. Say hello to Niki!

Niki freezes. Everyone turns to look at her. Slowly she turns
around and faces the stage. Niki turns red.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Stay! We'll get a drink, okay?

Niki is embarrassed but decides to stay. Like a stripper
baring her body, Niki tears off the moustache and the
eyebrows. Then she takes off her jacket, revealing her female
form. The men see that Niki is an attractive young woman.
They applaud wildly as she sits back down.

NIKI

(to the waitress)

Right. A Cosmo.

Erica dances as Niki watches, amazed at Erica's joy in
performing. The waitress returns with eight Cosmos.

WAITRESS

(setting them down)

This one's from the guy in plaid.

This one's from the goatee. And

this one's from Charley. He's a

regular. And this one's from ...

Erica's bra lands on Niki's table. Niki looks up at Erica.

Niki

By God! She does have amazing ...

INT. JOE'S COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Niki and Erica sip cappuccinos. Niki is tipsy.

NIKI

(referring to stripping)

You. Are. Really. Something. Up.

She struggles to point to an imaginary stripper's pole.

ERICA

Thanks. Maybe you oughta try it.

Niki feigns huge embarrassment.

NIKI

(slurred)

That's your bailiwick. Not mine.

(sobering up for a moment)

Now, I got a business proposition for you. Wanna be in the movies?

ERICA

Sure!

NIKI

Gotta make some videos for my mom's business.

ERICA

Oh? What kind of business?

NIKI

Lingerie.

ERICA

Oo-la-la. When do we start?

INT. NIKI'S WAREHOUSE OFFICE - DAY

Niki and Erica, in old clothes, clean up the office. Niki sorts the bills as Erica dusts. Buddy watches.

ERICA

So how's this gonna work?

NIKI

What's the hottest thing on the Internet?

ERICA

I won't do porn.

NIKI

Sexy women. And in our case, ONE sexy woman, you. But no porn. We make sexy videos showing your beautiful face and your sexy bod wearing provocative lingerie. And to encourage them to buy, we give paying customers a free video.

Niki straightens out papers as Erica files them.

ERICA

Coulda sworn I heard "FREE".

NIKI

It's the essence of Internet sales.
Give 'em something for free.
We'll jump start sales by giving a
free sexy video with a purchase.

ERICA

Our sexy video?

NIKI

Yep. You get a percentage. Half.

ERICA

Half! You outa your mind?

NIKI

It's your T and A. I get half from
mom and you get half of what I get.

They hang Georgia O'Keefe posters on the walls.

Niki (CONT'D)

Gonna raise our visibility on the
web with keywords. Link the site to
other sites. Have a blog. Google
Analytics likes that kind of stuff.

ERICA

Okay, Internet genius, what's the
free video?

NIKI

It's educational.

ERICA

Boring.

NIKI

Not this one: "How To Strip Like a
Pro For Your Lover", starring world
famous stripper Erica McCoy.

ERICA

"LuLu". Don't want the Clinic -
especially Paul - to know it's me.

NIKI

You'll be my alter-ego who keeps an
erotic dream diary on a video blog.

(MORE)

NIKI (CONT'D)
We'll shoot an erotic episode every
week: "Erica's Erotic Escapades".

ERICA
Hope "Lulu" doesn't mind.

NIKI
Your alter ego?

ERICA
My altered ego. Where's the ideas
for these videos coming from?

NIKI
I've bunches of erotic scenarios in
my frustrated horny little mind.

ERICA
I may have one or two, too.

NIKI
Tutu? As in South Africa? Desmond
Tutu?

ERICA
(checking her watch)
Oops! Gotta get to work!

NIKI
Play any sports?

ERICA
Tennis. High school JV. See ya!

They hug and then Erica leaves.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Niki enters the confessional. The priest opens the screen.

NIKI
Bless me, Father, for I have
sinned. But first, I read a passage
in the Bible, like you told me to,
but now I'm confused.

PRIEST
Why is that, my child?

NIKI

In "Genesis", God tells Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, right? Why? Did He not want them to become smart?

PRIEST

Well, uh ...

NIKI

But they do eat the fruit, a relatively minor infraction, it seems to me. But rather than being a loving, forgiving God, He gets so pissed that He kicks them out of the Garden and tells them that they're gonna get sick and die. And He tells them they can't even get into heaven after they die.

PRIEST

Why is that confusing?

NIKI

Because years later, Jesus, God's begotten son - What the hell does begotten mean? And how does God have a son? He doesn't even have a girlfriend, for Christ's sake. Anyway, Jesus comes alive and some people beat and kill him. And God says, "Okay, great. Now that you've beaten and killed my only son, you are welcome to come to heaven." Where's the logic? God is appeased by human sacrifice? And not just any old human but his own kid?

PRIEST

That is one of the great mysteries.

NIKI

Why should the barbaric behavior of a teeny percentage of the human population warrant forgiveness by the Big Guy, when a minor infraction by Adam and Eve, who represented the entire human population at that time, send the Almighty into a snarky hissy-fit and blasted them from the Garden and barred them from paradise.

PRIEST

Calm down, My Dear.

NIKI

If God was so fricking' happy that we killed his son, why didn't he restore us to the Garden of Eden, with no sickness and no shame?

PRIEST

He gave us eternal life in heaven.

NIKI

Boring. At least in Muslim heaven you get to play with virgins.

PRIEST

Like you, M'Dear?

NIKI

Takes one to know one, eh, Virgin?

PRIEST

How do you know I didn't sow my wild oats before becoming a priest?

NIKI

I just sensed it.

PRIEST

Anything else, young lady?

NIKI

Not this time. I'll be back next week with another of my dreams.

PRIEST

I look forward to it.

He slides the divider closed.

NIKI

I bet you do, you horny bastard.

EXT. TENNIS COURT - DAY

Two attractive women play tennis. They wear tennis shoes but not tennis outfits. Instead one wears a sexy red bra and panties while the other wears a sexy pink teddy.

Both players are actually Erica but they look like two different players because of a split screen effect. Most of the shots are of just one player at a time.

Erica 1 in a pink teddy runs to make a backhand shot.

Suddenly the scene freezes. Someone types across the screen:
JANE'S BOUDOIR SEMI-SHEER TEDDY. ORDER NOW!

The tennis scene cuts to Erica, now wearing a blue teddy, making a forehand shot. Then suddenly she's wearing a black teddy and then a white one. The scene freezes.

Across the bottom of the screen appears: AVAILABLE IN PINK, BLACK, BLUE AND WHITE. ONLY \$29.99. ORDER NOW AND GET LULU'S "HOW TO STRIP LIKE A PRO" VIDEO FREE!

INT. NIKI'S OFFICE - DAY

Niki edits the tennis video we have just seen on her laptop computer. She finishes typing the product information across the bottom of the screen and then inserts a payment symbol, PAY BUDDY. Then she lets the video play. The tennis scene on her monitor changes to Erica in the red bra and panties.

On the monitor, Erica 2 makes a shot.

Niki freezes the scene and types: JANE'S BOUDOIR SUPER-SEXY TOP AND BOTTOM. AVAILABLE IN RED, BLACK and BLUE.

Then Niki changes "Jane's Boudoir" to "Niki's Knickers."

Niki edits the tennis scene some more. On screen, Erica wears a matching white bra and panties as she serves a ball. Niki freezes the scene and types: .. AND SNOW WHITE. ORDER NIKI'S KNICKERS MATCHING BRA AND PANTIES. ON SALE FOR ONLY 39.99. ORDER NOW AND GET ERICA'S "HOW TO STRIP LIKE A PRO" FREE!!

INT. EXAM ROOM, THE VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Erica examines a cat and gives it to its OWNER.

ERICA

She'll be okay in a day or so.

The owner leaves. Erica opens her computer and types "Amygdala", "Nucleus Accumbens", "cats" and "sex". Soon there is a montage of cats with electrodes on their heads having sex. Their brain waves are shown on screen. Erica makes notes on where the waves originate in the cats' brains.

Paul enters.

PAUL

Hiya, Beautiful.

Erica clicks off her computer screen.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Wanna go to a movie Saturday?

ERICA
For the last time: No. Hell no!

PAUL
(laughs)
I figured. Just like to bug you.

Paul cleans a cage. Erica turns off her computer and leaves.

Paul opens a cabinet. Inside are controls for the clinic's security cameras. He plays back the surveillance video from the camera overhead. He finds the part where Erica turned on her computer earlier. He zooms in on the keyboard as she enters her password: "Ilovecritters".

Paul turns on Erica's computer. He uses her password to open it. He clicks on "history" and finds the cat sex videos. He watches cats having sex.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Hmm. Kitty porn.

Paul turns off the computer. He pulls out a tiny wireless surveillance camera and a small portable monitor. He gets on a ladder and tapes his camera to the top of the clinic's security camera. His monitor shows what his camera is focused on: the middle of the room.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Erica and Niki order coffee as Jane arrives.

JANE
Hi Thelma. Hi Louise.

NIKI
Mom! Meet Erica, the face and body of "Niki's Knickers." Oh! I changed the name. Okay?

JANE
"Niki's Knickers?" Love it.

They sit at a table. Using her portable computer, Niki plays the tennis video for Erica and Jane.

ERICA
Fabo!

JANE

I knew you were talented but this
knocks my sox ... and knickers off.

NIKI

I posted it last night.

Niki opens Niki's Knickers website.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Keep your fingers and eyes crossed.

Erica crosses her fingers. Jane crosses her eyes. The website
appears on the computer.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Wow! Thirty two hits. Seven orders.
That's more in one day than the
site had all last month.

They high five.

ERICA

What's next?

NIKI

Think the manager will let us shoot
in the strip club before it opens?

ERICA

Think so. I'm her number one draw.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Niki enters the confessional. The priest opens the screen.

NIKI

Bless me, Father. I have sinned. I
read about Passover in the Bible.

PRIEST

Excellent, My Child.

NIKI

When Pharoah wouldn't free the
Jews, God sent plagues to Egypt.
When Pharoah still didn't free the
Jews, God decided to kill the
Egyptians' first born children.

PRIEST

Yes. He told the Jews to sacrifice a lamb and put its blood on their doorposts so He would know which homes to pass over.

NIKI

So God's a frickin' child murderer!

PRIEST

Uh, perhaps it's an allegory.

NIKI

Are you kidding? The Bible is supposed to be God's own words! And in his own words he admits to killing innocent babies. And if he's so frickin' all-knowing, wouldn't he know which homes Jews lived in? Your God is a not-so-bright, baby killer!

The priest slams the screen closed.

INT. EDEN STRIP CLUB - DAY

In shorts, T-shirt and heels, Erica stands next to the stripper's pole in the empty strip club. Niki is there with her video camera. Two other cameras are set up on either side, pointed at the pole. Niki turns on all three cameras.

NIKI

Nice of the manager to let us film.

ERICA

She'd better. I'm making her rich.

NIKI

Okay, ready? Action.

Erica speaks into Niki's camera as Niki videotapes her.

ERICA

You wanna keep 'em interested but don't satisfy 'em too soon. That's why it's called a strip TEASE.

Erica strokes the pole.

ERICA (CONT'D)

This is your best buddy. Install one in your bedroom. Or living room!

(MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

It's a great conversation piece
when you host the Coffee Klatch.
You may be nervous before your
first performance. I'll never
forget my first time.

Erica goes to the curtains on the side of the stage.

Meanwhile at the back of the club, a frumpy cleaning lady,
TILDA, 45, enters. She has a mop, bucket and broom. She
sweeps between the tables. Erica and Niki don't notice Tilda
and Tilda pays no attention to them.

Erica peeks out from the curtains. Niki tapes her.

ERICA (CONT'D)

The joint was jammed. I peeked and
saw every kind of guy, from middle-
aged businessmen to horny frat
dudes. I was so nervous! I wore a
Catholic schoolgirl outfit with
pigtails and a huge lollipop. I
came out from the wings like this.

Erica enters now dressed as a schoolgirl with a lollipop.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I strutted across the stage looking
at this cute nerd in the front row,
I reached for the pole ...

Which she does ... and misses it.

ERICA (CONT'D)

... and missed it.

Erica falls on her keister. She brushes herself off and
forces a big smile at her imaginary audience.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I didn't turn anybody on but I sure
got a lot of laughs. Guess what?
Laughs are more than okay. You're
an entertainer. It's a good idea to
mix a little humor with your tease.

Erica picks herself up and struts across the stage.

ERICA (CONT'D)

If you screw up, it's part of the
act. Smile and press on. Your
audience, even if it's only one
person, is on your side.

(MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

They know it takes courage to get up here and perform. So, all mistakes are good mistakes. Be fearless. Got it?

Niki videotapes Erica as she demonstrates on the pole. Neither Niki nor Erica see Tilda mopping the floor in the audience area. Tilda sneaks a peek at Erica.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Most important is the tease. Don't pay off too soon. Here's how.

Erica plays stripper music. She strikes a pose. Then she sashays up to the pole and swings around it.

ERICA (CONT'D)

The pole is your dance partner. It's tall, handsome and strong. Love it and it'll love you.

Erica loves her pole. She winds around it, caresses it, dances with it, flirts with it, makes love to it.

In the audience area, Tilda mimics Erica by silently dancing with her mop pole. She waltzes, foxtrots and swirls with it.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Dance first. Strip second. Establish your power, your rhythm, your dominance. Then and only then take something off. Start high and work low. Take off your scarf, your gloves, the red ball on your nose.

She places a red ball on her nose. Then she dances, seductively. Then she snatches off the red nose and tosses it into the audience. It lands on a table near Tilda, though neither Erica nor Niki notice her. Tilda puts it on her nose.

Tilda flaunts her red nose at her mop "partner".

On stage, Erica unbuttons her blouse. Then she stops and adjusts her hair in a pocket mirror.

ERICA (CONT'D)

You don't have to finish what you start. Take something off and then do something else. When you resume stripping they'll be salivating.

Erica has her blouse unbuttoned down to her waist.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Take your time. Dance a bit around
your pole, revealing snatches of
your boobies as your blouse opens.

Even though she still has her blouse on, we see the curves of
her breasts as she swings around the pole.

Tilda unbuttons the top button on her uniform and then swings
around her mop, pushing out her chest. She seems to have
forgotten that she still wears the red ball.

Erica moves to the wings. She turns up the music.

ERICA (CONT'D)

(from the wings)

Hide and turn up the music. Your
lover will await your return with
bated breath. Hmm, sounds like
we're going fishing.

Erica suddenly bursts forth from behind the curtain.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Don't take anything off yet. Let
them admire your sexy self and the
sexy outfit you're wearing from
Niki's Knickers. Then dance.
Dancing is primordial. Everyone
likes to watch dancing, even if
it's only one beautiful woman
dancing with her pole. Especially
if it's only one beautiful woman
and a pole.

Erica demonstrates. Unnoticed by Erica, Tilda dances with her
mop, imitating what Erica does with her pole.

Erica takes off her blouse, revealing her sexy bra. Tilda
unbuttons her uniform as she sways to the music.

Erica swings around her pole as Tilda swings around her mop.
Erica strips down to her very sexy bra and panties. Tilda
pantomimes the same thing.

Erica pops off her bra but covers her breasts.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Now, the moment of truth. Your
lover's in the palm of your hand.
He wants to see your naked cha-chas
but you want control. So turn
around, sashay your butt.

(MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

Then grab the pole and slowly turn around, but not quite all the way.

Suddenly, Erica sees Tilda imitating her. Erica stops and stares at Tilda. Tilda stops, looking self-conscious.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Who are you?

TILDA

Tilda, the cleaning lady. You're fabulous!

ERICA

Thanks. Come on up.

Tilda gestures a "no" but Erica waves a "yes." Tilda shyly walks up onto the stage as the stripper music ends. She looks dowdy in her frock, apron and hair tied up with an old scarf. She still has the red ball on her nose. Erica holds out her hand to Tilda.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Come with me.

Erica guides Tilda into the wings where Erica dresses Tilda as a sexy French maid. Erica helps her put on fishnet stockings. She changes her frock into a short skirt. Erica unbuttons Tilda's blouse and helps her into a sexy bra. Erica lets Tilda's hair down and brushes it into a sexy sweep.

In the process of doing all this, Erica touches Tilda's arms, legs, hair and almost touches her breasts.

Tilda still wears the red ball on her nose.

ERICA (CONT'D)

You must work out. Great buns.

TILDA

Nice cha-chas.

Erica starts the music and pushes Tilda onto the stage.

Tilda's hair is down. She wears the apron as if she is a sexy French maid. She wears high heels and fishnet stockings. She wears a sexy bra as she swings her scarf across her chest.

Tilda dances provocatively, gliding lightly on her feet. She is now a lively, sexy, alluring woman. When the music ends, Tilda bows as if she has just received a standing ovation.

Niki walks up to the transformed "cleaning lady". As Niki and Tilda hug, we see there are six video cameras on tripods all around them. Niki videotaped the scene from many angles!

NIKI
Thanks, Mom. Great job!

The cleaning lady is revealed to be Jane, Niki's mom!

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Niki and Jane sit. Erica arrives.

NIKI
Hi, Erica! You and mom were great!

ERICA
Glad you liked it.

As Erica sits, Niki gets up.

NIKI
Be right back.

Niki heads for the rest room.

ERICA
(to Jane)
Erica says great things about you.

JANE
She's sweet.

ERICA
You two look like sisters.

JANE
I was only nineteen when I had her.

ERICA
So you're the adventurous one.

JANE
You're helping her open up.

ERICA
I'm going to the gym in the morning. Wanna join me?

JANE
Sure. What time?

Erica smiles.

INT. NIKI'S OFFICE - DAY

Niki edits the stripper video. Erica walks in.

ERICA
Hey, Girl, how's the editing?

NIKI
Great 'cause my star is a winner!

They bump knuckles. Erica plays the video.

She freezes the scene of Tilda in the French maid outfit and types: NIKI'S KNICKERS HAS SEXY LINGERIE FOR EVERY BODY! GO TO nikisknickers.com FOR THE GREATEST SELECTION OF SEXY CLOTHES FOR PEOPLE OF ALL SIZES, AGES AND GENDERS!

Erica watches Niki upload the video to Vimeo and then link it to the "Niki's Knickers" website.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Got more than seven hundred hits yesterday and almost a third ordered something. I'll make enough to pay the rent this month and even pay a little on last month's.

ERICA
Great. So what's the next scene?

NIKI
Gotta find something in my journal.

INT. NIKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Niki thumbs through her journal as Buddy watches her.

NIKI
(to Buddy)
Ah, here's one. Hope it's not too much for my faint-hearted audience.

Niki starts to write the story as a script. Her phone rings.

NIKI (CONT'D)
(into the phone)
Hello?

ERICA
Your "star" needs a workout to keep her girlish figure. Wanna join me?

INT. GYM WORKOUT AREA - DAY

Erica and Niki work out side-by-side on stationary bikes.

ERICA

Worked out with your mom yesterday.
I could barely keep up with her.

NIKI

She's amazing, isn't she?

ERICA

She sure is proud of you. What
happened to your dad?

NIKI

Motorcycle accident.

ERICA

I'm sorry.

NIKI

A great guy. He left us a lot: lots
of memories and lots of debt.

ERICA

At least you have your mom.

NIKI

Don't know what I'd do without her.

INT. GYM WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

After a shower, Erica and Niki towel off and get dressed.

ERICA

Man, that felt good.

NIKI

Why don't we say "Woman, that felt
good?"

ERICA

Boy, I don't know.

NIKI

Why not "Girl, I don't know?"

ERICA

I'm gonna start saying, "Gender-
neutral, it sure is hot today."

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Erica replaces the bandages on a puppy in a cage.

Nearby, Paul slides a dish full of kibble through the food slot at the bottom of a dog's cage.

Erica picks up some wires with electronic pick-ups on the ends. It looks like an EKG device with electrodes. She wraps it around her head but it slips down. She grabs her bicycle helmet and tapes the wires to the inside of it.

Paul surreptitiously watches Erica as she presses the pick-ups to her temples. She notices Paul watching her.

PAUL
Whatcha doing?

ERICA
Uh, just tracking the miles I ride.

INT. NIKI'S WAREHOUSE OFFICE - DAY

Niki toys with Scott's card. Finally she dials him.

NIKI
(into phone)
Scott? Niki. Got an acting job for you. Interested?

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Niki enters the confessional and kneels down. The sliding screen door slides open.

NIKI
Bless me, Father. I have sinned.

PRIEST
(sighing)
Yes, my child?

NIKI
As I've told you, I have many impure thoughts. Lately, I take those filthy thoughts and write them into stories and then make sexy videos of them. I use the videos to make money on the Internet selling sexy lingerie. I feel so guilty, Father.

PRIEST
What is the website?

Shocked, Niki mouths "What!". Then she mouths "Ka-ching."

NIKI
Nikisknickers.com. No apostrophe.
Tell all your priest buddies. Tell
the nuns, too. They'll love wearing
sheer lingerie under their habits.

PRIEST
Nikisknickers.com.

NIKI
Yeah. I bet a smart guy like you
can mention it in your sermon,
Father. You know, denounce it as
the work of Satan. It appeals to
our basest instincts, the pleasures
of the flesh. That'll get 'em
intrigued. Gotta go. I know: Two
rosaries, a Bible passage and a
good deed. See ya! Or not!

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Erica attaches a power unit to her headset. Paul watches her surreptitiously as he files paperwork.

EXT. PRIVATE BACKYARD POOL - DAY

Jane watches as Niki photographs Erica by the pool. Erica wears a sexy red bikini. A dozen bikinis are laid across a table near Jane.

NIKI
Fabulous, Erica! Now, how about
over your shoulder?

Erica turns her back to Niki and looks at her over her shoulder. Niki photographs her.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Love it! What's next, Mom?

Jane holds up a polka dot bikini.

JANE
Last one.

Unabashedly, Erica strips off the red bikini and slips into the polka dot one.

NIKI

Nice of your neighbor to let us use
her pool, Mom.

Niki photographs Erica in various poses around the pool.
Finally, they're done.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Erica, you're amazing. That's it.
Ready for a swim?

ERICA

Watch this.

Erica takes a deep breath and dives into the pool. She swims underwater to the other side. Still underwater, she turns and swims back and forth, side to side, over and over again, all without coming up for air.

Niki and Jane watch, amazed at how long Erica can hold her breath.

Finally, after swimming underwater for several minutes, Erica comes up for air. She breathes calmly.

NIKI

You're not even out of breath.

ERICA

My record is more than five
minutes. My swim coach timed me.

JANE

No air for five minutes! That'd
kill most people.

Erica reaches up for Jane's hand. Jane takes her hand but instead of wanting to be helped out of the pool, Erica pulls Jane into the water. As she's falling into the pool, Jane reaches for Niki and pulls her into the pool with her.

Giggling like schoolgirls, they play and splash each other.

INT. EDEN STRIP CLUB, BAR AREA - NIGHT

Behind the bar, Jane, dressed as a bartender, pops the cap on a beer and places it in front of the only patron, "Rex", who is really Scott.

Scott wears the hairdo and clothes of an ultra-hip guy on the make. He sips the beer as music plays. Colored lights sweep the bar area, reflected from a rotating disco ball.

"Mona", really Erica, enters wearing a conservative suit jacket and long skirt. She wears very little make up. She appears to be stopping in the bar after a long day's work.

Mona sits on a bar stool and Jane serves her a drink. Jane leaves the bar.

Rex sizes up Mona, who is attractive even without make-up.

A new song plays. Rex approaches Mona. She seems to be wary of his slick looks.

He offers his hand as an invitation to dance. She refuses to take it. He insists. Cautiously, she accepts and they dance.

They are the only people in the bar.

Rex pulses with the beat as Mona gently sways with it. They are good dancers, though Mona is more reserved.

Rex looks Mona in the eye. She turns away. They dance heartily and soon Mona gets more and more into the beat. Overheated, Rex takes off his jacket and throws it over his bar stool. He wears a sexy wife-beater t-shirt, which shows off his muscular chest and arms.

As they dance, Mona seems to be getting turned on by Rex.

Rex gestures for Mona to take off her suit jacket. She starts to take it off but then hesitates. In a smooth, swift move, Rex removes her jacket. She wears a very sexy Teddy-like top that reveals her cleavage.

Rex tosses her jacket on top of his. Self-conscious, Mona tries to minimize her exposure as she dances.

But Rex takes her in his arms and they dance close, provocatively. Mona loosens up and when he swirls her in a circle she seems to be proud of her sexy appearance.

As she spins, her top magically changes into a bustier and then it changes into a sequined bra. The scene freezes.

INT. NIKI'S EDITING ROOM - DAY

Niki sits in front of her editing monitors where the dance scene above is frozen. Niki types: LET NIKI'S KNICKERS BRING YOU OUT OF YOUR SHELL. GOD GAVE YOU THAT SEXY BOD. FLAUNT IT! CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR MIRACLE CATALOG!

Then Niki posts the video to the Niki's knickers website.

INT. HOUSEWIFE BETTY'S APARTMENT - DAY

BETTY, 28, a harried housewife in curlers, watches Rex and Mona dance on her computer. There are the sounds of a crying baby nearby.

Betty clicks on the ad button for the Niki's Knickers catalog. It shows an array of sexy tops. She clicks on a sexy teddy and it shows an assortment of colors, sizes and prices.

Text appears on screen: WHETHER IN THE BOARDROOM OR THE BEDROOM, RELEASE YOUR INNER FANTASIES WHEN YOU WEAR THE SUPER SEXY TEDDY UNDER YOUR ORDINARY CLOTHES - OR WITHOUT ANY CLOTHES. SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE: ONLY 29.95. ORDER NOW AND GET ERICA'S EROTIC "STRIPPING LIKE A PRO" VIDEO FREE!

Betty pulls out a credit card and starts to coo happily. The baby stops crying and starts to coo, too.

INT. BAR AREA, EDEN STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Rex and Mona continue to dance provocatively. He pulls her to him and goes for a kiss. She turns away and his kiss lands on her cheek. He pulls her to him and almost kisses her mouth but, teasingly, Mona swirls away from him.

Her spinning lifts the hem of her wrap-around skirt, revealing her long, lovely legs. Rex admires her as the rising skirt reveals the top of her stockings, affixed by garters. Magically, her garters are instantly replaced by sexy boy shorts and then high-cut bikini panties.

INT. NIKI'S EDITING ROOM - DAY

Niki sits in front of her editing monitors where the dance scene above is frozen. Niki types: NIKI'S KNICKERS CARRIES THE WORLD'S MOST COMPLETE LINE OF FRENCH GARTERS, BELGIAN BOY SHORTS, AND ITALIAN RIVIERA BIKINI PANTIES. FLAUNT WHATCHA GOT, BABE! CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR AMAZING CATALOG!

Then Niki posts the video to the website.

INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - DAY

JESSIE, a college student, walks into her dorm room from the shower, wrapped in a towel. Jessie grabs an ordinary pair of panties from her drawer and pulls them on under her towel.

Then Jessie notices Mona, frozen mid-swirl on her computer. Jessie unwraps the towel revealing her plain panties. In a full length mirror, she compares her undies to Mona's.

Graphics appear: THE NIKI'S KNICKERS UNMENTIONABLES EXTRA-SULTRY PANTIES. ONLY \$9.95 A PAIR. ORDER NOW AND GET ERICA'S "HOW TO STRIP LIKE A PRO" VIDEO FREE!

A trailer for the "How to Strip Like a Pro" video starts to play. Jessie is intrigued. She finds her credit card.

INT. BAR AREA, EDEN STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

The scene of Mona frozen mid-swirl unfreezes and Mona swirls.

Rex grabs the hem of her skirt. It totally unwraps, revealing Mona in nothing but bra, sexy panties and high heels.

Mona feigns embarrassment but then gradually dances alluringly, reveling in the effect she has on Rex.

She touches his cheek but pulls away when he tries to grab her hand. He reaches for her but she slips away.

With every move she makes, her lingerie magically changes into various combinations, including push-up bras, bustiers, thongs, hip-huggers, negligees and more.

She grabs his belt and snatches it from his pants, which fall to the floor, revealing his boxer shorts and sandals.

Mona rubs her hand across Rex's chest as the scene freezes.

INT. A NUNNERY - DAY

In her room, SISTER ALOYSIUS watches her computer where Mona has just stripped Rex of his pants. Graphics appear on screen: NIKI'S KNICKERS MAKES SEDUCTION ABSOLUTELY HEAVENLY.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Heavenly?

Graphics on the screen show a beautiful bustier and panties combo, and the special price of only twenty dollars. The screen also shows Niki's Knickers's mailing address.

Sister Aloysius pulls out dollar bills from under her mattress. She counts them. They add up to nineteen. She frantically searches under her mattress for more money.

Finally she finds another dollar. Euphoric, she addresses an envelope and puts the twenty bucks in it.

INT. BAR AREA, EDEN STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Rex and Mona dance a very hot tango. Rex tries to kiss her but she pulls away. She returns, teasing him into a frenzy. As their lips almost touch, the scene freezes.

INT. DAYROOM, OLD FOLKS HOME - DAY

MAVIS, 75, sits in the dayroom watching Mona and Rex on her computer. A bald man, CURLY, 78, snoozes in a chair near her.

Mavis stands up and does a pretty good solo tango. She nudges Curley. He opens his eyes and looks at her provocative dancing. He shakes his head and closes his eyes.

Mavis sees Mona wearing a beautiful peignoir on the screen. Graphics appear: SLEEP TIGHT. OR NOT. HE'LL SIT UP, TAKE NOTICE AND RISE TO THE OCCASION WHEN YOU WEAR ONE OF NIKI'S KNICKERS' PEIGNOIRS INTO THE BEDROOM. ONLY \$24.95. ORDER NOW TO SEE MORE OF REX AND MONA'S TANGO.

Mavis elbows Curly.

MAVIS

Hey, Curly. Credit card.

Without opening his eyes, Curly wakes up slightly.

CURLY

Whatcha buying now?

MAVIS

Just another, uh, household gadget.

Curly hands Mavis his Visa Card. He falls back to sleep. She enters the card number into the computer.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

PROF. ANN BINGHAM, 40, passes an exam to her students.

BINGHAM

You have half an hour for the midterm. And no cheating!

Bingham turns on her computer on her desk. She goes to the Niki's Knickers website and hits the mute button.

On screen, Mona and Rex are doing the tango. Mona wears a tiny thong and a sexy teddy. She looks very alluring.

Bingham watches, entranced. She checks her students who are concentrating on the exam. Bingham pulls out a credit card.

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

A man, DAVE, 30, sits in his cubicle staring at his computer on which Mona, in a skimpy bikini, dances with Rex in silk boxer shorts. Dave wears a headset. The screen freezes.

Graphics appear: NIKI'S KNICKERS HAS SEXY SHORTS FOR MEN, TOO. SILK BOXERS ARE ONLY \$19.99. ORDER NOW AND GET ERICA'S "HOW TO STRIP LIKE A PRO" VIDEO - FREE!

Dave's BOSS, 60, walks by Dave's cubicle. Dave clicks the computer. It switches to a spreadsheet.

BOSS
(seeing the spreadsheet)
Have it ready for the meeting.

SWENSON
Yes, sir.

When the boss is gone Dave pulls out a credit card as he clicks back to Niki's Knicker's video.

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - DAY

A JUDGE, 45, in a robe, eats lunch. On her desk is a blindfolded Justice figurine who holds balance scales.

The judge watches her computer intensely as Mona and Rex dance a naughty tango in their sexy underwear. Mona's lips slowly move toward his as he moves slowly toward her.

There is a knock on the judge's chamber's door.

BAILIFF (OS)
Your Honor, they've reached a
verdict. Shall I call them in?

Graphics appear on screen: TO FIND OUT HOW FAR THE TANGO WILL TAKE MONA AND REX, ORDER SOMETHING FROM THE NIKI'S KNICKERS COLLECTION. CLICK HERE.

The judge pulls out her credit card.

JUDGE
Ten minutes!

INT. BAR AREA, EDEN STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

In the center of the dance area, Erica and Scott, as Mona and Rex, dance the tango in their sexy undies.

This time, Scott grabs Erica's face and kisses her. Startled, she pushes him away and slaps him.

ERICA
No! Do not kiss me!

Niki is there, filming the scene.

NIKI
Cut! Great job, you two! Way to go!

Niki and Scott smile. Erica looks unhappy.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Okay, that's it for today.

ERICA
Look, I love dancing but I don't want to get physical. Okay?

NIKI
Okay. Understand, Scott?

Scott nods.

NIKI (CONT'D)
You available tomorrow?

Erica and Scott nod yes. Erica leaves.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Nice job, Sailor.

SCOTT
You write that scene?

NIKI
After I dreamed it.

SCOTT
You have a very sexy imagination.

NIKI
Yeah, my gift, my curse.

Scott tries to kiss Niki.

NIKI (CONT'D)
No. Gotta work.

Scott looks deeply at Niki. Niki leaves.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Niki enters the confessional. The priest opens the screen.

NIKI
Hey, Father, it's me again.

PRIEST
(sighing)
Yes, my child?

NIKI
I've been reading the Bible like
you told me and it's made me wonder
if I should convert to Judaism.

PRIEST
Why would you do that, My Dear?

NIKI
Because the Bible says the Jews are
God's chosen people and I want to
be one of God's chosen people, too.
Don't you want to be one of God's
chosen people, Father? Maybe we
should convert together.

PRIEST
I think God has already chosen me.

NIKI
Not me. I think God is really
pissed at me for doubting his
goodness and because I keep having
terribly impure thoughts.

PRIEST
Such as?

NIKI
Still getting off on my erotic
dreams, eh, Father? Well, this one
involved a naked teenager and her
horny stallion with a huge ... just
kidding, Father. Maybe.

PRIEST
It's not nice to tease a celibate.

NIKI

So what's the deal with priests'
and nuns' celibacy?

PRIEST

"The Deal?"

NIKI

God gives you a really smart brain
and expects you to use it, right?

PRIEST

Uh, yes.

NIKI

He gives you feet so you can walk
to people who need help, and hands
so you can do things for people,
right? So He gives you that really
neat sex organ and, don't deny it,
everyone is sexual, so when you
turn your back on sex, aren't you
really giving God a slap in the
face? You shouldn't be celibate.
You should be celebrating - sex!

PRIEST

It is our choice to sacrifice the
pleasure of sex to please the lord.

NIKI

It's not pleasing. It's being rude.

PRIEST

Self-sacrifice is pleasing to God.

NIKI

You nuts? Why does the creator, if
there is one, care a hoot about
whether you self-sacrifice? I think
He, She or It is much more likely
to be pleased if you use His, Her
or Its gifts, if God cares at all.

PRIEST

He cares.

NIKI

Just trying to entertain you,
Padre. I know, two rosaries, a
Bible passage and a good deed. Is
it okay if I do the good deed ...

The screen slides shut.

NIKI (CONT'D)
... for a naked boy?

INT. ERICA'S CAR - DAY

Erica drives as she calls Niki. Niki answers.

ERICA
Come to the clinic tonight.

NIKI
You did it!

ERICA
Not quite. I need your help.

INT. THE VETERINARY CLINIC, RECEPTION - NIGHT

Erica and Niki walk through the clinic past Paul, who writes up some paperwork, though he sneaks glances at them.

INT. THE VETERINARY CLINIC, ERICA'S CUBICLE - NIGHT

Erica leads Niki to her cubicle and her laptop computer.

NIKI
So what you got?

Erica hushes Niki as she pulls up images of a cat brain on her computer and points to the nucleus accumbens. Then she runs an old research film showing the brain waves of cats having sex. Both wear helmets with electrodes sticking out. The male has an orgasm. His brainwaves vibrate rapidly.

Then Erica pulls up her notes and diagrams.

ERICA
I can make the pickup focus on the right spot. That's easy. The hard part is figuring out how to digitize and amplify the brain waves and send them into another's brain. That I don't know.

NIKI
You need an algorithm.

ERICA
Really? You know how to do that?

NIKI
Maybe.

ERICA
Do it.

NIKI
I'll try.

Erica gives a flash drive to Niki. Niki leaves. Paul walks by. Erica turns off her computer and leaves. Paul turns on her computer.

INT. NIKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Niki tries to create a mathematical algorithm for the gizmo.

She tries to solve one equation after another but "Does not resolve" appears on her computer screen after each attempt.

INT. NIKI'S APARTMENT, LATER - NIGHT

Niki is sound asleep on her futon. Buddy sleeps nearby. Suddenly, Niki wakes up. She appears to have thought of something significant. Buddy follows her as she heads for her computer. She carefully enters a math formula.

Niki makes the sign of the cross, bows as if to a swami, sprinkles imaginary pixie dust over the keyboard, lights a votive candle, crosses her fingers, and twirls her finger into her cheek. She poises her finger above the "enter" key.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Pretty please with a cherry on top.

She clicks. Nothing happens. She sags and goes to bed.

INT. NIKI'S APARTMENT, LATER - DAWN

Niki sleeps. Suddenly her computer makes clicking sounds. She wakes up and sees something is on her computer screen. Niki runs to it. Her formula has been solved! Maybe.

She types a password. Then she hits the save button.

She saves the password-protected formula to the flash drive. She puts the flash drive in her purse. She calls Erica.

NIKI
(into her phone)
Came up with something.

ERICA
(From the phone)
You did it!

NIKI
Maybe. Maybe not. Let's check it at
the clinic.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC - MORNING

As Niki watches, Erica inserts a computer chip into a laser burner and connects Niki's computer to it. She clicks a button and a laser beam etches information onto the chip.

Erica burns another chip. She tapes the first chip to the inside of her bicycle helmet. She inserts the second chip into another helmet. She connects the helmets by wires and sends electricity between them.

There's the sound of a key in the back door. Erica hides the headbands as DR. OLSEN, 35, the veterinarian, walks in.

ERICA
Oh, morning, Dr. Olsen.

DR. OLSEN
Hi, Erica. Who's this?

ERICA
My friend Niki. Niki, Dr. Olsen.

They shake hands.

ERICA (CONT'D)
Going for coffee. Want some?

Dr. Olsen shakes her head no.

INT. COFFEEHOUSE - DAY

Erica and Niki toast each other with their coffee cups.

NIKI
To new frontiers!

They sip their coffees.

ERICA
Let's test it at the clinic.

NIKI
The clinic? Paul? Dr. Olsen? Rex?

ERICA
Olsen won't be there. I'll send
Paul home. Rex doesn't talk much.

INT. NIKI'S WAREHOUSE - DAY

Niki packs lingerie items in numerous boxes. A UPS delivery person arrives. Niki gives him the boxes.

INT. NIKI'S OFFICE - DAY

Niki checks the number of hits on the site and the number of orders. There are many hits and many orders. She checks her bank balance. It shows more than five thousand dollars.

She imports video of Erica and Scott dancing into an animation program in her computer. Using an electronic pen, she animates them as if they are having sex. She draws a big penis on him and big boobs on her. The phone rings.

NIKI
Yes?

ERICA
(from the phone)
Whatcha doing?

NIKI
Watching my computer get laid.

ERICA
(from the phone)
Anything on your mind besides sex?

NIKI
Once but it wasn't as much fun.

ERICA
(from the phone)
So, coming by after the shoot?

NIKI
(Minnesota accent)
Ya, sure, you betcha!

Erica hangs up. Niki saves the animation to a flash drive. She puts it in her purse.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFSSIONAL - DAY

Niki enters the confessional. The priest opens the screen.

NIKI

Hi, Favorite Father. You know the drill. We all sin, right? So the Bible says the Jews worship only one god. But the ancient Greeks, Babylonians, Romans and Egyptians worship many gods, right?

PRIEST

Yes, my ...

NIKI

Friend. So if a god is a spirit with magical powers, then we Catholics have a bunch of gods, too.

PRIEST

No. There's just one.

NIKI

"In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost." Three.

PRIEST

Ah, the great mystery of the Trinity, how three can be one.

NIKI

Each does something different. God is the creator and lawmaker. Jesus is the teacher and healer. The Holy Ghost is the spirit who wanders, impregnating Mary, who's the Virgin, who also supposedly has magical powers. People pray to Mary hoping she'll heal them or save them from hell. But a virgin was not unique to Christianity. Lots of ancient religions had virgin goddesses. The Greeks had Athena hundreds of years before Mary. The temple the Greeks built in her honor, the Parthenon, means The Temple of the Virgin Birth.

PRIEST

You don't say, Friend?

NIKI

I do say. Then there's all those saints with magical powers. Some find lost items, some oversee the safety of travelers, or fishermen, even animals and crops. They couldn't become saints unless they performed "miracles", meaning magic. And don't get me started on the angels and archangels and guardian angels. So Christianity is definitely not a one-god religion.

PRIEST

(sighing)

Anything to confess?

NIKI

Lots. Mostly raunchy. Gotta say I'm getting to like you, Padre. Sorry to disappoint your prurient interests today though. Gotta run. The usual?

The priest grunts as he closes the screen.

EXT. NIKI'S WAREHOUSE - DAY

Erica gets out of her car and enters Niki's warehouse.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The warehouse is dark. Erica turns on the lights. The stage is set, ready for shooting, but no one is there.

On the other side of the warehouse, Niki is slumped in a chair. Erica goes to her. Then she gasps in horror.

A butcher knife sticks out of Niki's bloody chest. Her throat is slashed open. Erica stifles a scream. Suddenly, the knife moves slowly up and down. Niki is alive! She snores. Erica touches her shoulder. Niki opens her eyes.

ERICA

Jesus, you're alive!

NIKI

Of course I'm alive.

Niki stretches, oblivious to how horrible she looks.

Niki (CONT'D)
Practicing my make-up skills for
the next video. I dozed off.

ERICA
I was about to call the cops.

Niki pulls the half-knife from her chest.

NIKI
Pretty good, huh? How'd you get in?

ERICA
The door was open.

NIKI
Could have sworn I locked it.

Concerned, Niki heads for her office. Erica follows.

INT. NIKI'S OFFICE IN THE WAREHOUSE - DAY

Niki enters carrying the half-bladed knife. Everything seems fine. The camera is ready. The computer is there.

ERICA
Everything okay?

NIKI
Think so. Can you do a lisp?

ERICA
A lispth? Thure.

From the warehouse they hear the door open and slam shut.

SCOTT (O.S.)
Ready for my close up!

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Erica lies on a gurney drenched in blood. She is wheeled into a hospital by doctor Scott and nurse Niki.

The doctor wears a name tag that reads: Dr. Simon.

NURSE
Dr. Simon, sure was a nasty crash.

They cut off Erica's clothes, revealing a sexy bra and thong.

DOCTOR
 (with a lisp)
 But thee's wearing greath undies.

ERICA
 (lisp)ing)
 Mom told me to always wear nith
 undies in cath of an acc-th-ident.

DOCTOR
 (reading the label)
 Thabulous thong. "Unmenthionables".

Erica seems to expire in an exaggerated way.

NURSE
 (lisp)ing)
 Unmenthenables: Undies to die for.

DOCTOR
 (He touches her thong)
 This was her thwan-thong.

NURSE
 (lisp)ing)
 Youth mean, "Thing A Thong of
 Thixpence, Pocketh Full of Ryth"?

DOCTOR
 (lisp)ing)
 Thertainly noth!

NURSE
 (lisp)ing)
 Thank you, Dr. Thimon. Ith greath
 working with youth.

DOCTOR
 (lisp)ing)
 Go thou and thin no more!

Suddenly Erica's "lifeless" body quivers. She giggles.

NIKI
 (lisp)ing)
 Cuth! Greath job, you two-th!

INT. NIKI'S OFFICE - DAY

Niki edits the accident video. She inserts graphics: UNDIES TO DIE FOR. NIKI'S KNICKERS UNMENTIONABLES. ORDER NOW! She posts the video on her website.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Erica puts a bicycle helmet with wires sticking out of it on Niki's head.

NIKI
(tapping a DVD disc)
I made a funny animation of you and
Scott. Where's Dr. Olsen?

ERICA
Home on call, like most nights.

NIKI
Paul?

ERICA
It's slow. I sent him home.

NIKI
Suppose a client comes?

ERICA
I can put scrubs on like ...

Erica snaps her finger. Niki turns on her video camera, which is on a tripod pointed at them. Erica turns on the headbands. An LED light glows on each. Erica puts on the other helmet.

Then she connects a cable from the gizmo to her laptop computer. She opens the iMovie program. She clicks on "record" and a VU meter bounces up and down as she speaks.

ERICA (CONT'D)
I'm going to record each of our
sensations so I can analyze them.

Niki turns on romantic music from her iPod.

Erica sits next to Niki. Niki looks at Erica and shrugs. Erica shrugs back. Niki scratches her arm. Unconsciously, Erica touches her own arm in the same place.

ERICA (CONT'D)
We need to, uh, touch each other.

Niki touches Erica's hand. Nothing happens. Niki scratches her cheek. Erica scratches her cheek.

Paul's video camera in the ceiling looks down at them.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Paul points his iPhone at his Apple TV and clicks a button. His TV set shows what his surveillance camera in the vet clinic sees: Erica and Niki tentatively touching each other.

Paul pushes the video record button as he watches intently.

ERICA

(from Paul's TV set)

I'd try it with Harry but I'd be mortified if it didn't work. And if it did, he'd have it on the news for all the world to know.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Erica gets up and opens the medicine fridge and pulls out a bottle of wine. As she opens it, Niki lights a candle. Erica pours wine into two beakers. They toast.

ERICA

To science!

NIKI

To adventure!

Erica runs her hands down Niki's shoulders. She hugs her.

NIKI (CONT'D)

In the interest of science?

ERICA

In the interest of science.

Erica nips Niki's neck with her lips. Erica reacts.

ERICA (CONT'D)

(rubbing her own neck)

It's like you were kissing ME.

Erica tries to kiss Niki on the lips. Niki pulls away.

NIKI

I don't know if I can do this.

Niki gets up and turns on stripper music from her iPhone.

NIKI (CONT'D)

I know. You strip. I'll film you.

Erica dances around the cages, stripping down to her bra and panties as Niki videotapes her.

Niki cautiously touches Erica's arms. Niki reacts as if she feels the touches, too. Erica embraces Niki and gently kisses her. The kiss deepens. They pull apart and touch each other. They react to the touching.

ERICA

Wow! I feel exactly what you feel.

NIKI

It's unbelievable.

Erica grabs the video camera and points it at Niki. The photographer is now the model. Niki is uncomfortable.

ERICA

If I can do it, you can do it.

Videotaping Niki, Erica pushes her onto the sofa, trying to get her to pose. Niki turns her back on Erica.

NIKI

No. You can't make me.

ERICA

You will do as I say or suffer zee consequences!

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Fascinated, Paul watches Niki and Erica on his TV, where Erica slaps Niki's fanny. Erica reacts just as Niki does.

ERICA

(from Paul's TV set)

Wow, it works for pain, too.

Erica spanks Niki. They both react.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I made volume controls in case you want more or less feelings.

Erica adjusts the volume control and then slaps Niki's fanny.

NIKI

Ouch! That really hurt!

Paul watches, very intrigued.

Erica massages Niki. Every touch affects Erica, too. As Paul watches, Niki and Erica kiss and gently touch each other.

They go to Erica's cubicle and pull two chairs next to each other. They lay across the chairs, kissing and hugging.

DISSOLVE TO:

Erica and Niki still lay across the chairs but they look spent, as if they just had sex with each other.

Erica mimes snapping her thumb on an imaginary cigarette lighter and "lights" an imaginary cigarette for Niki, who mimes taking a drag on the cigarette.

Erica takes off the gizmo and looks at it.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Amazing. It really works.

ERICA

Everyone's gonna want one. It's worth a fortune.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - NIGHT

Paul drives his car. His iPhone is mounted on his dashboard. Niki and Erica are on his iPhone screen.

ERICA

(from the iPhone)

Now that you made the alg, it'll be cheap to manufacture.

NIKI

How cheap?

ERICA

Maybe five bucks.

NIKI

Another five for marketing and shipping. And it'll retail for?

ERICA

Forty nine ninety nine?

NIKI

So forty bucks profit. I bet at least a million units get sold.

ERICA

Forty million buckeroos.

On the iPhone, Erica and Niki look stunned as it sinks in.

Paul slams his fist against the steering wheel.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Erica packs up the gizmos.

ERICA

I want to sleep with you tonight.
My place?

NIKI

I'm not sure I can do this.
Besides, what will Harry think?

ERICA

"Ah, a three-way".

NIKI

I'm sure he's nice but no thanks.

ERICA

I'll leave him a note.

NIKI

I'm exhausted. Let's go.

ERICA

I'm on duty until six.
(She looks at a clock)
Jeez, it's six! Let's go.

Erica packs the helmets. Niki packs the video camera.

ERICA (CONT'D)

What do we do with these things?

NIKI

We? You invented them.

ERICA

Your idea. We're partners.

NIKI

All I said was some guys need to
learn how to touch a woman.

ERICA

And you came up with the algorithm.
We split any profits, fifty-fifty.

NIKI

Wow! Okay.

They hold hands for a moment, then self-consciously move their hands away from each other.

NIKI (CONT'D)
What's next? Marketing?
Manufacturing?

ERICA
We better patent it ASAP. What are we going to call it?

NIKI
The Great Orgasmo?

ERICA
The Gonad Goader?

NIKI
The Sexmo?

ERICA
Sex to the Max?

NIKI
The Peter and Pussy Principle? The Eros Enhancer? The Mighty Multi-Os?

ERICA
Sounds like a breakfast cereal.

NIKI
It's just a fun little gizmo. Thus:
"The Gizmo"!

ERICA
"The Gizmo" it is!

Then Erica gasps.

ERICA (CONT'D)
Oh my god! I forgot. The clinic owns anything I develop here. They own The Gizmo.

They share a look of deep disappointment.

EXT. THE VET CLINIC - DAWN

Paul parks his car in the clinic's parking lot. He looks at his iPhone which shows Erica and Niki.

NIKI
 (from the iPhone)
 Damn. Double damn.

ERICA
 (from the iPhone)
 Maybe what they don't know won't
 hurt them.

Paul smiles to himself.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC HALLWAY - NIGHT

Giggling, arm in arm, Erica and Niki walk down the hall toward the back door. Suddenly, there is a sound behind the door. They freeze. Niki hums the Twilight Zone theme.

The door opens. Paul enters, wearing an iPhone headset, listening to music. He seems to be startled to see them.

PAUL
 Erika! You're still here?

Erica and Niki scoot past him and leave. Paul sniffs the air.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 (to himself)
 Ah, the sweet sexy smell of money.
 Lots of money.

EXT. VETERINARY CLINIC'S PARKING LOT - DAWN

In the cool dawn, Niki and Erica huddle together.

NIKI
 Paul is weird.

ERICA
 But harmless.

NIKI
 Suppose he'd walked in on us?

ERICA
 He didn't. Forget it. Coming over?

Niki hesitates. Then she gets into Erica's car.

INT. THE CLINIC - DAWN

Paul goes to Erica's cubicle and turns on her computer and

enters her password. It shows information about the gizmo.

INT. NIKI'S CAR - DAWN

Niki drives. Erica toys with the gizmos.

NIKI
I'm gonna make them wireless and
waterproof.

ERICA
So you can wear 'em in a shower!

NIKI
Or pool. New topic. You know how
women sometimes refer to handsome
married men as "forbidden fruit?"

ERICA
Yeah.

NIKI
I got a kind of forbidden fruit.

ERICA
Me?

NIKI
(laughs)
No. My priest. I confess everything
to him. He listens and understands.

ERICA
(seemingly hurt)
A priest. Never woulda guessed.

INT. THE VETERINARY CLINIC - DAWN

Paul sees what Erica was working on with her computer. He finds the gizmo info, but not the algorithm.

Paul reads her screen: "An electronic receptor amplifies one person's brain waves and, using a special algorithm, transmits them to another person, so that the receiver senses exactly what the sender is sensing."

PAUL
(to himself)
Where's the damned algorithm?

Paul clicks on a button that says: "algorithm". The screen says: "Password?" Paul tries a few passwords without success.

He plays back the security camera video but Erica's body blocks the keyboard. He copies the note to a disc.

Paul picks the lock on Erica's locker. He finds Erica's back-up disc. He copies it. Then he replaces it.

INT. BEDROOM, ERICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wearing the gizmos, Erica and Niki touch each other. They each seem to feel the touches.

NIKI

It wasn't a dream! It works!

They document themselves with the video camera. Then Erica wraps up the gizmos while Niki wraps up the video camera.

ERICA

It needs one more test.

NIKI

Not tonight. I'm exhausted.

ERICA

Not with us. With a guy.

NIKI

Well, if I really, truly have to.

ERICA

Purely in the interest of science.

NIKI

You first, with Harry.

ERICA

I'd rather do it with you.

NIKI

First things first. Number one, sleep. Number two, Harry tomorrow.

ERICA

He works at the station until one AM. Doesn't get home until two. Usually sleeps in 'til after I've gone to work. You want Scott again?

NIKI

Only if he knew what he was doing.

ERICA

That's what this is for. To teach.

Erica touches Niki's face tenderly, almost sadly.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I wish it was just us. No Scott. No Harry.

NIKI

You're kidding, right?

ERICA

No. I love you, I think.

Niki looks surprised and confused. They hug.

INT. LIVING ROOM, ERICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Erica puts the gizmos and camera on the top shelf of the front hall closet. She doesn't see the power cord drop down.

She writes a note on a stickie: "Sweetie, a gal friend is sleeping over. Mind using the guest room? Love ya." She puts the note on the wall leading to the bedroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM, ERICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT: LATER

HARRY, 35, quietly enters the apartment. He sees the note on the wall. Then Harry sees the power cord hanging out of the closet. He opens the closet and sees the camera and the helmets. Curious, he connects the camera to the TV.

He plays the video on the TV. He watches Erica and Niki touch each other in the lab while wearing the helmets.

Harry examines the headbands. He turns one on and puts it on. Nothing happens. On the TV Erica and Niki talk.

NIKI

This gizmo's worth a fortune. I'm exhausted. I want to sleep with you tonight. And I mean sleep.

ERICA

Not here.

NIKI

What will Harry think if he finds us in bed together?

ERICA

Like most guys, he thinks with his Peterbilt: "Great, a three-way!"

NIKI

I bet he's terrific but no thanks.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Harry quietly opens the door to the bedroom and sees Erica and Niki sound asleep together. He closes the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Very quietly, Harry makes a call on his cell phone.

HARRY

Ginger? Harry Dawson, the reporter.
I did that story with you last year
on legalizing prostitution?

(listening, then:)

Yes, it won an award. No, no money.
Just a statue that says Emmy on it.

(listening, then:)

I wasn't cheap! It would have been
unethical for me to have sex with
you then. But now, that's why I'm
calling. You available now?

EXT. GINGER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Harry rings the doorbell of a middle class home. GINGER, 30, attractive, sexy, opens the door. She gives Harry a big hug.

GINGER

How you been, Stranger?

HARRY

Good. Real good.

GINGER

You want one of my gals, eh?

HARRY

No, I want you.

GINGER

Ah, a man of taste. C'mon uppa my
place. I give you some candy.

INT. GINGER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Wearing a bathrobe, Harry lays the gizmos on the bed. In a negligee, Ginger looks at the gizmos.

GINGER
Bicycle helmets? That's a new one.

HARRY
They won't hurt.

Harry gestures for her to sit next to him. He puts a helmet on her and one on him. He scratches his arm. Ginger scratches her arm. Harry rubs his nose. She rubs her nose.

Harry fingers his nipple. Ginger reacts. She rubs her breast. He reacts. Harry strokes his crotch. Ginger gasps.

GINGER
What the hell?

He takes her hand and makes it stroke his nipple. She reacts. He guides her hand to the bulge under his bathrobe.

GINGER (CONT'D)
I feel what you feel?

He nods. Under his clothes, Ginger explores his cock.

GINGER (CONT'D)
Oh, my God, this is incredible!

They both gasp simultaneously as they lay on the bed

DISSOLVE TO:

Paul and Ginger lie in each other's arms, breathing heavily.

She finally takes off her headband and examines it.

GINGER (CONT'D)
Who invented this thing?

HARRY
My girlfriend.

GINGER
Everyone will want it. She'll be a millionaire. Has she patented it?

He shrugs an "I doubt it." Ginger takes a keen interest.

GINGER (CONT'D)
What'd you say her name is?

HARRY
Uh uh.

INT. ERICA'S HOUSE - DAY

Harry walks in carrying the gizmos. Erica is sitting on the couch, waiting for him. Harry looks very sheepish.

ERICA

Didn't your mother teach you to not play with other people's toys?

HARRY

No, she taught me to share my toys.

ERICA

Who was your playmate?

Harry is silent as he puts the gizmos back in the closet.

ERICA (con't) (CONT'D)

What'd you think of the gizmo?

HARRY

It's okay.

ERICA

Just okay? Then there's no need for you to announce it to the world.

HARRY

You don't want publicity?

ERICA

Not 'til I own all the rights.

HARRY

You can't expect me to wait.

ERICA

I do and you must.

HARRY

Or?

ERICA

You'll never have the chance to experience the Gizmo with me.

HARRY

The Gizmo? Cute.

ERICA

You're unfaithful, you bastard.

HARRY

So are you, and with a woman.

Erica looks surprised and guilty but she's still defiant.

ERICA

You leak it and we're history.

Harry grabs his digital camera and photographs the gizmos and then Erica. He picks up his laptop computer.

HARRY

Gonna miss ya, Sweetheart.

He leaves. Erica grabs the gizmos and her car keys.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Niki confesses to the priest.

NIKI

Forgive me, Father, I have sinned.

PRIEST

Ah, Miss Parthenon.

NIKI

Yep. Technically still a virgin, though I had sex with a woman.

PRIEST

Oh? Tell me more.

NIKI

Isn't that enough?

There is a long pause. Then ...

PRIEST

Uh, what's your email?

NIKI

My email? Father, you're hitting on me, right? And you're supposed to be, uh, celibate.

PRIEST

Check out my Facebook page. It's...

NIKI

You're on Facebook! Jesus!

PRIEST

... ThePriestyGuy.

INT. NIKI'S WAREHOUSE OFFICE - DAY

Niki looks at The PriestyGuy Facebook page. There is a photo of the priest. He is young and handsome.

INT. ERICA'S CUBE, THE VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Erica types up info about the gizmo on her computer. Paul walks in. Erica closes her computer. Paul approaches her.

PAUL

Got something to show you.

Paul inserts a flash drive into her computer.

ERICA

Hey! What're you doing?

Paul clicks on the flash drive icon. A video plays. It shows Erica and Niki making love in the clinic wearing the gizmos. Erica looks up at the ceiling and sees Paul's camera there.

ERICA (CONT'D)

You perv! Gimmee that!

She tries to pull out the flash drive but Paul stops her.

PAUL

Whoa! The best part is coming up.

Erica sees the video where she and Niki kiss.

PAUL (CONT'D)

You want this on the 'net for all the world to see?

ERICA

What do you want?

PAUL

Just the algorithm.

ERICA

Ha! Never!

Paul fast forwards the video past the kissing to where Erica and Niki are getting ready to leave. Paul plays it.

ERICA (CONT'D)

It's just a fun little gizmo. Thus:
"The Gizmo"!

ERICA (CONT'D)
 "The Gizmo" it is!

Then Erica gasps.

ERICA (CONT'D)
 Oh my god! I forgot. The clinic
 owns anything I develop here. They
 own the Gizmo.

NIKI
 Damn. Double damn.

ERICA
 Maybe what they don't know won't
 hurt them.

Paul stops the video.

PAUL
 I hate to be a tattletale but, you
 know, company loyalty and all that.
 Maybe we can work out a deal. You,
 Niki and I become partners.

ERICA
 Up your sphincter, Ass-a-hola.

PAUL
 Don't say I didn't warn you.

Paul removes the flash drive and leaves.

INT. ERICA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Erica works on her computer. Her phone rings.

ERICA
 Hello?

DR. OLSEN
 (from the phone)
 Dr. Olsen. I hear you've invented
 something in the clinic.

ERICA
 Uh, well, uh, maybe.

DR. OLSEN
 I'd like you to present it to me
 and the Board, okay?

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The clinic's Board of Directors, DR. TOM SMITH and DR. BETTY JONES, and Dr. Olsen sit around the table. Erica hooks her computer to a projector.

ERICA

This prototype needs more research
but I think I'm on to something
big.

The projector lights up. Erica opens her Gizmo file. Suddenly on screen there appears the crude little hand-drawn animation that Niki made of Scott and Erica having sex.

The Board Members find the animation amusing. Flustered, Erica can't stop the animation. As the doctors walk out, the images are projected over their clothes and faces.

SMITH

You spend our money making
pornographic doodles? Honestly!

JONES

Too late for a patent, dear. Adam
and Eve beat you to it.

Erica is humiliated and devastated.

INT. RECEPTION AREA, VETERINARY CLINIC - DAY

Paul sits in the reception area, apparently listening to music from his iPhone. He puts his finger on the earbud.

OLSEN

(from the earbud)
McCoy, you're fired. Take your
"invention" and any other sexually
oriented work with you!

Paul smiles to himself.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Erica hides a smile She realizes this is an opportunity.

ERICA

I understand, Dr. Olsen. We should
put that in writing.

Olsen scribbles on letterhead paper and gives it to her.

OLSEN

Twenty four hours, is that clear?

Erica nods. Drs. Olsen and Jones leave. However, Dr. Smith comes up to Erica.

SMITH

Maybe you're not getting out enough, dear. My son is quite a handsome devil, if I may say so. May I have him call you?

INT. NIKI'S WAREHOUSE - DAY

Niki looks up "Patent Lawyers" on her computer as she talks on her iPhone.

NIKI

(into the phone)

Scott needs training: How to make love to a woman.

ERICA

(from the phone)

He needs to feel you and me doing each other. But he only feels me through the gizmo, got it?

NIKI

Yeah. Hey, here's one.

NIKI (CONT'D)

"Ward Gregory. Trustworthy. Forty years of experience."

ERICA

Great. He'll be an old fart.

INT. WARD GREGORY'S PATENT LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Erica and Niki are in the waiting room of Ward Gregory's office. GEORGIA, his secretary, 40, looks at the gizmo.

GEORGIA

It reads minds?

ERICA

No, it transfers brain waves...

GEORGIA

Awful, someone reading your mind.

ERICA

It doesn't! It reads sensations!

GEORGIA

If people know what you're really thinking ... how embarrassing.

NIKI

Just let us see the lawyer!

The intercom buzzes. Georgia pushes a button.

WARD

(from the intercom)

Georgia, what's the commotion?

GEORGIA

(into the intercom)

Just some wackos with a fake "mind reading" device.

ERICA

It doesn't read minds!

NIKI

And it's not fake!

WARD

(from the intercom)

Show them in, Georgia.

GEORGIA

Ward, you've got an eleven thirty and then lunch with the Mrs.

WARD

Let them in.

INT. WARD GREGORY'S OFFICE - DAY

A dignified patent lawyer, WARD GREGORY, 60s, examines the gizmo. Erica hands him one of the computer chips.

ERICA

It won't work without this.

Ward looks at the chip. He tries on the gizmo. He smiles, embarrassed, knowing how ludicrous he must look.

WARD

What exactly does it do?

ERICA

It lets one person feel what another person feels. We think couples will use it when they're ... being intimate.

NIKI

Men will finally learn how to satisfy women. I hope.

ERICA

Newlyweds will use it to learn how to please each other. Therapists will give it to couples in counseling. It might even let paraplegics enjoy sex again.

WARD

Goodness, all that in this? So it's good for ... fucking?

Niki is shocked. Erica stifles laughter. They nod yes.

WARD (CONT'D)

And it's not patented yet?

ERICA

That's why we're here.

WARD

Who else knows about this?

ERICA

Just us. Niki came up with the idea after she, uh, saw a need for it.

WARD

Seems like a toy.

ERICA

It's more than a toy. It's going to be a great tool for ...

WARD

Sex hounds. Like me!

Ward howls. Erica yelps. Georgia pokes her head in.

GEORGIA

Everything okay, boss?

WARD

Couldn't be better, Georgia.

Georgia closes the door.

WARD (CONT'D)

How does it work?

ERICA

It turns the brain's analog signal into a digital one and sends it into the other person's brain.

WARD

What will it cost to manufacture?

ERICA

Not much. Maybe ten bucks.

WARD

Ten bucks! Wow! Anyone else have a similar device?

ERICA

Nope.

WARD

Could it hurt someone?

ERICA

No. We use similar devices in my clinic without a problem.

WARD

You work for a research lab?

ERICA

A veterinary clinic where I created it. Niki created the algorithm.

WARD

You invented it there while under their employ? Then they own it.

She gives him the paper from the clinic's owner. Ward reads it and nods, indicating she has the rights to it.

ERICA

How much will a patent cost?

WARD

Mmm, twenty five.

ERICA

Twenty five thousand!

WARD

Gotta make sure there's nothing similar. And that it really works.

ERICA

How about taking shares instead?

WARD

If I took shares every time someone said their invention was going to make me rich, I'd be destitute.

Erica reaches for the headbands. Ward takes them instead.

WARD (CONT'D)

I need them for the research.
You'll get them back tomorrow.

Ward gives them a receipt. Erica and Niki leave. When he hears the front door close, Ward pushes the intercom button.

GEORGIA

(from the intercom)
Yes, Boss?

WARD

(into the intercom)
Come here, Georgia.

A moment later Georgia enters his office.

GEORGIA

Crazy kooks, eh, Boss?

WARD

(holding up the gizmos)
We need to test these.

GEORGIA

Don't read my mind. You might find out just how dumb I really am.

WARD

I already have a pretty good idea.

He starts to unbutton her blouse. Georgia smiles, as if they've done this before. Ward checks his pockets.

WARD (CONT'D)

Damn. No Viagra.

GEORGIA

Maybe you won't need it this time.

Ward nods as he places the gizmos on their heads.

INT. NIKI'S CAR - DAY

Niki and Erica drive away from Ward's office.

NIKI

The bastard! Suppose he steals it?

ERICA

He can't without the formula.
Besides, it needs improvements.

INT. WARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Wearing the gizmos, Ward and Georgia lie together on the couch in his office, semi-naked. They breathe hard, as if they just made love.

WARD

This thing is worth a fortune.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Niki is in the confessional. The priest listens.

NIKI

So the Holy Spirt got Mary
pregnant?

PRIEST

Well, uh, not in the usual sense.

NIKI

He did. It says so in Matthew.

Niki reads from a piece of paper.

NIKI (CONT'D)

One eighteen: "When Mary was espoused to Joseph, and before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." The Holy Ghost got Mary preggers! But if the Holy Ghost, as part of the trinity, is one god, one of which is also Jesus, then the Holy Ghost had sex with his own mother. He was the first mother ...

PRIEST

I think you are misconstruing it.

NIKI

No, the Holy Ghost was doing the con-screwing. So if that is true then there is another alarming thing regarding the Holy Trinity.

PRIEST

I don't want to hear this.

NIKI

If God is all knowing, including the future, then Jesus, as God, knew that if he lived on earth, then he would be killed, yet he did it anyway. Thus, Jesus, by having himself born as a human, knew he would be killed. In effect he committed suicide!

PRIEST

This discussion is over, My Child.

NIKI

Stop calling me that!

The priest starts to slide the screen shut.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Don't you dare!

He reopens the screen.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Our first ...

PRIEST

... fight. You have some amazing ideas, My Ch ... My Friend.

NIKI

I like that we're friends.

PRIEST

Me, too.

NIKI

Sorry. Gotta go.

PRIEST

Come back soon, Friend.

NIKI

See ya. Wish I could see ya.

Niki hears the priest's door open. She opens her door.

INT. OUTSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - DAY

The priest stands there. He's young and handsome. Niki exits the confessional. They look at each other.

NIKI

No. We can't do this. You're my forbidden fruit.

PRIEST

As you are to me.

Niki leans toward him and kisses him. Then she dashes off.

INT. ERICA'S CUBE, EXAM ROOM, VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Erica studies the recording she made of her encounter with Niki. There are two sets of brain waves, a red one of hers and a green one of Niki's.

Erica makes a new set of the gizmos. She plugs one into her computer and puts it on her head.

She gasps as if she's feeling sexual. She takes off the headset and looks around to make sure no one has seen her.

Then she walks across the room past Paul and locks them in her locker. She leaves.

When she's gone, Paul picks her lock. He looks at the gizmos.

EXT. WARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Erica rings Ward's doorbell. Ward opens it, hiding his naked body. Georgia is behind Ward, hiding her nakedness.

WARD

I've changed my mind. I'll file it for fifteen percent.

ERICA

Really? Gotta check with Niki.

INT. NIKI'S WAREHOUSE STAGE - NIGHT

Niki puts the final touches on a video set: a barn and farm house painted on a "flat" amid bales of real hay.

NIKI
 (to herself)
 Little Miss Muffet, lying on a
 tuffet, eaten by Herdsman Jay.

She turns out the stage lights. There's only a little light on the far side. Her phone rings. She checks the ID.

NIKI (CONT'D)
 (into the phone)
 Hey, Girlfriend!

ERICA
 (from the phone)
 Wanna come over?

INT. THE VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Niki clicks the hard drive icon on Erica's computer and opens a card-cutting video game, Solo, as Erica works on the gizmo.

NIKI
 Where's Paul?

ERICA
 He's off. I gotta finish the Beta
 version before I leave tomorrow.
 It'll be waterproof, wireless,
 smaller, have multiple inputs ...

Niki
 Multi? Menage et trois? Orgies!

ERICA
 Why not? Wanna try it?

NIKI
 Well, uh ...

They hear a click. The doorknob twists. Erica grabs a scalpel. The door opens. Something squat slides into the clinic. Erica stabs it. It's Paul's plastic trash container.

ERICA
 God! I thought ... Who knows?

Paul pulls the scalpel from the trash can and hands it to her. Paul grabs a mop and wipes the floor. Erica starts to put away the scalpel but then puts it in her purse.

ERICA (CONT'D)
I'm leaving, thanks to you.

PAUL
They fired you? Oh, I'm so sorry.

Paul pats his heart insincerely.

ERICA
Gotta be outa here by midnight.

PAUL
Gonna miss ya.

ERICA
Ain't gonns miss you.

Paul shrugs and moves to the other side of the room. Erica works on the gizmo, hiding it from Paul's view. Bored, Niki opens the Solo application on Erica's computer.

NIKI
Boy, you're one dedicated scientist. Working on July 4th, the day you installed this game.

ERICA
I don't play video games. And I was at a picnic on July 4th.

NIKI
Well, someone installed Solo. Who else has access to your computer?

Apparently finished, Paul goes into another room.

ERICA
No one, in theory, but it's here a lot so I guess anyone here.

NIKI
Mind if I look at the Solo program?

ERICA
Let's do it in my cube.

INT. ERICA'S CUBICLE - NIGHT

Erica watches as Niki opens the Solo program.

NIKI

Hmm. It's programmed to show it was installed 100 days before it's actual installation.

ERICA

Why?

NIKI

To disguise when it was really installed? Pretty complex instructions for such a simple ... Hey! What's this?

She taps some keys and studies the computer jargon.

NIKI (CONT'D)

It's a beard! It's a cover so your anti-virus program won't bump it.

ERICA

So what's it really doing?

CLOSE ON THE SCREEN

There are combinations of letters and numbers on the screen, changing methodically, as if it is trying all possible combinations of a thirteen letter password.

NIKI (O.S.)

I think ... I think it's ...

ON NIKI AND ERICA

Niki turns to Erica. She's concerned.

NIKI

You've got something protected by a thirteen digit password, right?

ERICA

Yep. The algorithm. How'd you know?

NIKI

It's trying to find it. And it will. It's only a matter of time.

ERICA

Damn. So what do I do?

NIKI

You could remove it but ...

She checks something on the screen.

NIKI (CONT'D)
It's designed to hide your secret
data if you try to remove it.

ERICA
Can you reprogram it?

NIKI
Nope. It'll destroy your info.

ERICA
How could they get the info unless
they had access to my computer?

NIKI
Maybe they plan on getting the info
when you connect to the Internet.

She looks around the office. No one is there. Paul has gone.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Let's let it find a dummy formula.
We'll set up another password for
the real one.

ERICA
You'll know the new password?

NIKI
You don't trust me?

ERICA
It's just that then we'd both be
vulnerable to, uh, persuasion.

NIKI
Okay. I'll set it up for you.

She changes a few lines of data and then turns to Erica.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Change the original alg so it looks
real. Save it with a new password.

ERICA
(as she types)
When was 100 days from July 4th?

Niki calculates.

NIKI
Yesterday!

Paul knocks on the cubicle.

PAUL
Good night, Erica. You too, ma'am.

ERICA
Miss.

PAUL
Yes, ma'am. I'll miss you, too.
Good night.

They wave over the top of the cube. Paul leaves.

NIKI
(referring to the program)
Was the dork here yesterday?

ERICA
Paul? Yeah, but you don't think...?
Damn him!

INT. ERICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Erica and Niki enter Erica's apartment.

ERICA
Let's offer the lawyer ten percent.

Erica turns on the TV. The news is on. Harry is on the newscast. Concerned, Erica turns up the volume.

HARRY (on the TV)
Viagra, move over. There's a new
sex aid in town and it's a whopper.

Harry holds up the photo he took of the headbands.

ERICA
Niki! Come here!

Stunned, Niki watches Harry holding the photo.

HARRY (ON THE TV)
Imagine: simultaneous orgasms every
time; no partner left unsatisfied;
no need to explain where it feels
good, you'll know because you'll
feel it, too. I'm one of the only
people to have tried this device
and it was the most fantastic
sexual experience I've ever had.

ERICA
 (to Harry on TV)
 You unappreciative bastard!

NIKI
 Now what?

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Paul watches Harry on TV as he plays with a calculator.

HARRY (on TV)
 Lovers feel exactly what their partner feels during sex. No more frustrated lovers left high and dry. Everyone will want one. Whoever owns the patent for this device will soon be very, very rich. The Gizmo will change the world.

Paul's calculator shows a figure: 150 million dollars plus.

Paul goes to his computer and writes on his Facebook page, "Get ready, folks. I'm soon going to be big, really big."

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Niki and Erica have coffee.

ERICA
 Nik, we're not just buddies; we're lovers.

NIKI
 No, we're buddies, not lovers.

Erica whispers to Niki.

Erica
 I love you.

NIKI
 You mean "love" love?

Gathering her courage, Erica nods.

ERICA
 Look. I love you. You love me.

NIKI

I love you too but not like lovers.
It was just a test because no guys
were around. It wasn't for love. I
love you as a best friend, but I
still like guys. And I want to have
not just sex with a guy, but a love
relationship, too.

ERICA

I just want you, and I just want
you to just want me. Damn men.

NIKI

And women. We're all screwed up.

ERICA

We may be screwed up but since
we're not screwing, I gotta git.

She gets up. Niki stands and tries to hug Erica, but Erica
pulls away and brushes past Niki.

NIKI

Erica. Please.

ERICA

We're history.

Erica leaves. Fighting back tears, Niki leaves, too.

INT. NIKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Niki finishes a bottle of cheap wine and opens another. Her
eyes are swollen and red. She hugs Buddy.

NIKI

At least we got each other, Bud-
Bud. Don't ever leave me, okay?

Buddy barks. Her phone rings. She looks at the Caller ID.
Niki hesitates. After several rings, she finally answers it.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Hi, Erica.

PAUL'S VOICE

(from the phone)

Sorry. Erica's tied up at the
moment. But she'd love to see you.

Niki hears Erica yelling in the background.

ERICA

(from the phone, yelling)
Don't come to the clinic! No matter
what, don't come here!

PAUL

(from phone)
I'm hosting a little party here at
the clinic. It wouldn't be complete
without you. And bring your flash
drive with the algorithm, okay?

ERICA

(from the phone, yelling)
Don't come to the clinic!

PAUL

(from phone)
Don't pay any attention to her.
She's gets a little excitable
sometimes, as you no doubt know.
So, how soon will you be here? I'll
give you ten minutes. If not ...

There's the sudden sound of Erica screaming in pain.

PAUL (CONT'D)

(from phone)
Well, you get the idea. We'll leave
the light on for you.

Paul hangs up. Niki stares at the phone. Then she picks up
Buddy and leaves.

EXT. CLINIC - NIGHT

Niki parks her car outside the darkened clinic. She gets out
of the car, leaving Buddy inside.

NIKI

Bud, I'll be back soon. I hope.

Niki tries the door to the clinic. It's unlocked.

INT. CLINIC, RECEPTION AREA - NIGHT

Niki cautiously walks through the clinic's dark reception
area. Her arms are ready for a karate attack. The clinic is
spooky in its darkness and silence.

Niki pauses at the door to the animal area.

INT. CLINIC, ANIMAL AREA - NIGHT

The door from the reception suddenly bursts open. Niki leaps inside the room, poised for a karate attack.

In the dim light she sees a large animal cage on the stainless steel operating table.

There's enough light to see that there is a metal clamp attached to the metal bars of the cage. The clamp is at one end of an electrical jumper cable, the kind used to jump-start a car. The other end is attached to a car battery on a rolling table.

Something is inside the locked cage. It's Erica.

ERICA

I told you not to come.

Niki looks around the dark room, ready to attack.

NIKI

Where is he?

Paul stands up from behind the cage. He holds the other end of the jumper cable.

PAUL

Even if you were a black belt,
which you're not, it wouldn't do
you any good against this.

Paul momentarily touches the metal clamp on his cable to the cage. Sparks fly as electricity courses through the cage.

Erica screams as the electricity burns her body.

Paul lifts the clamp and the electricity stops. Helpless inside the cage, Erica collapses, panting.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I can do that again and again, but
what's the point? You're going to
give me the flash drive sooner or
later. Might as well do it sooner.

Paul again touches the clamp to the cage, electrifying it and Erica, who screams in deep pain.

Niki takes the flash drive from her pocket and puts it on the table. Paul picks it up. He plugs it into his computer, where the drive shows up on its desktop. He double clicks the drive and the algorithm appears. He copies it to his computer.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Need to make sure it works.

He burns the algorithm onto three chips. He removes the chips that are in the three new Gizmos, the ones with multiple inputs, and inserts the chips he burned into them.

He still holds the jumper cable and lets the clamp on the end hover near the cage.

He throws a Gizmo to Niki. He gestures for her to put it on. She does so.

He gives another Gizmo to Erica through the food slot in the cage. She puts it on.

Paul puts on a Gizmo, too. He points to Niki and gestures for her to move to the cage.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Close enough to kiss. Now, kiss.

Reluctantly, the women kiss through the bars.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Mmm, feels good. Nevertheless, we need the ultimate test. Erica...

He gestures for her to fondle Niki. Niki presses her body against the cage. Her groin area is at the same height as the food slot opening in the cage. Erica reaches into Niki's pants through the food slot and strokes her.

NIKI
This may not work.

PAUL
You'll make it work. Or else ...

He holds the electrical cable near the cage. Slowly, Niki responds to Eric's magic touch. Through the Gizmo, Paul enjoys it as much as Niki does.

As Niki nears a climax, all three of them breathe heavily.

Just before Niki climaxes, Erica takes a deep breath and holds it.

For a few moments, Paul's face expresses his joy in approaching a climax. Then it also shows his desperate need for air. Because Erica is holding her breath, Paul is also forced to hold his breath.

Niki climaxes. Paul does, too. His face is bright red. The effect of the climax on him is to breathe deeply but he can't. He blacks out and collapses.

Erica continues to hold her breath for another long minute, as Niki, also out of breath, removes her Gizmo. Now Niki can finally breathe.

Niki backs away from the cage and grabs the electrical cable from Paul's hands. She disconnects it from the battery.

Niki finds the key for the lock on the cage in Paul's pocket and releases Erica, who is still holding her breath.

Erika's face turns red and her eyes bulge, but she still doesn't breathe.

Niki lovingly puts her arms around Erika and holds her tight. Erica still doesn't breathe.

After another minute, Erika finally gasps and breathes. Niki pats her back as she hugs her.

When Erika recovers from her lack of air, she and Niki kiss, long, slow and lovingly.

Finally, they look at Paul's lifeless body.

NIKI

Well, you always did take his
breath away.

Erica hugs Niki. They kiss again.

THE CLINIC'S ANIMAL ROOM - LATER

Several police officers take photos and make notes of the room and Paul's body, still on the floor. Dr. Olsen is there, as well as two people from the coroner's office.

The jumper cables and battery are gone, as are the Gizmos.

Erica talks to one of the policemen.

ERICA

I came to pick up the last of my
things.

NIKI

He was hitting on her like always.

ERICA

He was trying to impress me by bragging about how long he could hold his breath.

NIKI

You know. A guy thing.

ERICA

Then he took a very deep breath and held it.

NIKI

For a very long time.

ERICA

Then he turned very red and collapsed. And that was it.

The policeman closes his notebook.

POLICEMAN

Okay, you two can go. I'll call you if I have any more questions.

Erica and Niki get ready to leave. Dr. Olsen stops Erica.

DR. OLSEN

I've changed my mind, Erica. I'd love to have you stay on.

She offers her hand to Erica. They shake hands.

ERICA

I love working here. Thanks.

INT. VETERINARY OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Erica cradles Niki's whimpering puppy in her arms. She puts a small gizmo on its head and regular-sized gizmo on her head.

ERICA

(feeling its rib cage)
Ouch! Aha! It's just a bruised rib!
(she feels her own rib as
if it hurts, too)
You poor baby. No need to operate.
You'll be fine in a day or so.

Erica and Niki are pleased as she gives Buddy to Niki.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Niki and Scott sit drinking coffee.

SCOTT

It's because I'm the world's worst lover, right?

NIKI

No, I just want to date others. Want to be the world's best lover?

SCOTT

Sure!

NIKI

If you could feel exactly what your lover feels when you make love?

SCOTT

Then I'd learn to be a great lover.

Niki pulls out a pair of the Gizmos. She turns them on and puts one on her head and one on his head.

She rubs her nose. He looks surprised as he touches his nose. She tickles her armpit. He giggles as if being tickled.

NIKI

Get the idea? Get a girlfriend and teach each other. You'll be the best ever in no time.

SCOTT

Where can I get them? And how much?

NIKI

From me. For you: Ninety-nine.

He gives her a hundred dollar bill. She gives him the Gizmos. He stands up and gives Niki a kiss on the cheek. He leaves.

Niki pulls out her phone and texts to Erica: "I just made our first sale!"

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Erica and Jane sit at a table in an upscale restaurant. They giggle and laugh together.

Erica's iPhone gets a text message. She looks at it.

ERICA

Oh my God! Niki just made our first sale of the Gizmo!

She and Jane high five. Their hands stay together. Their fingers entwine. They look at each other with mutual attraction.

INT. BLOOD AND GUTS PRODUCER'S OFFICE - DAY

Niki faces the producers, Nancy and Bob.

BOB

We've changed our minds, Niki. We want you to make wholesome family movies, such as Sunnybrook Farm.

NIKI

I've changed my mind, too. Now I want to make sexy movies. People need them. Make love, not war, right? So, no thanks, unless the family films show people doing what it takes to make families.

Bob and Nancy are surprised but pleased. They high five Erica.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Niki is in the confessional speaking to the unseen priest. She toys with three of the gizmos in her hands.

NIKI

Hey, Padre! Too bad you took that vow of celibacy. I'm starting to date. I won't see you again.

PRIEST

Wait! Every time I come here I hope you'll be here, too. Now I have a confession to make: I think ... I know ... I'm in love you.

NIKI

You are? I think I may be, uh, in, uh, ... with you.

Niki opens the confessional door. One of the gizmos falls to the floor but she doesn't notice.

INT. IN THE CHURCH OUTSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - DAY

As Niki exits the confessional, the priest's door opens and the priest steps out.

PRIEST

I can't live without you. I want to be with you, all the time!

NIKI

Really? I want to be with you, too.

PRIEST

I'm Jack.

NIKI

Niki.

PRIEST

I'm leaving the priesthood. I think we virgins have a lot to make up for, eh?

NIKI

Let's teach each other how to make love, and how to be in love.

They kiss hesitantly, shyly, lightly. Then slowly their kisses become more and more passionate. Soon they're kissing madly, deeply, passionately. Entangled, he pulls her into the priest's compartment in the confessional. He closes the door.

INT. CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Jack and Niki kiss each other passionately. They frantically hug and touch each other.

Jack's elbow accidentally knocks out the screen that divides the priest's side from the confessor's side.

Neither he nor Niki notice the screen fall to the floor.

Jack starts to unbutton Niki's blouse. Niki puts a gizmo on his head and one on her head. She unbuttons his vest.

EXT. THE CONFESSIONAL IN THE CHURCH

The Little Old Lady (LOL) who came out of the confessional the very first time that Niki went to confession, enters the confessor's side of the confessional.

INT. THE CONFESSOR'S SIDE OF THE CONFSSIONAL - DAY

The LOL enters the confessional and kneels on the bench.

LOL
Bless me, Father. I have sinned.

There are the sounds of the priest and Niki thrashing about on the other side. The LOL notices that the screen is gone. Curious, she stands on the bench and peeks through the opening where the screen had been. She gasps.

LOL (CONT'D)
Holy shit! Hot damn! I mean,
goodness gracious and hot dang!

Suddenly, the priest pushes the screen into the opening, blocking the LOL's view.

LOL (CONT'D)
Damn. God damn.

The LOL pulls some knitting supplies from her bag. She starts to knit as she listens to the sounds of Niki and the priest making love. She sees the gizmo on the floor. She picks it up and looks at it curiously. She puts it on her head.

Her eyes light up as she apparently feels what Niki and Jack are feeling. Slowly, the LOL starts to breathe harder and harder. She closes her eyes, smiling. Suddenly she gasps, apparently having an orgasm as the sounds from the other side indicate that Niki and Jack are having orgasms, too.

Spent, the LOL relaxes, catching her breath.

LITTLE OLD LADY
(to herself)
Bless me, Father, for I just died
and went to heaven.

She smiles.

THE END