

**THE CHILDREN'S AGENCY**

"Pilot"

Written by

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ACT ONE

INT. OFFICE - DAY

MARY CHAMBERS, 50s, a tall, well dressed, gaunt woman with a dictatorial personality, sits behind a desk. She wears a wireless telephone head piece.

MARY

(into the telephone)

You think I give a damn what her doctor says? She's an actress, not working a sewing machine in some Cambodian sweat shop. Tell her to toughen up.

KIMBERLY (O.C.)

(from intercom)

Mrs. Chambers, Chastity Stark and her mom are here to see you.

MARY

Do they have an appointment?

KIMBERLY (O.C.)

No, ma'am.

MARY

Have them wait.

(on phone)

Sandy, are you still there? You tell that little brat that if she isn't on set ten minutes before her call time tomorrow she can start looking for new representation.

Mary hangs up. Hits her intercom button.

MARY (CONT'D)

Send them up.

THERESA (30s) and her chubby, ten year old daughter, CHASTITY, appear.

Mary stands to greet them. She leans in to give the mother a kiss on the cheek.

MARY (CONT'D)

Theresa, what a pleasant surprise.  
Have a seat.

Mary motions to an overstuffed, leather couch. Mary sits in an uncomfortable office chair that lists slightly to the side.

MARY (CONT'D)

What can I do for you?

THERESA

My husband and I have been talking.

MARY

Always a good sign.

THERESA

We think it's time for Chastity to start going out for leads. You've only been sending her to read for commercials and a few guest spots for basic cable. We know she can do more.

Mary slowly nods her head.

MARY

Real quick. Before I forget. Was Kimberly able to get you everything you needed? She's new. First day.

THERESA

Yeah. I guess.

MARY

The right blend of coffee?  
Creamer? Splenda?

THERESA

Oh no. Cane sugar. We don't go in for the whole artificial sweeteners. It's not healthy.

MARY

Chastity, did you get the soda you wanted?

The chubby girl nods.

MARY (CONT'D)

No diet for you. You like the real thing, huh?

The chubby girl nods again.

MARY (CONT'D)

Do you know how many calories are  
in one of those sodas?

The chubby girl shakes her head.

MARY (CONT'D)

(cheery)

One hundred fifty. Forty full  
grams of sugar. Do you know what  
it takes to burn off one hundred  
fifty calories?

Another shake of the chubby head.

MARY (CONT'D)

You could jog for fifteen minutes.  
But you probably can't last for  
that long, can you?

THERESA

She has bad ankles.

MARY

You could swim for twenty  
minutes... but let me guess, you  
get side cramps, right?

The girl nods.

MARY (CONT'D)

(to Theresa)

The reason I signed your daughter  
is because she's fat. She's cute,  
chunky and lovable. So, you can  
smile and let her take the role of  
obese girl #3 or you can find  
yourself a new agent. And good  
luck with that. Once you walk out  
that door I will take my big,  
black, permanent marker and rub  
your name and the name of every one  
of your future progeny out in the  
annals of Hollywood entertainment,  
and it won't be little ham fingers  
fault either.

THERESA

You can't speak to me like that.

MARY

Pretty sure I just did. And if I haven't made myself clear, your doughy little daughter will NEVER be anything but the lasting reminder for parents in middle America of the dangers of type II diabetes.

(gesturing to the stairwell)

Sweetie, you enjoy your soda.

INT. KIMBERLY'S DESK - DAY

KIMBERLY FIRTH, 23, Mary's personal assistant, scrolls through a series of head shots. The phone rings.

In the bg Theresa and Chastity angrily leave.

KIMBERLY

Have a nice day!

The phone rings. Kimberly answers.

KIMBERLY (CONT'D)

Chambers Agency, how may I direct your call? Mrs. Hollis. Oh, you're Chloe's mom. I just got the confirmation from the studio. Congratulations. We're thrilled for you... Absolutely. Feel free to come in whenever you want. I'm sure Mary would love to see you. Sounds great... see you soon.

JASON KENLY, 28, Mary's associate agent, walks behind Kimberly.

JASON

Chloe Hollis' mom is coming in?

KIMBERLY

Yeah. Chloe just signed onto the Fincher project.

JASON

You can't tell Mary. Not yet.

KIMBERLY

Is something wrong?

JASON

Just... don't say anything. Okay?

MARY (O.C.)

Jason!

JASON

Nothing.

(shouting to Mary)

Coming!

INT. MARY'S LOFT - DAY

Mary flips through head shots at a frantic pace.

Jason pops in.

MARY

We need someone for a corpse on  
*Street Legal* tomorrow. I was  
thinking Kyle Tolliver.

JASON

Kyle's booked on the Kanye video.  
What about Robert Little?

MARY

I can't send that kid on a network  
shoot. His mom's a nut job.

JASON

I'll call the dad.

MARY

Don't give anything solid. Just  
float it.

Jason turns to leave. Discovers Kimberly cautiously peering  
into the office. He shakes his head, mouthing the word "no."

MARY (CONT'D)

What is it?

Jason closes his eyes. His body deflates. He turns to watch  
the carnage about to unfold.

MARY (CONT'D)

Don't just stand there. I'm not  
Medusa. You're not going to turn  
to stone.

KIMBERLY

Chloe Hollis' mom called. She's  
stopping by in a bit.

MARY  
A bit meaning what?

KIMBERLY  
Half an hour.

MARY  
After all I've done for her  
wretched little offspring.

KIMBERLY  
Is there anything I can do?

MARY  
You can pack up your --

JASON  
-- It's her first day.

MARY  
And?

JASON  
It's not her fault.

Mary eyes Kimberly.

MARY  
I suppose.

JASON  
Let me explain what's happening.  
Happens all the time. Parents  
comes in begging for  
representation.

MARY  
Ready to sell their soul just to  
have one person take an interest in  
their dubiously talented spawn.  
All of them having been "amazing"  
in some backwater production of  
*Annie*. I take a chance on them.

JASON  
We break our backs trying to get a  
foot in the door and push them  
through. Maybe they get a national  
television spot. A featured guest  
roll on some sitcom. Finally, like  
with Chloe, along comes the role of  
a lifetime.

MARY

They instantly jump to a big agency and some Ivy League punk with a story about working his way up from the mail room.

JASON

The big firm promises big things, but the kid just becomes an occasional payment on a Porche.

MARY

Ten years later cute little "interchangeable kid x" comes of legal age and heads straight into skin flicks. Ends up strung out on coke trying to pitch a crappy memoir about how mommy and daddy stole all the money from two seasons of *Generic Idiosyncratic Family Number 59,753*.

KIMBERLY

Does that happen often?

MARY

As often as you buy pregnancy tests after a night on Sunset boulevard.

Kimberly stands silently, mouth agape.

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. You're a modern girl. What I meant is, as often as you pop a morning after pill following a night out on Sunset.

KIMBERLY

Do you want me to call Mrs. Hollis and cancel?

MARY

No. I want that lipo'd up lunatic apologize. See if she can squeak a tear from her botulism riddled face. You see the head shots on these walls?

An array of famous child actors.

MARY (CONT'D)

They all started with me. Each and every one of them.

(MORE)



MARY (CONT'D)

Then their parents did to me what every model/actor/bartender does to you. At least I get paid. I do have that going for me.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. OFFICE - DAY

Jason stops by Kimberly's desk, a folder in his hands.

JASON  
You're still alive.  
Congratulations.

KIMBERLY  
Thanks for helping me.

JASON  
What are you up to tonight?

KIMBERLY  
Not sure. Why?

JASON  
(laughs)  
Want to hit a club on Sunset?

Kimberly gives an embarrassed smile as Jason disappears up the stairs to Mary's loft.

INT. MARY'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Mary types away at her computer.

MARY  
Jay, I need you to find one of our  
Asian kids for the Irish Spring  
spot. A girl. But they don't want  
anyone too Asian.

JASON  
Gotcha. Asian but not too Asian.

He sets the folder on Mary's desk.

MARY  
What's this?

JASON  
Allison Kieslowski.

MARY  
You're kidding. Have we talked to  
the parents about changing the  
name?

JASON  
Amy did.

MARY  
And?

JASON  
Parents didn't take the idea very well. It's why you fired Amy.

Kimberly appears with a cup of coffee. Sets it on Mary's desk. Begins to retreat.

MARY  
Wait.

KIMBERLY (O.C.)  
Yes, ma'am?

MARY  
Does the name Kie... How do you pronounce this again?

JASON  
Kieslowski.

MARY  
That sound too ethnic to you?

KIMBERLY  
I mean it's ethnic, but I wouldn't--

MARY  
--That's what I thought too. Way too ethnic. Would never work on a billboard. Do me a favor. Think of something more all-American. Smith or Jones but not so obvious.

JASON  
You already had Adam Axelrod change his to Jones.

MARY  
Nix the Jones. I want people thinking apple pies and baseball. This is on you. Your first assignment so make sure make sure it's a good one.

Kimberly nods. Stands silently.

MARY (CONT'D)  
That means get out.