

"NATALIE" - REVISED 2/4/16

"GUILTY" - Elizabeth Barnes Casting

21

INT. BOSTON COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY

21

Inside, we find **NATALIE ATWOOD** (30) making a closing argument to a jury. She's passionate, driven, and unbelievably complicated.

Scene 1

NATALIE

The Defendant wants you to believe that his wife's death was just a tragic accident. And accidents do happen. Just this morning, on my way to court, I slammed on my brakes and my coffee went flying.

Natalie looks embarrassed as she opens up her suit jacket to reveal that she's got a large coffee stain on her blouse. It's very endearing.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

That was an accident. This was murder. The Defendant bought a gun. He loaded that gun. He aimed it at the woman who was threatening to divorce him. And he shot her.

Natalie lets that sit with the jury for a beat.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Now, I know as you sit here today, you look at this handsome man...

Natalie turns toward the DEFENDANT (30s) - George Clooney would be jealous of this guy's effortless good looks.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

And you think - he couldn't be a killer. He's got a great job, a great suit, and he's always got a charming smile for all of us. Even me.

That gets a little titter from the jury.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

But here's the thing about evil, it comes in all shapes and sizes. As a prosecutor, I've been up close and personal with evil in old men and young women, in the rich and the poor, in the educated and the ignorant. Evil hides behind many faces.

P. 1/4

"GUILT" - ELIZABETH BARNES CASTING

Natalie takes in the jury, lets them feel the weight of her conviction.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Don't let the Defendant fool you, ladies and gentleman. Don't let him hide behind nice clothes and a polished smile. This man blew his wife's brains out to save himself some alimony. And he deserves to be punished.

As we take in the jurors' expressions, there's no doubt they've been swayed by Natalie's passion. Natalie returns to her seat, meeting the Defendant's eye. *Take that, fucker.*

While putting her notes back in her briefcase, Natalie sees her phone. 9 MISSED CALLS FROM GRACE. Off her concern...

"NATALIE" - REVISED 2/4/16

INT. GRACE'S HOTEL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Natalie and Grace return to their suite. As soon as the door closes behind them, Grace lays into Natalie.

Scene 2

GRACE

Why can't you just be nice to him?

NATALIE

Because he's a prick and I don't understand why he's still in our lives. Mom died more than a year ago, we don't have to pretend to like him anymore.

GRACE

I'm not pretending. James loved Mom and he loves us. You just never gave him a chance.

NATALIE

James cheated on Mom all the time and he was only nice to us to try to make it up to her.

GRACE

If it was just for Mom, why is he still taking care of me? He paid for me to be over here, he's paying for this hotel, for my lawyer...

NATALIE

You mean *his* lawyer.

GRACE

What?

NATALIE

As long as James is paying Stan, Stan works for James, not you.

GRACE

So? What does that matter?

Natalie doesn't want to tell Grace what she suspects about James until she has more proof.

NATALIE

I just... I think you should fire Stan, get a lawyer who's only working for you. I'll figure out how to pay for it, you don't have to worry.

"GUILT" - Elizabeth Barnes Casting

GRACE

James said Stan's never lost a case. I'm not firing him. That's crazy.

Frustrated, Natalie takes a bigger swing at James.

NATALIE

I get that you don't want to admit James is a bad guy, but deep down you have your doubts. I know you do. You wouldn't have freaked out on Molly like that in the video if you didn't think James was skeezy enough to sleep with your friend.

GRACE

Just stop it, Natalie! Stop trying to make me hate James! I can't believe you'd try to take another...

Grace stops herself, realizing she almost said something awful, something she doesn't want to say out loud. Natalie's stung, but she needs Grace to get this out.

NATALIE

Another what, Grace? Just say it.

Grace shakes her head, unwilling to finish the sentence. So Natalie utters the most painful words she's ever had to say.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I took Daddy from you. It's my fault he's dead.

What?! We're dying to hear more, but Grace doesn't want to talk about it.

GRACE

I didn't say that.

Grace grabs her stuff and heads for the door.

NATALIE

Where are you going?

GRACE

Molly's memorial.
(without turning around)
I don't want you to come.

The door slams behind Grace. Devastated, all of Natalie's emotions finally bubble over.

"GUILT" - ELIZABETH BAENES CASTING

P. 4/4