

ALLY MCBEAL

"Shortcomings"

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ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALLY in bed. Tossing and turning. Can't sleep. Bad case of insomnia. POUNDS her pillow for better comfort. Rests her head back down. No good.

POUNDS her pillow again. It breaks. Feathers fly free.

Agitated, she picks up the torn pillow and tosses it against the wall. Puts her head back down on the remaining pillows. Spits out some feathers.

INT. ALLY'S APARTMENT - LATER

ALLY paces back and forth. Gets bored. Does a little dance to amuse herself, but only gets more agitated. Stomps her feet.

ALLY

I hate this. I hate this. I hate this.

She collapses on the couch and turns the television on. Switches through the channels quickly, not even paying attention, then turns it off.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Television sucks.

She gets on the floor and does some push-ups. Then some sit-ups. Only manages to wake herself up even more. She curls up in a ball on the floor and closes her eyes. No luck. POUNDS her head against the floor.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Sleep. Sleep. Sleep. Sleep.  
Why... can't... I... sleep?

INT. RENEE'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

ALLY enters RENEE'S bedroom. Jumps into the bed. Blankets cover a big lump in the middle, apparently Renee.

ALLY

This sucks, Renee. This is the third night in a row that I can't sleep. I've tried everything. Reading, yoga, meditation, counting sheep, and an overdose of sleeping pills. Nothing works. What if I can never sleep again? What if I have some kind of dormant gene that just kicked in that prevents me from sleeping? True, I could use the extra hours, but I like taking that break from my day. I need that break. I need to be able to dream. My dreams are the only things that make me happy. It's the only part of the day when I'm allowed abnormalities, and I'm still qualified as normal. I need those six hours of absolute fantasy. Except in cases of sex, where I'm happy to waive them for the night.

Ally finally realizes that Renee isn't responding to her babbling. She turns to the lump in the bed.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Renee?

She pulls the sheet partially back. Underneath is a NAKED MAN on top of Renee.

FANTASY

Ally turns burning red and melts into a puddle.

REALITY

RENEE

I'm waiving those six hours right now, Ally.

ALLY

Oh.

The naked man smiles at Ally. Renee SLAPS him in the head.

RENEE

Dream on.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

Ally enters. The place is bustling with activity, busier than usual.

As Ally passes ELAINE'S desk, she notices that Elaine appears to be wearing... earmuffs.

ELAINE

You look terrible, Ally. Who is he?

ALLY

He should be the sandman, who he's not.

Elaine lifts one side of the earmuffs off her ear. They appear to be vibrating.

ELAINE

I'm sorry. What was that?

ALLY

Elaine, why are you wearing earmuffs? And... why are they vibrating?

ELAINE

It's the earbrater. I've found that a vibrating sensation can ease the nerves at times of high stress. Want to try?

ALLY

No thanks. I'll just stick to the old fashioned kind.

Ally looks toward CAGE'S office. The door is partially open and Cage appears to be swinging back and forth, upside down. Ally investigates.

INT. CAGE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ally enters. Cage is indeed upside down, swinging on a perch hooked to his ceiling. Ally stares at him. Cage notices.

CAGE

I'm troubled.

Ally nods. Elaine enters. Takes off her earbrater and offers them to Cage. He takes them, puts them on. Looks at peace.

CAGE (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Elaine.

Elaine turns to Ally and smiles.

ALLY (V.O.)  
It's like working in a circus.

Ally turns to leave.

INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

Just as Ally exits, she bumps into a group of five "little people," JERRY, SAM, MANDY, JOEY, and BETH. Ally lets out a SHRIEK.

SAM  
Never made a woman scream before.

MANDY  
(smiles)  
That's not necessarily true.

The others poke Sam in fun. FISH walks up.

FISH  
Oh, good, Ally. I see you've met  
the munchkins.

JERRY  
I take offense to that.

FISH  
Wizard of Oz. Loved the movie.  
Bygones.

INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - LATER

Ally behind her desk. Fish seated in front.

ALLY  
What are you getting me into now,  
Richard?

FISH  
The little guys out there are suing  
Fries Amusement Park for vertical  
discrimination.

ALLY  
Vertical discrimination?

FISH

They're too short to go on any of the rides.

ALLY

Richard, I love amusement parks. I don't want to sue an amusement park. If I do that, I won't ever be able to walk into another one again without feeling guilty. It will take the amusement out of it, and then that just leaves a park. Parks with dogs yapping, children screaming, birds attacking, muggers mugging...

Ally realizes she's just babbling on. She looks back up at Richard. He's got Elaine's earbraters on. Ignoring her.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Richard!

He doesn't hear her.

ALLY (CONT'D)

(screams)

Richard!

Richard removes the earbraters. Offers them to Ally. She declines. A KNOCK at her door. NELLE enters.

FISH

Oh, you'll be working with Nelle on this one. Actually, she requested your help. Said it would take an odd lawyer to win an odd case, and you were just the odd lawyer she needed.

Ally looks up at Nelle.

NELLE

(smiles)

It really is important to watch what you say around him.

ALLY

Apparently.

Fish, innocent look.

INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - LATER

GEORGIA carries a stack of files toward Cage's office. BILLY intercepts her.

BILLY  
Hey.

GEORGIA  
Hey.

BILLY  
What are you up too?

GEORGIA  
Oh, I'm working on this case with John. It's got him perched.

BILLY  
Perched?

GEORGIA  
Don't ask. He's uncomfortable with it, so he has me helping him out.

BILLY  
The Biscuit uncomfortable with a case? Sounds interesting. So what is it?

Georgia puts the stack of files down on a desk.

GEORGIA  
Lesbians.

BILLY  
Lesbians?

GEORGIA  
Lesbians.

Fish quickly walks by.

FISH  
Love lesbians.

And Fish is gone.

GEORGIA  
Our client is suing his ex-wife for personal defamation, obstruction and character assassination.

BILLY  
What did she do?

GEORGIA  
After she caught him in bed with another woman, she divorced him and informed his family, friends, and business associates that he turned her into a lesbian.

Billy LAUGHS.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
To make matters worse, she continues to interfere in his life by stealing away all of his girlfriends.

BILLY  
Ouch! Painful.

Suddenly, a LOUD COMMOTION from the washroom. The door swings open and the five little people exit, running for their lives. We see why.

LING exits, carrying a broom. The usual mean expression on her face. Wicked Witch MUSIC heard.

LING  
I hate little people. They're so... small.

A Janitor walks by. Ling thrusts the broom at him.

LING (CONT'D)  
I almost broke my neck on this. Watch it or next time I'll sue the plunger off you.

She stomps away. Everyone looks on.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Ally and Nelle are seated with the five little people. They discuss the case.

JERRY  
It isn't right. We shouldn't only be restricted to the children's rides.

BETH  
We know the risk. We're capable of riding the adult roller coasters.

JOEY  
Or the twister of death.

MANDY  
I'd love to be able to ride the  
Twister of Death.

ALLY  
(giggles)  
Twister of Death. That's one of my  
favorites.

Nelle see's that Ally is getting off track and jumps in.

NELLE  
But those safety measures are there  
for a reason. If something should  
happen to you, it's the park that  
is held liable.

SAM  
But we're not children. Those  
precautions are there because the  
kids are too young to handle a ride  
like the Demon Coaster.

ALLY  
(giggles)  
I love the Demon Coaster.

Nelle shoots Ally a sharp look. Ally stops giggling.

JERRY  
It's discrimination. No one's  
taken the time to actually  
reevaluate the height requirements  
because we don't matter to them.

MANDY  
If we were handicapped, they'd have  
to make accommodations, but we're  
not.

BETH  
But we're treated like we are most  
of the time.

SAM  
So what do you think? Do we have a  
case?

Nelle turns to Ally.

NELLE  
 (smiles)  
 What do you think, odd one? Should  
 we take it?

Ally makes an intentionally strange face at Nelle.

NELLE (CONT'D)  
 I'll take that as a yes.

INT. CAGE'S OFFICE - DAY

Cage is nervous. Georgia is trying to get him to say something.

GEORGIA  
 You have to be able to say it,  
 John.

CAGE  
 I... I... I... I'm trying to.

GEORGIA  
 We can't go into court and have you  
 stutter over the word. It'll seem  
 strange.

CAGE  
 I'm a strange man. People expect  
 strange things from me. Therefore,  
 it will look perfectly normal.

GEORGIA  
 John! Say it. Say it like you  
 enjoy it.

CAGE  
 Da, da, da, all, all, all right.  
 His lips try to form the word in  
 question.

CAGE (CONT'D)  
 Le... Le... Les....

GEORGIA  
 Lesbian, John. Just say Lesbian.

Fish enters the office. Carrying an envelope.

CAGE  
 I'm trying. Les... les... les...

Fish SMACKS Cage on the back. The word flies out of his mouth.

CAGE (CONT'D)  
Lesbian.

FISH  
Beautiful word.

GEORGIA  
You're a pig.

CAGE  
I shouldn't have said it.

GEORGIA  
Not you John.

Fish SNORTS like a pig. Hands Cage the envelope, then turns back to Georgia.

FISH  
Lesbians. Hmmmm... love lesbians.

Georgia shoots Fish a dirty look. He leaves. Then pokes his head back in.

FISH (CONT'D)  
Bygones.

GEORGIA  
No bygones. Pig.

He SNORTS, then removes his head from the door.

Georgia turns back to Cage, who is reading a note from the envelope. He looks worried.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
What is it?

CAGE  
You may want to take lunch. I'll be taking a exceedingly extensive moment.

INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - MINUTES LATER

Georgia walks over to Fish's office. Billy intercepts her.

BILLY  
Food?

GEORGIA  
Soon.

INT. FISH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Georgia enters the office, Billy behind her. Fish, his feet kicked up on his desk, looks through a magazine called "The Wattle." When he sees them enter, he shoves it into his desk drawer.

FISH  
Medical journal.

GEORGIA  
What was in that envelope you gave to John? He's taking an exceptionally long moment.

FISH  
Oh, that's because he's been targeted by the court stalker.

GEORGIA  
The what?

Billy LAUGHS.

BILLY  
She's finally leeches onto the Biscuit. It was just a matter of time.

GEORGIA  
Who's the court stalker?

BILLY  
She's this wacky woman who targets a different lawyer every few months. Sends them love notes, hovers at every trial, follows them day and night.

GEORGIA  
She ever stalk you, Billy?

BILLY  
I'm not interesting enough for her. But Richard got her last year.

GEORGIA  
What'd you do?

FISH  
Slept with her.

BILLY

She's actually cute. But she just resides a bit on the crazy side.

GEORGIA

She sleeps with Richard, she'd have to be crazy.

(to Fish)

Bygones.

FISH

(touche)

Toosh!

INT. UNISEX - DAY

Nelle touches up her make-up in the mirror. A FLUSH o.s., then Ally exits a stall. Goes to the mirror to check her appearance. Silence, until...

NELLE

I hope you didn't mind that I requested your help on this case. I was afraid that maybe you would think that it was a bit small for your taste.

Ally looks at her. Doesn't know how to take it. Nelle smiles.

NELLE (CONT'D)

Come on Ally. Lighten up. A bit small?

Ally realizes that it was a joke. She LAUGHS uncomfortably in accordance. Then changes the subject.

ALLY

Do you really think that I'm odd?

Now it's Nelle who looks uncomfortable.

NELLE

I don't think we should go there.

ALLY

No, really. I want to know your opinion.

NELLE

I guess, to put it lightly, you can be a bit unconventional at times.

ALLY  
 Unconventional how? I mean, I know  
 I have my hang-ups. I just don't  
 want other people to know that I  
 have them. I know that they do  
 know, but I just don't want them to  
 know that I know. You know?

Another FLUSH. Ling exits a stall. Walks over to the  
 mirror. Fixes her make-up.

LING  
 You're as strange as that little  
 man.

ALLY  
 I didn't ask your opinion, Ling.

LING  
 Hard EL.

ALLY  
 LLLLLLLLLLLing.

Ling ROARS. Nelle breaks in.

NELLE  
 Listen, Ally. I think that you  
 just have a very specific  
 personality. It's...unique.

ALLY  
 In a good way?

NELLE  
 (hesitates)  
 Yyyyy...es. I would say so.

LING  
 I think she needs therapy.

ALLY  
 I'm already in therapy.

LING  
 Then you need more.

Ling heads toward the door. Turns back.

LING (CONT'D)  
 An infinite amount more.

Ling exits.

ALLY  
She could use an infinite amount  
more of a personality.

Nelle CHUCKLES. A ROAR from O.S. HEARD. They both notice.

NELLE  
Don't let Ling get to you, Ally.  
She means well.

ALLY  
I think she just means to be mean.

NELLE  
What can I say? She just has one  
of those unique personalities.

Nelle turns to leave. Ally finally realizes...

ALLY  
Hey!

Nelle opens the bathroom door, turns back to Ally, and  
smiles. Then she leaves.

ALLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
It sucks not being the only one  
with a unique personality.

FADE OUT.

END ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ally, still suffering from insomnia, is lying in bed, eyes fixated on the ceiling. She mimes holding a rifle, firing at something over head.

A KNOCK at the door. Renee enters.

RENEE

You awake?

ALLY

I hope that was rhetorical.

RENEE

Still can't sleep?

Ally fires at another imaginary object.

ALLY

Rhetorical.

Renee gives Ally an odd look, sits next to her.

RENEE

What are you doing?

ALLY

Counting sheep. Only they're not sheep. They're dogs, man-dogs. With the heads of every jerk I've ever dated. And they're being fired out of a cannon like skeets. And I'm blowing them into oblivion. Man-dog skeet shooting.

RENEE

It's another man thing?

ALLY

Yes... no... yes, no. No. No. I don't know what it is. I just can't sleep. I think I'm going crazy.

RENEE

Going?

ALLY

Renee!

RENEE

Maybe it's just all the extra pressure from work lately. It could just be stress.

ALLY

I've had stress before, Renee. Lots of stress. Believe me. A tremendous amount of stress. A gargantuan amount of stress. A literal herculean amount of...

RENEE

I get the point, Ally.

ALLY

But I've always been able to sleep.

RENEE

How long has it been since you've...

(makes sex gesture)

... you know?

ALLY

That's not it. Although it couldn't hurt.

RENEE

Well, when did this start?

ALLY

I guess about a week ago. I can't remember. The days are just one big blur, lately.

RENEE

Anything new been troubling you?

ALLY

Everything new troubles me.

RENEE

But anything in particular?

ALLY

Everything in particular.

RENEE

Ally!

ALLY

I don't know. I've even increased my sessions with Tracy.

(MORE)

ALLY (CONT'D)

And that was before the insomnia.  
Now, more therapy, less sleep.

RENEE

Why did you feel you needed more  
therapy?

ALLY

Life. It sucks.

RENEE

Maybe that's the problem.

ALLY

I can't change life, Renee. It's  
just there.

RENEE

No, but maybe you're feeling guilty  
about needing more therapy.

ALLY

Do you think I need more therapy?

Renee looks over at the clock.

RENEE

It's getting late. And I've got  
court tomorrow.

Renee gets up. Heads for the door.

ALLY

You're avoiding, Renee.

RENEE

Every chance I get, girl.

Renee leaves. Ally continues to fire at her imaginary man-  
dogs.

FANTASY

Ally lying on a very comfortable cloud, fast asleep. She's  
literally in heaven. Angels with harps fly by.

Suddenly, a LOUD POUNDING sound.

Startled, Ally raises her head quickly and falls off the  
cloud. Plummets straight down to earth.

REALITY

INT. COURT #1 - DAY

Ally raises her head quickly. Looks around. Tries to figure out where she is.

PULL BACK to reveal the entire FULL COURTROOM staring at Alley, including JUDGE WHIPPER CONE, Nelle, and all the rest.

Whipper POUNDS the gavel.

WHIPPER

Ms. McBeal, it would please the court if you could keep your sleeping practices confined strictly to the bedroom.

Whipper notices the first few buttons undone on Ally's blouse. Her bra is showing.

WHIPPER (CONT'D)

Along with other particulars as well.

Ally glances down, quickly buttons her blouse. CHUCKLES in the courtroom. Nelle leans over.

NELLE

What's the matter with you?

ALLY

Lots.

NELLE

Try and pull it together.

Ally sits up straight, composes herself.

INT. COURT #2 - DAY

Court is in session. JUDGE MARIANNE STEFANO presides over this case.

Cage and Georgia are seated with MARTIN CUMMINGS, late thirties, business suit. Cage is preparing for his opening argument.

Martin looks over to the opposing council. His extremely attractive ex-wife, SANDRA, sits with her lawyer, JENNIFER MCINTIRE. Sandra looks over and gives Martin a dirty look.

Fish and Billy enter. They sit up front in the audience, near Cage and Georgia. Georgia leans over.

GEORGIA  
What are you two doing here?

Fish and Billy look to each another, then turn back to Georgia.

FISH AND BILLY  
Lesbians!

Georgia rolls her eyes.

GEORGIA  
Oh my God! Billy, that's so juvenile.

BILLY  
(points to Fish)  
He made me come.

FISH  
I did not. You said you couldn't wait to...

Billy shoots Fish a pleading look.

FISH (CONT'D)  
Okay, maybe there was a little prodding. Guy thing.

Georgia turns away. Billy quietly high fives Fish.

GEORGIA  
I saw that.

Billy turns to Fish. Points to the back of his own head, indicating eyes.

BILLY  
Marriage thing.

FISH  
How inconvenient.

BILLY  
Tell me about it.

INT. COURT #2 - LATER

Cage addresses the jury. Paces back and forth.

CAGE

It bothers me. Marriage. Even more so, when two people give themselves to one another, so completely, so unselfishly. It's great when it works. I can only assume. I've never been married. Though I hope one day. But I can only imagine the nightmare when that love is turned against itself. Those once unselfish acts now become selfish. And you can take those deep dark secrets which were once given in trust and turn them against each other. I've never had that happen to me, because I've never given myself so completely to another person, but I can just assume that many of you have.

Most of the jury nods.

CAGE (CONT'D)

I thought so. So you know how terrible it is when that trust is shattered, and where love once existed, only hate now resides. Martin Cummings did a terrible thing. He cheated on his wife. He doesn't deny it. He doesn't make excuses for it. He doesn't celebrate it. But it was at a time when he felt his marriage had come to an end. They had grown apart. And he had tried to release himself from that bond, only to spare both of them any more pain. But his wife wouldn't let him do it. She wouldn't...

Cage notices a woman entering the courtroom -- JUDITH KOVAK, also known as the court stalker. Cute, mid-twenties, glasses, somewhat awkward looking, with a bit of sneakiness to her.

Judith takes a seat near the back. Stares at Cage intensely, almost blindingly.

Cage's concentration is thrown. He loses his place. Begins to stutter a bit.

CAGE (CONT'D)

Um... uh... Da da da da da da da....

Cage's stomach GURGLES. His nose WHISTLES.

JUDGE STEFANO  
Is everything all right, counsel?

CAGE  
Da da da da da da....

Cage nods.

JUDGE STEFANO  
Continue then.

INT. COURT #1 - DAY

Ally addresses the jury.

ALLY  
I love amusement parks. They're fun. Entertaining. Amusing. Hence the term amusement. People go to them to enjoy. To put their troubles behind them for the day, to get out, and just have a good time. An escape from the daily rigors of life. What they don't go to them for is to be reminded of the downfalls that life has to offer. The horrors, the atrocities, and the prejudices that we have to put up with on a daily basis. My clients...

Ally points to Jerry, Sam, Mandy, Joey, and Beth.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
My clients here were reminded of those prejudices when all they wanted to do was get away from that daily grind and enjoy themselves for a few hours. They show up to this so-called amusement park, only to be turned away from riding the rides solely because of their height.

Opposing counsel, JACK BEAUMOUNT, stands. Next to Jack, seated, is the owner of Fries Amusement Park, ARMONDO CRANE.

JACK  
Your Honor, I object. They were not prevented from enjoying all the rides.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Only the ones for which they did not meet the height requirement, for their own safety.

JUDGE STEFANO

Sustained.

ALLY

Children's rides. How many of you enjoy the children's rides? They're boring. For children. My clients are not children. They are full-grown adults.

Nelle CLEARS her throat. Ally looks over, then corrects herself.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Adults! And they should have the same privileges as every other adult. Including enjoying every adult ride that the park has to offer.

One of the little guys, Jerry, turns to Sam.

JERRY

What do you think? Should I ask her out?

Sam gives him the thumbs up.

INT. COURT #2 - DAY

McIntire is addressing the jury.

MCINTIRE

So they would have you believe that a woman would change her sexual preference just for the sake of spite. Just to slur her husband's name. Please, people. There are a thousand other ways of doing that, other than becoming a lesbian. This is nothing other than a case of a husband who is out to slur his ex-wife's name, and most certainly not the other way around.

CAGE

Objection, Your Honor. Opposing counsel is making assumptions here.

MCINTIRE

They are making the assumptions,  
Your Honor. I am only trying to  
show the flip side of the coin  
here.

FISH

(to Billy)

That's one way to put it.

JUDGE STEFANO

Overruled. But let's try to keep  
these assumptions down to a minimum  
and only if they are made to prove  
a point. A strong point.

INT. COURT #2 - LATER

Martin Cummings is on the stand. Cage is questioning.

During this examination, Georgia briefly looks over at Sandra  
Cummings. Sandra feels this and looks straight at Georgia.  
Direct eye contact.

Sandra smiles an incredibly alluring smile. Georgia is  
frozen. Mesmerized. Smiles back uncontrollably. Then,  
Sandra turns away, breaking the link. Georgia shakes it off.  
Almost as if she was in a trance.

MARTIN

She had never shown any desires  
toward women throughout our ten  
years of marriage. Never.

CAGE

Is it possible that she might have  
been in denial?

MARTIN

I had once entertained the notion  
of bringing another woman into our  
bedroom, you know, in order to  
spice up our sex life. She was  
disgusted at the thought.

CAGE

Interesting. So you believe that  
her switch to becoming a les...  
les... les...

Georgia puts her face in her hands.

CAGE (CONT'D)

Les... les.. les... da da da da  
da... les.. les...

The jury jumps in.

JURY

LESBIAN!

CAGE

Thank you. So her switch to that  
wasn't because of a natural sexual  
awakening?

MARTIN

Absolutely not. She knows that I'm  
in a high profile business.  
Reputation is everything. Now I'm  
a laughing stock.

CAGE

But why should the discovery of her  
new sexuality affect you in any  
way?

MARTIN

Because she follows me around,  
finds out who I'm dating, and  
steals her away from me. There's a  
red flag up on me now. No woman  
will date me for fear she'll be  
switched. The woman's stalking me.

Cage looks over at his own stalker, Judith. She's staring  
right at him. Smiles. Cage is uncomfortable. Thrown for a  
moment.

JUDGE STEFANO

Mister Cage?

CAGE

Yes, Your Honor.

The Judge motions toward Martin. "Continue the questioning."

CAGE (CONT'D)

Uh, uh, when you say switched, do  
you mean that no woman will date  
you for fear she'll become a les...  
les.. les...

JURY

LESBIAN!

CAGE  
Again, I thank you.

The Judge POUNDS her gavel.

JUDGE STEFANO  
That will be enough from the jury.  
Mister Cage, please try to force  
yourself to overcome this  
inexplicable fear of the term  
lesbian. If you can't say it, then  
substitute a word for it.

CAGE  
Peanut butter.

JUDGE STEFANO  
Excuse me?

CAGE  
When I was a boy, I would always  
try to speak with a mouth full of  
peanut butter, but as everyone here  
knows, you can't speak with a mouth  
full of peanut butter.

The audience and jury nod.

CAGE (CONT'D)  
So my mother would always tell me  
that when I was uncomfortable  
saying a particular word, I should  
just substitute it with the word  
peanut butter.

JUDGE STEFANO  
You want to say peanut butter in  
place of lesbian?

CAGE  
Yes, Your Honor.

Judge Stefano looks over at Sandra Cummings.

JUDGE STEFANO  
You okay with that, Mrs. Cummings?

Sandra locks eyes with the Judge, smiles sexually and nods  
her head. The Judge seems mesmerized by her gaze.

INT. COURT #1 - DAY

Jerry on the stand. Nelle cross-examines.

JERRY

Do you know how humiliating it is to be an adult and be told by other adults that you can't go on a ride because you're too short? We know we're short. We're not denying that. But we shouldn't be discriminated against because of it.

NELLE

True. Little people shouldn't be forced to have to suffer any kind of discrimination in our society, but don't you feel that one little requirement is there for your own safety?

JERRY

Whose side are you on? I thought you were supposed to be representing us.

Sam, Mandy, Beth, and Joey also voice their discontent. Ally finds this amusing. Nelle is a bit thrown.

NELLE

I'm only trying to look at both sides here.

JERRY

And we don't like the term little people anymore. We prefer the term vertically exquisite.

NELLE

Vertically exquisite?

JERRY

Have a problem with that?

Nelle regains her composure.

NELLE

My earlier point being... why do you feel that the height requirement is dubious?

JERRY

Because it has no merits concerning us. It's there for children who are too young to handle a ride like the Twister of Death or the Drop Dead Free Fall.

ALLY  
 (smiles; to herself)  
 Drop Dead Free Fall.

JERRY  
 We're not going to fall out or  
 injure ourselves. We're bulkier  
 than children and quite capable of  
 handling those rides.

NELLE  
 Then why won't they let you go on  
 them?

JERRY  
 Because they are prejudiced against  
 the vertically exquisite.

Armondo Crane stands. Speaks with a Greek accent.

ARMONDO  
 I no prejudice against little  
 people.

JERRY  
 (shouts)  
 Vertically exquisite!

ARMONDO  
 Whatever you call yourself. I  
 prevent myself from being liable of  
 your injuries.

Whipper POUNDS the gavel.

WHIPPER  
 Please Mister Crane, take a seat.  
 You'll have your turn.

ARMONDO  
 I cannot let little person shout  
 out lies about me.

JERRY  
 Lies? You calling me a liar?

Whipper POUNDS that gavel.

WHIPPER  
 Please, I want order in here, and I  
 want it now.

MANDY  
 Who you calling a little person?

ARMONDO  
I call you little person.

MANDY  
(gets up)  
Little person, this!

Mandy goes over and shoves Armondo. He shoves her back.

SAM  
He's beating on Mandy. Let's get  
him.

Sam, Joey, and Beth get up and rush Armondo. Jerry leaves  
the stand and joins in on the attack.

Whipper shouts for order. Nelle puts her head in her hands.  
Can't believe the chaos. Ally tries to reason.

ALLY  
Please, guys, stop. This isn't  
helping your case.

No one listens. The fight goes on. The bailiff joins in.

WHIPPER  
I want this to stop this instant! I  
will not have this courtroom turned  
into a circus!

Everyone stops and turns to her. All quiet.

JERRY  
That supposed to be some kind of  
crack?

FADE OUT.

END ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. COURT CORRIDOR - DAY

Ally and Nelle walk down the busy corridor. Neither looks too happy.

ALLY

I think that went well.

NELLE

If we were living in an insane asylum, I'd say it went well.

ALLY

What do you mean by that?

NELLE

What do you think I mean? Ally, what's the matter with you lately?

Ally begins to look very uncomfortable.

ALLY

The matter? Who, with me?

NELLE

You've been seeming weirder than usual.

FANTASY

Ally's face begins to distort into weird formations.

ALLY

I don't think I'm any weirder than usual. Not that I was ever too weird to begin with. I don't think. Too weird. Don't think.

REALITY

NELLE

Ally, I need a lawyer who is going to be one hundred percent in there. If that's not going to be you, then I'll get someone assigned who can do the job.

Nelle moves on past Ally, who is frozen in her tracks. She is definitely not herself lately.

Fish, Billy, Cage, and Georgia exit the courtroom. Fish spots Nelle.

FISH  
Nelle, how's the munchkin thing coming?

NELLE  
Vertically exquisite.

She continues walking.

GEORGIA  
What's wrong with her?

FISH  
(sniffs)  
That time of month.

Cage goes to grab a drink at a water fountain. Bends over, then spots Judith Kovak.

Judith stares at Cage mercilessly. He's disturbed by this. He forgoes his drink and runs in the opposite direction. She follows, but not before running into Fish.

FISH (CONT'D)  
Judith, hey, what's up? It's been awhile.

Judith looks at him in disgust. He tries to touch her wattle, but she slaps his hand away.

JUDITH  
Not long enough. Freak.

Judith walks away. Fish turns to Georgia and Billy.

FISH  
She still wants me.

CLANK. CLANK. CLANK.

GEORGIA  
You're a strong advocate of denial, aren't you?

FISH  
There's no truth like your own truth. Fishism.

GEORGIA  
So with you, that would mean...

FISH  
Deny, deny, deny!

BILLY  
Another Fishism.

FISH  
I should write a book.

INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

Ally enters. Sees Elaine with Sam. Working her usual charm.

SAM  
You ever been with the vertically  
exquisite?

ELAINE  
Have I ever. You people may be  
short, but you certainly make up  
for it in other ways.

Mandy comes over and yanks Sam away by the ear.

MANDY  
I leave you for two minutes and  
already you're making moves on  
another woman.

SAM  
I'm only human you know.

Ally walks up to Cage's office. His door is closed. She  
KNOCKS. No answer. She opens the door.

INT. CAGE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The perch is swinging, but there's no sign of Cage.

ALLY  
John?

No answer.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
I know you're in here. Your perch  
is still swinging.

Cage raises his head just slightly above his desk.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
What are you doing, John?

CAGE  
Hiding from her.

ALLY  
Hiding from who?

CAGE  
The court stalker. Close the door.

Ally walks in and closes the door behind her.

ALLY  
If she's bothering you, why don't  
you just confront her?

CAGE  
I don't believe that would be a  
pertinent move at this juncture.

ALLY  
Why?

Cage finally gets up and sits in his chair.

CAGE  
She frightens me.

ALLY  
John, she's just a harmless zealot.  
She likes lawyers. Why? I have no  
idea. Talk to her.

CAGE  
I'm much more comfortable in my  
escape mode right now. Is there  
anything else, Ally?

ALLY  
Well, yes, actually... what do you  
do when you can't sleep?

CAGE  
Ahhhh... insomnia. That explains  
it.

ALLY  
Explains what?

CAGE  
Your strange behavior lately.

ALLY  
Strange? How strange? Like who  
strange?

CAGE

Everybody's noticed it. But don't worry. We accept it.

ALLY

Who knows what? What about who?

CAGE

When I can't sleep, I try different relaxation techniques. Standing on my head, a warm glass of cranberry juice mixed with chocolate milk, maybe while watching a good Fred Astaire movie...

ALLY

Anything else?

CAGE

The perch has worked wonders. Lets all the blood flow to my head. It helps me deliberate more clearly. I might have even seen it in a Batman movie once.

Ally eyes the perch curiously.

ALLY

I think I'll skip the perch.

CAGE

Don't discount it. It may seem a bit unconventional, but it works.

ALLY

Thanks, John. I'll keep it in mind.

INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - MINUTES LATER

As Ally heads back to her office, she runs into Billy, who is carrying huge stack of files.

BILLY

Ally.

ALLY

Billy.

Billy tries to move past Ally, but she blocks his way.

BILLY

Is there something I can do for you?

ALLY

No.

Billy tries to pass again, but Ally blocks.

BILLY

What is it, Ally?

ALLY

What makes you think there is anything?

BILLY

Because you've engaged your "I want to talk but want you to drag it out of me" blocking maneuver.

ALLY

(caught)

I need new maneuvers.

BILLY

Alley?

ALLY

(hesitates)

Do I seem any different to you lately?

BILLY

Different how?

ALLY

Do I seem any more peculiar than usual? Not that my usual was too usual, or too often usual... or unusual.

BILLY

I don't know, Ally. You've always been a bit peculiar. But that's what I liked about you. You were different from other girls.

ALLY

Different how? A good different?

BILLY

A different different. It's hard to explain.

ALLY

And what about Georgia?

BILLY  
Georgia's sort of a normal  
different.

ALLY  
So you would prefer a normal  
different over a different  
different?

BILLY  
Listen, Ally. I don't know where  
you're going with this. I... I'm  
really kinda busy right now. We  
can discuss it later if you'd like.

Billy sees someone motioning for him across the room. He  
motions back.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
I gotta go. I'll talk to you  
later.

Billy walks away. Elaine then passes by.

ELAINE  
Normal slutty different. That's  
what men really like.

Ally gives her a snappish look.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Ally sits with Nelle and the vertically exquisite group.

NELLE  
We lost face in there today.

JERRY  
I'm sorry, but when I think I'm  
being mocked, I just can't help  
myself. I lose it.

SAM  
If we want to be equal, we have to  
stand up for ourselves.

NELLE  
But not in the courtroom.

Nelle stops, realizing what she said.

NELLE (CONT'D)  
I'm mean, you have to remain  
professional in there.

ALLY

Everyone will get their say, but by acting too aggressively, it will make us seem less sympathetic in the jury's eyes. If it looks like we have an agenda, then it makes Fries Amusement Park look like the victim.

NELLE

And we don't want to make it seem as if we are targeting them. When we go back in, just answer the questions.

ALLY

And whatever you do, no biting the opposing counsel's leg this time.

MANDY

I'll try not to. But he's a tall guy. That's all I could reach.

INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - MINUTES LATER

The vertically exquisite group leave the conference room. On the way out Nelle stops Ally in the doorway.

NELLE

Ally.

ALLY

Yes.

NELLE

I'm sorry about earlier. I didn't mean to get on your case.

ALLY

Oh, I didn't think anything of it.

FANTASY

Ally wearing a soldier's uniform, holding a bazooka. Fires it at Nelle. Blows a hole right through her.

REALITY

NELLE

I guess everyone's just been on edge around here lately, myself included. I think you're doing a wonderful job.

Nelle smiles and moves off. Ally heads toward her office. She's stopped by Jerry.

JERRY  
Ms. McBeal?

ALLY  
Yes, Jerry.

JERRY  
I was wondering...  
(beat)  
... if you would like to grab a  
bite to eat sometime?

Ally's taken off guard.

ALLY  
Oh, well, I don't think that would  
be a good idea. A client shouldn't  
date his lawyer. It wouldn't be  
professional.

JERRY  
Well, what about when the case is  
over. You wouldn't be my lawyer  
anymore.

ALLY  
I... don't know about that.

JERRY  
It's because of my size, isn't it?

ALLY  
No... of course not. Absolutely  
not.

JERRY  
You don't have to be condescending  
with me, Ms. McBeal. I know that's  
the reason. That's the problem  
with you Muckamucks.

ALLY  
Muckamucks?

JERRY  
That's what we call you tall  
people. Muckamucks.

ALLY  
I think I'm offended. I don't know  
why, but I am.

JERRY

You muckamucks think you're too good for us. And here you are fighting a case about prejudice, and you're prejudiced yourself.

ALLY

I am not prejudiced.

JERRY

If you get past the height thing, I happen to be a very good person. Who knows what could have happened?

Jerry walks away. Ally is flustered.

INT. CAGE'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Ally enters. The office is empty. Ally closes the door and looks under the desk. No Cage. She stares at his perch. Finally decides to try it out.

Ally hops up on it and hangs upside down. Swings a little. She likes it. It's relaxing. She closes her eyes.

Suddenly, the door swings open. Cage, Billy, Georgia, and Fish enter. All stare at Ally. She opens her eyes. Shocked and embarrassed.

Then, one side of the perch breaks loose and Ally goes crashing to the floor.

FISH

That had to hurt.

CU ON ALLY

She slowly begins to open her eyes. She's disoriented from her fall. Everything's a bit blurry at first, but then clears up.

The five vertically exquisites tower over her.

But wait -- something's not right.

The vertically exquisites are dressed like -- munchkins. One even holds an oversized lollipop. Ally isn't in Cage's office anymore. She's in...

EXT. LAND OF OZ - DAY

Ally rises, dressed as Dorothy. One of the munchkins (Jerry) points to the ground where she fell.

MUNCHKIN JERRY  
You killed her. You killed her.

ALLY  
I killed who?

Ally looks down. She has landed on a wicked witch, whose feet, adorned with red ruby slippers, stick out of the ground.

The slippers disappear off the witch's feet and rematerialize onto Ally's feet.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
What's going on here? Where am I?

Ally glances around. The landscape looks very similar to that of "The Wizard of Oz." Ally can't believe her eyes.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
Oh my God! I'm dead. Or crazy!  
Oh, I hope I'm dead.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

EXT. LAND OF OZ - DAY

Ally is still a bit disoriented. The munchkins sing and dance, "Ding Dong, the witch is dead!"

All the residents come out to celebrate, including many familiars -- the TIN MAN (Billy), the SCARECROW (Fish), the COWARDLY LION (Cage).

TIN MAN BILLY

Ally, what did you do? You can get forty to life for killing a wicked witch.

ALLY

What? It was an accident. I didn't mean to do that.

As Ally turns to Scarecrow Fish, his straw hand is on fire and he's lighting a cigar with it. Takes a few puffs, and puts out his hand. Doesn't think twice.

SCARECROW FISH

Wouldn't worry about it. Nobody liked that old witch anyway. Brought the real estate value down in the neighborhood.

A LOUD GURGLING HEARD. It's Lion Cage's stomach.

COWARDLY LION CAGE

I'm feeling a bit unsettled.

Lion Cage pinches his nose. Takes a moment.

SCARECROW FISH

Clear case of involuntary manslaughter. You're home free.

ALLY

Manslaughter?

Suddenly, GLINDA (Elaine), the good witch materializes.

GLINDA ELAINE

Oh my, Ally. We've certainly made a mess of it this time. Somebody's in trouble.

ALLY  
Shut up, Elaine.

GLINDA ELAINE  
Snappish.

Suddenly another GLINDA (Nelle) appears.

GLINDA ELAINE (CONT'D)  
What are you doing here? I'm  
Glinda, the good witch.

GLINDA NELLE  
Please Elaine, I was born to play  
the role of Glinda.

GLINDA ELAINE  
Were not.  
(to all)  
All right, I want everyone to take  
a vote here. Who makes a better  
good witch?

Suddenly, fire and smoke. A big EXPLOSION. The WICKED WITCH  
OF THE WEST appears (Ling). Cowardly Lion Cage jumps into  
Scarecrow Fish's arms. Scarecrow Fish drops him.

WITCH LING  
What have you done to my sister?

ALLY  
It wasn't my fault. She was  
just...

WITCH LING  
And you've stolen her shoes, too!  
You're a murderer and a thief.

SCARECROW FISH  
I'd just like to go on the record  
as saying... I saw nothing.

WITCH LING  
You'll fry in the electric chair my  
unpretty and your little dog, too.

Silence. Everyone looks around. No dog. Ally just shrugs  
her shoulders.

In the b.g., Glinda Elaine and Glinda Nelle are fighting.  
Pulling each other's hair.

TIN MAN BILLY  
 Hey, why don't you just lay off  
 her? You can clearly see that it  
 was an accident.

Witch Ling raises her hand and a small shower of rain covers  
 Tin Man Billy. He rusts in place. Can't speak.

TIN MAN BILLY (CONT'D)  
 (mumbles)  
 Oil can. Oil can.

Ally runs over to Tin Man Billy. Witch Ling LAUGHS.

ALLY  
 Why don't you leave my friends  
 alone?

Ally sees a bucket next to Tin Man Billy. It's filled with  
 water. She picks it up and throws it on Witch Ling. Witch  
 Ling SCREAMS. But nothing happens.

WITCH LING  
 You bitch. I just had this dry  
 cleaned.

Witch Ling throws her broom down and goes after Ally. They  
 fight.

Ally does a kickboxing move and Witch Ling goes down. Ally  
 picks up the broom and beats her with it.

ALLY  
 You're a mean, mean witch.

MUNCHKIN JERRY  
 And a muckamuck.

ALLY  
 And a muckamuck.

Ally breaks the witch's broom. The witch gets up. Grabs  
 both pieces of the broom from Ally.

WITCH LING  
 You people are all neurotic.  
 (to Ally)  
 Non Compos Mentis... bitch!

Witch Ling waves her arms and disappears in a puff of smoke.  
 Everyone CHEERS.

A black limo pulls up. The WIZARD (DOCTOR TRACY CLARK) gets  
 out. She wears a tux.

WIZARD TRACY

I am the great and powerful wizard.  
So what did I miss?

As the others are about to speak, Wizard Tracy waves them off.

WIZARD TRACY (CONT'D)

Not important. Let's just get this over with.

Wizard Tracy walks over to Tin Man Billy.

WIZARD TRACY (CONT'D)

So you want a heart?

TIN MAN BILLY

(mumbles)  
Oil can!

Wizard Tracy slaps a sticker heart on Tin Man Billy.

WIZARD TRACY

Merry Christmas.

Wizard Tracy moves over to Scarecrow Fish.

WIZARD TRACY (CONT'D)

A brain, huh?

Scarecrow Fish just stands there dumbfounded with a stupid smile on his face.

WIZARD TRACY (CONT'D)

Nothing I can do for you.

Scarecrow Fish looks disappointed. Wizard Tracy moves over to the Lion Cage.

WIZARD TRACY (CONT'D)

Courage?

COWARDLY LION CAGE

Yes, please.

Wizard Tracy pulls out her card. Hands it to Lion Cage.

WIZARD TRACY

I'm free Tuesdays. We'll get you there.

Wizard Tracy moves over to Ally.

WIZARD TRACY (CONT'D)

As for you...

ALLY

I guess you're going to send me home.

WIZARD TRACY

Not before I say this. I know that you think there's something wrong with you. Possibly going a bit more kookoo in your older age. Don't want people to notice it.

ALLY

I didn't think wizards were supposed to use the term kookoo.

WIZARD TRACY

Brings us to the point quicker. You're worrying for nothing, Ally. Everyone's got their little idiosyncrasies. Just look at those guys.

Wizard Tracy points to Tin Man Billy, Scarecrow Fish, and Lion Cage.

WIZARD TRACY (CONT'D)

No heart...

TIN MAN

(mumbles)

Oil can!

WIZARD TRACY

... no brains and no courage. Typical men. And look at them.

Wizard Tracy points to the two Glindas fighting.

Suddenly a third Glinda appears. It's Georgia. The other two Glinda's turn to her.

GLINDA GEORGIA

Am I late?

WIZARD TRACY

Insecure women. All of them. The fact that you stepped up your therapy only means that you are willing to admit to your flaws and work at them. Most people can't even admit they have flaws.

(MORE)

WIZARD TRACY (CONT'D)

Those are the sick people. Ally, you're as normal as the next person. And believe me, the next person isn't normal. So enjoy your quirks. They are what make you special.

ALLY

Wow. You've made more sense in this little twisted fantasy of mine than in all the time I've actually gone to see you.

WIZARD TRACY

I'm still going to bill you. Now, time to go home. You know the drill. Click the slippers.

ALLY

But I don't want to go back yet. I like it here.

WIZARD TRACY

You have to return to reality some time. Now, tap your damn heels. I've got another appointment in ten minutes.

Suddenly, a puff of smoke. Witch Ling materializes with TWO COPS. Points to Ally.

WITCH LING

She's the one that killed my sister. Arrest her. And don't forget about the full body probe. She may be hiding a weapon.

Ally taps the heels of her slippers quickly. Desperately.

ALLY

There's no place like home. There's no place like home. There's no place like...

All of a sudden, Ally is swept up into a vortex. She spins around and around.

ALLY (CONT'D)

I think I'm going to be sick.

And then...

INT. CAGE'S OFFICE - DAY

Ally is on the floor. Cage, Billy, and Georgia are kneeled before her.

BILLY  
Ally, are you all right?

ALLY  
Where am I?

GEORGIA  
You're in John's office. You fell off the perch.

CAGE  
I'm quite dissatisfied with the manufacturer.

Fish enters holding a glass of water.

FISH  
Oh good, Ally, you're up.

Fish takes a drink for himself. Ling enters.

LING  
What did she do this time? Forget to eat today?

Fish offers Ling some water. She pushes it away in disgust.

ALLY  
(somber)  
There's no place like home.

INT. COURT CORRIDOR - DAY

Ally walks toward the courtroom. A small bandage covers the bump on her head. She meets up with Nelle.

NELLE  
How's the head?

ALLY  
As normal as can be, I guess.

INT. COURT #1 - DAY

Armondo Crane is on the stand. Jack Beaumont is questioning him.

JACK

So the height requirement is a standard at all amusement parks?

ARMONDO

Yes. Yes. Safety standard. Protects me. Protects them. Protects everyone.

JACK

Thank you.

Jack sits. It's Ally's turn. She walks over to Armondo.

ALLY

Mr. Crane... you say that you are concerned with the safety and well being of your patrons.

ARMONDO

Yes.

ALLY

So is it important to you that they also enjoy their experience at your park?

ARMONDO

Yes. I like to see people have fun.

ALLY

(points to the vertically exquisite)

But they didn't have fun. Instead, they were turned away from a place they came to for enjoyment and were reminded of the drudgery that life has to offer. Maybe they should call it a drudgery park, because there is no amusement at your park for these five individuals.

ARMONDO

What you want me to do? I no can win here. I not uphold regulations, someone get hurt, I a bad man and get sued. But I uphold regulations, I still bad man and get sued. All they looking for is easy money. Nobody want to work for nothing no more.

Jerry stands, angered by that accusation.

JERRY

We're not suing for money. We just want free reign of the park like everyone else. He can keep his money.

Whipper POUNDS the gavel.

WHIPPER

That will be enough. Take your seat.

ARMONDO

You no want money?

NELLE

(to Jerry)

The outcome of suing for discrimination is usually a settlement.

MANDY

But that's not the settlement we want.

SAM

We just want the rides.

Ally walks over to them.

ALLY

Don't you think you should have mentioned this to us before?

JERRY

We thought it was just assumed.

ARMONDO

No money?

ALL VERTICALLY EXQUISITE

No money.

ARMONDO

Just rides?

ALL VERTICALLY EXQUISITE

Just rides.

ARMONDO

You sign safety waiver, you ride rides. I no responsible. Agreed?

ALL VERTICALLY EXQUISITE

Agreed.

Armondo picks up the judge's gavel. POUNDS it.

ARMONDO

Case closed.

The vertically exquisite CHEER.

ALLY

What just happened here?

Nelle shrugs her shoulders. Whipper just gives up.

INT. COURT #2 - DAY

SUSAN, a former lover of Martin, is on the stand. Georgia is cross examining. Fish sits up front, by Cage.

A bailiff walks up and hands Cage a note. It reads, "I know where you go and I'll be there. Judith." Cage looks rattled.

FISH

(to Cage)

Ain't love grand?

Cage looks back and sees Judith sitting in the audience. She smiles awkwardly at him.

SUSAN

I liked Martin but I was just inexplicably drawn to Sandra.

GEORGIA

Have you ever before found yourself attracted to the same sex?

SUSAN

No. That's the weird part. I never knew I was a pee bee until I met Sandra.

JUDGE STEFANO

Excuse me. A pee bee?

SUSAN

Short for peanut butter. I didn't want to rattle the strange little lawyer over there.

CAGE

Deeply appreciated.

The Judge looks puzzled.

GEORGIA

Can you explain your attraction to Sandra?

SUSAN

I don't know how to explain it. It was different. It was just so overwhelming.

GEORGIA

Would you say that it was almost hypnotic?

McIntire stands in protest.

MCINTIRE

I object. She's making accusations that Sandra Cummings hypnotized her into become a lesbian.

CAGE

(quietly, but heard)  
Pee bee.

McIntire looks at Cage and then back to the Judge.

MCINTIRE

You can't hypnotize someone into becoming a lesbian.

JURY

PEE BEE!

CAGE

This jury pleases me.

The Judge POUNDS the gavel.

JUDGE STEFANO

That's enough from the jury, and from you Mister Cage.

MCINTIRE

Your Honor, that accusation is just absurd.

GEORGIA

I was not making that accusation, Your Honor. I was just exploring all avenues...

As Georgia and McIntire fight it out, Fish notices something.  
Turns to Cage.

FISH  
Did you see that?

CAGE  
What?

FISH  
Look.

It appears as if Judge Marianne Stefano is making eye contact with Sandra Cummings. They smile at one another briefly. Almost flirting, all in a world of their own.

CAGE  
Intriguing. You don't think...???

Fish smiles at the thought.

FISH  
Let me handle this.

Fish stands up. Cage tries to pull him back down. Fish raises his finger.

FISH (CONT'D)  
(to Judge)  
Question...

INT. BAR - NIGHT

At the table -- Cage, Fish, Billy, and Georgia. VONDA SHEPARD plays in the b.g.

Ally, Nelle, Renee, Elaine, and the vertically exquisite group are on the dance floor.

FISH  
Mistrial. Seems Judge Stefano was sleeping with Sandra Cummings. Juicy!

BILLY  
That's incredible!

CAGE  
She judiciously removed herself from the case. But we might be well-advised...  
(gives Fish a dirty look)  
... if we try and avoid her in the future.

Georgia hits Fish in the arm.

GEORGIA

You could have handled the situation better.

FISH

Hey, discretion is for the weak and beggared. Fishism. Besides, we'll be better off with a male judge next time.

GEORGIA

Right, as if that would make a difference.

CAGE

I think I need another drink. Anyone?

They decline. Cage gets up and walks over to the bar. But as he waits for the bartender, he turns and finds himself face to face with... Judith Kovak, a.k.a, the court stalker.

Cages nose WHISTLES, stomach GURGLES. Like a steam engine that is about to blow.

JUDITH

(excited)

John Cage! I am your number one fan.

FANTASY

Cage tied down to a bed. Judith flogs Cage's ankles with a sledge hammer. Think "Misery."

REALITY

Cage flinches.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

I've studied them all, from Clarence Darrow to Marcia Clark. But you are by far the most fascinating.

CAGE

Wa... wa... what?

JUDITH

I've been studying all of the great lawyers.

(MORE)

JUDITH (CONT'D)

I'm in law school right now and I just thought that I could really learn from these people. Well, the ones that are still alive anyway.

Cage doesn't know how to take that.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

But your technique, your distractions, and the way you play the game... it's ingenious.

CAGE

Me, really?

JUDITH

I was hoping maybe you could share some of your knowledge with me. Give me some pointers. It would be such an honor. I just really want to be a good lawyer, Mr. Cage.

CAGE

(flattered)

Well, I... I... I... I don't know.

Judith looks disappointed. Like a lost puppy. Looking much more human and less threatening now. Cage picks up on this.

CAGE (CONT'D)

I suppose that I might find some time to go over a few things with you.

Judith smiles. Perks up.

JUDITH

Really! Oh, that would be great!

Judith gives Cage a hug. He's taken off guard. Pats her on the back gently. A connection made.

Meanwhile, on the dance floor, Ally talks to Renee.

ALLY

Strangely, I feel much better. I really do.

RENEE

(laughs)

Well, a trip to Oz would do it for anyone, girl.

ALLY  
So I have an intricate fantasy  
life. It only helps add to my...

NELLE  
(interrupts)  
Uniqueness.

ALLY  
Thank you.

Ally makes her way over to Jerry. Starts dancing with him.

JERRY  
Ms. McBeal.

ALLY  
Ally. You can call me Ally. I  
just wanted to say that I'm sorry  
about the other day.

JERRY  
You shouldn't worry about it. I  
get it all the time.

ALLY  
But I'm not like that. I just  
can't help who I'm attracted to.  
There are a lot of taller men I  
don't go out with.

JERRY  
I wasn't asking you to marry me,  
Ally. Just to go out for dinner  
sometime. That's all.

ALLY  
I would love to go for dinner with  
you, Jerry.

JERRY  
You really don't have to.

ALLY  
I want to. I really do.

Jerry smiles.

JERRY  
All right then. It's a date.

ALLY  
It's a date.

And on that... she dances with Jerry and the others, while Cage continues to mingle with Judith. The music plays on into the next scene.

INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ally, finally sound asleep in bed. A smile on her face. And we...

FADE OUT.

THE END