

DYNASTY

"Pilot"

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Based on the original series "Dynasty"

created by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. PRIVATE AIRPORT - DAY

As we gaze out at the first snowfall of the season --

TITLE: DENVER, COLORADO

Standing at a swank bar, a YOUNG WOMAN (25, Caucasian) dressed in a chic power sheath studies a mysterious text on her phone: ***Please come home.*** Nearby, two DOUCHEBAGS discuss business over Bloody Marys. Let's call them ERIC and DON JR.

DON JR

That's eight solar plants up and down the eastern seaboard... But if federal grants are drying up, and they can't attract VC --

ERIC

We could. I can pitch Eddie at Goldman Sachs next week. I could sell anyone on this.
(catches the woman's eye)
Even the stewardess is interested.
(off her look)
Flight attendant.

DON JR

I apologize for my friend here, just... in general.

YOUNG WOMAN

You work in renewable energy?

ERIC

We work in whatever makes us rich.

YOUNG WOMAN

My dad says solar is a money pit.

ERIC

Bet your dad watches Hannity. Here --

Attempting to flirt, Eric plucks a few garnishes from the bar, sticking drink umbrellas (turbines) into limes (solar panels).

ERIC (CONT'D)

Solar panels, wind turbines.

YOUNG WOMAN

Thanks for the visual aid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIC

Each of these contraptions costs
2.3 mil. This company, SunVy,
installed over 5 dozen of them --

DON JR

Hey, insider info --

ERIC

(waves him away; to her)
Don't tweet this, okay? But it's
the opposite of a money pit. We're
talking a hundred billion in
assets, but they overexpanded and
now they need a white knight --

YOUNG WOMAN

Enter you. And your investors,
presuming you can sell them on an
increasingly unsustainable
business.

ERIC

Actually, solar's cheaper than
ever.

YOUNG WOMAN

(takes one of his limes)
Cheaper doesn't mean cheap. Or
reliable.
(squeezes it into her glass)
Plus, the Bald Eagle Protection Act
has Sunvy on a restricted operation
schedule. Dumb birds keep flying
into the blades. Kinda like you,
they can't resist shiny objects.

She pokes her finger through the paper umbrella. A PILOT
signals to her: *time to go*. She drains her drink.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

Stop wasting your money, boys, and
try putting it to better use. Like
paying my tab.

An awestruck Eric and Don Jr ogle her as she follows the pilot.

ERIC

How does a stewardess know so much
about energy?

DON JR

No idea, but I wish she were on my
flight.

EXT. PRIVATE AIRPORT - DAY

A GULFSTREAM crosses over the snow-capped Colorado Mountains, and we spot the name painted above the wing: CARRINGTON. As the CLASSIC THEME from the original series SWELLS --

INT. PRIVATE PLANE - DAY

The Young Woman gazes out the window, on her cell phone, as a male ATTENDANT offers her a glass of champagne:

ATTENDANT

We should land in Atlanta by three,
Ms. Carrington.

As in FALLON CARRINGTON, the beloved, pot-stirring daughter of the Carrington Dynasty. A ballsy brunette; body for sin, mind for alternative energy schemes. Talking on her cell:

FALLON (INTO PHONE)

Look into what SunVy wants for an opening bid... Not just the operation, the land underneath. Also, find out who employs the d-bags who leaked it; they should learn my name before they're fired.

Off Fallon, the THEME continuing --

INT. CARRINGTON ATLANTIC - BOARDROOM - DAY

A full conference room inside this sleek Mid-Town high-rise. Mostly male, mostly white EXECUTIVES crowd around the table, lights dimmed, but instead of focusing on the PR video playing on the screen, they're more concerned with --

The man at the head of the table. Sitting in the big chair, fingers impatiently thrumming the table, a vintage Rolex peeking out from his Zegna suit.

TITLE: ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The video continues (the source of THEME music...)

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

*For three generations, the
Carrington name has stood for
reliability, foresight...*

CLOSE ON A SCREEN: B/W photographs depict the Carrington Coal Mines circa 1900 in rural Georgia...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

But more than anything, we stand for family. From the coal-mining operation where it all began, to the global energy empire it is today --

ON SCREEN, friendly maps and graphics depict the Big Oil company's global operating divisions (upstream, downstream, & subsidiaries). Mostly oil and gas, with a side of coal.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

-- when you invest in Carrington Atlantic, you're not just investing in a company. You're becoming part of our family.

An UNDERLING hops up to turn off the video. The thrumming fingers stop. All eyes on the head of the table --

BLAKE CARRINGTON (50s, Caucasian), intimidating, and not just because he's their billionaire boss. He's the fiercest competitor, the toughest negotiator and the most charismatic guy in any room he walks into. And he knows it. As Tom Wolfe once described a fellow Georgian, he is a man in full.

The group holds their breath, waiting for his response. He rolls his chair away from the table. Then, after a beat:

BLAKE

Who's voice was that? 'Cause it sounded like me. But it wasn't.

RYAN DODD (40's, head of PR) speaks up. Can't help but be a little proud of his handiwork.

RYAN

That was me, Sir. I've been studying your vocal pattern. I know how you hate doing these things...

BLAKE

That right? Or maybe you knew I'd throw out the script as soon as I read it?

(off Ryan)

It's dull, old-fashioned, and --

(holy-fucking-shit)

-- what the hell was with that music? Forget oil and gas. We should be investing in time travel because clearly someone went back to the 80s to dig that up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A few nervous TITTERS around the room. A lot of awkward glances staring down at the table.

RYAN

(defensive)

The whole group felt this was the way to go...

The woman next to him shoots Ryan a look. Blake notices. This is CRISTAL FLORES (30, Hispanic) striking and smart. Smart enough to know her job is on the line right now...

BLAKE

Ms. Flores, you were a voice of dissent?

(off her)

Not a fan of the '80s?

CRISTAL

No, I love the '80s. I took a BuzzFeed quiz recently - it said I was 1985.

More chuckles. Eyelines at the table turn toward her. She's kind of a badass...

RYAN

I told her the presentation was for investors. They're older, conservative. And they like money. They're focused on the bottom line.

Blake looks at Cristal -- well?

CRISTAL

It's true they value profits. But there's something they care about almost as much.

(off Blake)

Their image.

BLAKE

You underestimate how much they love making money--

CRISTAL

Oil and gas might make them rich, but they want to make money and feel relevant. Or like they're doing something good.

RYAN

(rolls his eyes)

Somebody tell her our side won...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRISTAL

(ignoring him)

The presentation should talk about how we're training the engineers of the future by sponsoring STEM classes in public schools. Or developing worker safety programs that companies around the world can adopt.

BLAKE

Now this is the part where I say "then let's talk about that," and you try to embarrass me in front of this entire room because we don't even have those programs.

Cristal reacts, silenced. Ryan smiles; he enjoyed that.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

What you were really trying to say, Ms. Flores, is it's not the video that's out of touch -- it's me.

CRISTAL

Not you. The company...

Blake gives her a tight smile.

BLAKE

Same thing.

The room falls silent. Cristal has way overstepped. Reading the situation, Blake's assistant taps her watch.

ALICE

Mr. Carrington, your next appointment is waiting.

He nods. Then, rising, only to Ryan:

BLAKE

Meet me in my office in an hour? I don't think we need the whole team.

The others exchange glances as that lands on Cristal, stung but stoic as Blake brushes by. He exits with Alice, turning to her in a hushed voice:

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Any word from my children?
(off her "no")
Try them again.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

CLOSE ON: STEVEN CARRINGTON (28, Caucasian), tan skin, hair in need of a cut, shirt tied around his waist. He swings at the dirt with a PICK AX, creating a hole for the sapling held by a VILLAGE KID. At one time, this field was a forest.

TITLE: JEREMIE, HAITI

Suddenly, his phone CHIMES. He pauses the gritty work, smiles when he sees it's Fallon, on FACETIME.

STEVEN

Hey... I didn't even know I had coverage out here.

INT. PRIVATE PLANE - INTERCUT

Fallon is stretched out on a seat, CNBC's SQUAWKBOX muted on the flatscreen.

FALLON

Too bad. You could've been streaming *Fuller House* this entire time.

(off him)

How's ditch digging?

STEVEN

It's tree planting.

Steven takes a sip of bottled water, offers the rest to the boy who was helping him. He wipes his brow with his "SCF" (Steven Carrington Foundation) baseball cap. We notice other RELIEF WORKERS around him also wear them.

FALLON

(whatever)

Dad's texting me to come home. Have you heard from him?

STEVEN

(obviously not)

What do you think..?

FALLON

It's the COO job. I think he's finally ready to give it to me.

(off him)

I know, it should be yours --

STEVEN

You know I don't want it. And Dad would never offer it to me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON

But you'll still come home to help me celebrate, won't you?

STEVEN

C'mon, Sis, your agenda's never that straightforward.

FALLON

Okay, fine. I'm sick of you two being at war.

STEVEN

He started it.

FALLON

Dad would beg to differ.

STEVEN

He was literally planning to frack a native burial ground. That sounds like a joke --

FALLON

Well, there was nothing funny about the 600 million dollars your protest cost him.

(off him)

Face it, you'll never see eye to eye on this. But there's one thing you two will always be able to agree on and that is your love for me.

She mugs into the phone. Steven LAUGHS.

FALLON (CONT'D)

I know you miss me.

(off him, he does)

And as much as you're needed where you are, I need you, too.

Off her hopeful smile, PRELAP the sound of the jet landing --

EXT. PRIVATE AIRPORT - DAY

Fallon disembarks and is greeted by MICHAEL CULHANE (35, African American, former athlete), the family chauffeur.

CULHANE

Welcome home. How was Denver?

FALLON

I missed the heat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CULHANE

Trust me, it wasn't as hot without
you here.

She feigns shock at the completely inappropriate comment, as
she opens her own door.

CULHANE (CONT'D)

Straight to the Manor?

FALLON

I'm open to a detour.

As she SLAMS the door behind her --

INT. CARRINGTON ATLANTIC - LOBBY - DAY

Cristal is heading out when Alice comes running after her.

ALICE

Mr. Carrington asked to see you.

CRISTAL

Can't say I'm surprised...

ALICE

(as Cristal turns back)
But he already left. He wants you
to meet him at his home office.

Alice hands her the address. Cristal is caught off guard.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Whatever happens, good for you.
It's so rare that anyone stands up
to Mr. Carrington like that without
getting fired.

Wary, Cristal glances down to the address now in her hand...

INT. LIMO - DAY

Close on Fallon in the backseat, wearing the chauffeur's hat.
The divider is barely cracked, so we can't see the driver.

FALLON

You think he heard about those
accounts I poached in Dallas?

She leans back, getting comfortable. We realize: the car
isn't moving.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON (CONT'D)

Or that ExxonMobil tried to poach me? He must know I'm invaluable...

CULHANE (O.C.)

Could you stop talking about your father for a minute?

Culhane sits up from between her legs. She tugs her skirt down. He stays kneeling on the floor, starting to unbutton her shirt.

CULHANE (CONT'D)

Kinda makes it hard to concentrate.

FALLON

Not for me.

(then)

Sorry. It's just I've spent five years preparing for this. "Chief Operating Officer."

CULHANE

(kissing her thigh)

Most girls right now... would not be talking about running a global energy empire.

FALLON

What can I say? My daddy never gave me a Barbie.

CULHANE

What if he doesn't give you this job?

(off her look)

He always disappoints you, Fallon.

On Fallon, as she considers that reality, and brushes it off.

FALLON

You know what's disappointing?

(pushing him back down)

All this talking.

As she gazes out the window, she sees a HONDA CIVIC being let into the front gate. Not a car she recognizes. Curious...

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - DAY

Cristal drives her Honda past the stables (where the limo is parked), past rows of symmetrical oaks, to the lavish manor. It's Tara in size and equally as stunning. JUMP CUT TO:

FRONT DOOR

Cristal hesitates. But before she can knock, the estate manager swings it open. JOSEPH ANDERS (55, Caucasian) is just that good. A near OCD level of propriety and respect for tradition, he's also Blake's Mini-Me -- anything Blake thinks, Anders thinks it more.

ANDERS

Come in, Ms. Flores.

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - FOYER - DAY

Cristal steps in, giving us our first glimpse of this palatial home: marble floors, double staircase, fresh cut flowers, oversized Basquiats and Schnabels (because an art consultant told Blake they were good investments).

ANDERS

He's waiting in his study.

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - BLAKE'S STUDY - DAY

Cristal shows herself in, crossing to Blake at his desk.

BLAKE

Good, you got my message.

CRISTAL

If you're hoping to hear how Ryan and I worked it out, we didn't.

BLAKE

Why would you --? Ryan doesn't work for me anymore.

CRISTAL

(suddenly guilty)
Wait, what? Because of me?

BLAKE

Because him imitating my voice totally creeped me out. You know how long he must've spent practicing?
(off her, the truth)
It was time. His ideas were stale.

CRISTAL

Based on today's meeting, you don't seem to like my ideas much either.

BLAKE

No, but I do like your attitude.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRISTAL

Usually it's what gets me into trouble.

BLAKE

Still might. But you're not afraid to speak your mind. Which makes you valuable. Also makes you dangerous.

CRISTAL

You don't seem afraid of me.

As he smiles:

BLAKE

Should I be?

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - FOYER - DAY

Fallon lets herself in, happily surprised to see Steven, who's holding a freshly mixed cocktail.

FALLON

I can't believe that old Cessna actually made it over the ocean.

STEVEN

And I can't believe you just spent the average median income on jet fuel.

FALLON

The fresh-baked cookies are worth it.

They embrace warmly.

STEVEN

When the Revolution happens, it'll be your head they come for first.

FALLON

I'll be sure to get my hair done.
(then)
How long you been here?

STEVEN

(holds up his drink)
Long enough to mix this. Dad tried calling me after you did. All his message said was "big news."

Before she can reply, Anders enters, shocked to see them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDERS

Fallon, Steven -- I didn't realize
your father was expecting you two.
(to Steven)
Especially you.

STEVEN

(no love lost here)
I come for the hospitality.

FALLON

(intervenes)
Dad asked us.

ANDERS

He said you never responded.

STEVEN

This is our response.

FALLON

Where is he?

ANDERS

In a meeting, Fallon, wait --

Before Anders can stop her, she's halfway down the hall --

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - BLAKE'S STUDY - DAY

Fallon opens the study door, Steven just behind her:

FALLON

Hey, guess who's --

But she stops in her tracks, seeing her father and Cristal in
flagrante delicto on his desk. WTF. As they scramble apart --

FALLON (CONT'D)

Oh my god --

BLAKE

What the hell are you doing?

FALLON

Who the hell are you doing?

Steven tilts his head, recognizing Cristal. Sotto to Fallon:

STEVEN

I think she works for Carrington
Atlantic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRISTAL

Are you -- are these your kids --

FALLON

Hi, Daddy.

CRISTAL

(mortified)

So that's a yes.

STEVEN

And you are -- ?

FALLON

Looking for a promotion.

BLAKE

Fallon --

(regaining composure)

This obviously isn't how I intended
for you all to meet, but --

FALLON

Why would we be meeting at all?

BLAKE

Fallon, Steven: this is Cristal.

(finally)

My fiancée.

Off Fallon, taking in her future stepmother, as our REVAMPED
THEME SONG KICKS IN, SMASHING us into our opening credits...

DYNASTY

ACT TWO**EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - VERANDA - DAY**

The outdoor living room looks out on manicured lawns; it's where you bring your guests to make them feel comfortable, yet completely depressed about their own backyards.

Blake, Cristal, Fallon and Steven sit in awkward silence as a SERVANT pours Arnold Palmers.

STEVEN

So this is a nice surprise.
(off their looks)
I'm usually the one that makes things awkward around here.

CRISTAL

(tries to joke)
Happy to relieve you of that burden...

BLAKE

Why didn't you call me back? If I had any idea you were coming --

STEVEN

Not sure why you're so surprised. You asked us to --

BLAKE

And when was the last time you did something I asked?

FALLON

Dad, stop acting as if you don't bang all your girlfriends in front of us.

Cristal smiles, takes Blake's hand to ease the tension.

CRISTAL

I've heard so much about you both.

FALLON

And we've heard nothing about you.

Cristal's smile fades. So much for grace. Blake steps in:

BLAKE

That's why I called. I want you to get to know Cristal before the get-together we're having Sunday.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON

So you've told other people?

BLAKE

Other people called me back.

(then, relaxing)

It all happened so fast...

Cristal's been an associate in PR for four years, but she only recently caught my attention. And she hasn't let go.

As Blake takes Cristal's hand, we see the ENGAGEMENT RING for the first time: an emerald-cut, whopper of a diamond.

FALLON

At least now we know what happened to Kim Kardashian's stolen ring.

BLAKE

Fallon --

STEVEN

Yeah, that's ridiculous. They arrested those guys...

BLAKE

You? Not helping.

FALLON

You're right, Daddy. There's no point in being upset. It's only an engagement. Anything can happen.

As Fallon walks off, Blake stands, turning to Cristal:

BLAKE

I'm sorry. Let me talk to her.

Blake goes. Leaving Cristal and Steven alone.

STEVEN

Forgive my sister. She thought she was getting a promotion, not a step-mother.

CRISTAL

And what did you think?

STEVEN

(beat, admits)

That I was getting an apology...

(shaking it off, smiles)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Not sure which of us was more wrong.

Cristal has her own disappointment to process.

CRISTAL

He really didn't mention we were dating?

STEVEN

He stopped bragging about his sexual conquests once he realized it wouldn't make me any straighter.
(off her look)
Guess he also didn't mention I was gay...

She offers him a sympathetic smile, a small bond forming.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Whose idea was it to call me?

CRISTAL

I wanted to meet you.

STEVEN

To see how Blake Carrington could spawn a bleeding heart liberal?

CRISTAL

(no...)
I told him family is everything. And when things get tough, you don't give up. You fight harder.

STEVEN

And he actually believed that..?

She shrugs, smiles. Hopeful.

CRISTAL

He called, didn't he?

And Steven smiles back. Maybe a little hopeful himself...

INT./EXT. CARRINGTON STABLES - DAY

Blake is just behind Fallon as she walks past the century-old stone stalls, stopping to greet one of their many HORSES.

FALLON

I can only imagine what Mom would say about your child-bride.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLAKE

Your mother forfeited the right to
an opinion a long time ago.

(off her look)

If I'd told you over the phone,
would you have come home?

Why did you think I called?

(her look says it all)

You heard I'm hiring a new COO.

FALLON

You were my age when your father
handed you the company.

BLAKE

He didn't hand it to me, I earned
it.

FALLON

(tries to earn it herself)

Did you know SunVy is going under?
At the airport today, these guys
were bragging about their plan to
save it, right in front of me --

BLAKE

Didn't they know who you were?

FALLON

They thought I was a flight
attendant.

(off his look)

That's my point.

BLAKE

They underestimated you. I don't.
That's why I made you Head of
Acquisitions last year.

(off her)

Now can we please stop talking
business? This weekend is a new
chapter for our family. You and
Cristal are the two most important
women in my life. I'll bet you have
more in common than you think.

As he turns and heads back to the house --

FALLON

Hope so. It's usually too easy to
scare your girlfriends away.

BLAKE

We're getting married.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON
(let the games begin)
Uh-huh.

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - KITCHEN - DAY

Cristal stands to the side, watching Anders go over the menu with the STAFF, crates of champagne flutes in evidence.

CRISTAL
A hundred and ninety people? Blake said it'd be a small get-together.

ANDERS
That is small.

The Staff glance at Cristal, unimpressed. To Anders:

CRISTAL
Well, at least we'll be outside.

ANDERS
We'll be in the ballroom.
(off her look)
Mr. Carrington prefers the ballroom.

CRISTAL
Can I talk to you?

She pulls him aside. But the Staff still stands by, staring.

CRISTAL (CONT'D)
I know you've been doing this a long time, and I don't want to tell how to do your job --

ANDERS
No, please. I'm so curious.

She picks up a champagne flute --

CRISTAL
None of my friends care about the stemwear. And they'll make fun of me for living in a house with an actual "ballroom" --

ANDERS
Then you probably shouldn't mention the bowling alley.
(then)
Your friends account for about 1% of the guest list.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDERS (CONT'D)
(takes the flute from her)
This is for the 99% percent.

CRISTAL
That's ironic.

She smiles. He doesn't.

CRISTAL (CONT'D)
Look, can we at least do this
outside? And I'll take Bowie on
Spotify over a string quartet. And
maybe some wildflowers?
(off Anders)
That should be enough to get you
started.

And she exits, leaving Anders fuming. He turns to see Steven,
having overheard. He smiles, enjoying this.

STEVEN
Your new boss seems great.

EXT. CARRINGTON STABLES - DAY

The sun is low in the sky. Culhane waxes the limo while
Fallon lingers, decompressing.

FALLON
He swore he'd never marry again.

CULHANE
People change.

FALLON
Not on their own.
(then)
He didn't even react to the SunVy
tip...

CULHANE
Because that's your idea, not his.
(off her look: go on)
Did you know he just entered a
bidding war for the Braves?

FALLON
He hates baseball.

CULHANE
Not as much as he hates Jeff Colby.
Who he's bidding against.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON

You're kidding.

(then, realizing)

What do you want for that?

(off his blank look)

You're gonna help me without asking
for anything in return?

CULHANE

I don't need anything.

FALLON

You live in a barn.

CULHANE

It's a stable-house.

FALLON

You drive an old white guy around
all day.

CULHANE

He pays me 200k a year. And I'm
banging his daughter.

FALLON

(smiles, then)

Fine. Then tell me what else you've
learned from the front seat. Who is
Cristal Flores?

CULHANE

Other than a woman who drives
herself? Don't know.

FALLON

Well, Dad said get to know her. So
that's what I need you to do.

Off Culhane, wondering exactly what she means...

EXT. LADYBIRD - NIGHTCristal with her girlfriends, LIBBY, and BRIANNA, at their
casual haunt, drinking their first round of cheap beer. She
sheepishly holds up her hand, showing them her ring.

BRIANNA

I would say there's no way that's
real --

LIBBY

Except it's Blake-effing-
Carrington.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIANNA

You guys have only been together for, what, three months?

CRISTAL

(a bit defensive)

Four.

BRIANNA

I didn't even realize it was over with Matthew.

That name lands hard on Cristal. After a beat:

CRISTAL

I'm not sure Matthew does either.

BRIANNA

You have to tell him...

LIBBY

She doesn't owe him anything.
(off their looks)
He was never leaving Claudia.

CRISTAL

(a beat, then)

Sometimes I think that's exactly why I loved him...

BRIANNA

Point is, you were in love -- you can't just give up on that!

LIBBY

Sure you can. I did. And let me tell you, there have been wild advances in vibrator tech. But if you buy one of those "smart" ones, just know they can be hacked --

Cristal throws her hand up -- *okay, that's enough.*

CRISTAL

I love Blake, okay. I do.
(off them)

He's smart, and worldly, and challenging. And he likes that I'm challenging too, that I can't just be bought --

A WAITER interrupts with champagne in a plastic ice bucket.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WAITER

This is for... Cristal? Note said
Mr. Carrington had it sent for your
celebration. There's a crate of it.

Her friends smile at her, you were saying?

CRISTAL

Send it back --

LIBBY

Leave it.

(off Cristal)

You can't be bought, but I can.

As Libby pours three glasses, Brianna, Cristal's more
sensitive friend, leans over, quietly:

BRIANNA

You know I just want you to be
happy.

(off Cristal)

If you're sure about Matthew, I
won't say his name again.

As that lands on a guilt-ridden, conflicted Cristal...

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Blake, ever the workaholic, is reading over paperwork when
Steven passes through.

BLAKE

It's good to have you back home.

STEVEN

Thanks.

(can't help himself)

Let's see how long it takes for you
to kick me out this time.

BLAKE

I didn't kick you out, you left.

(stops himself)

But it's behind us. And I hope
you'll stay as long as you'd like.

Steven pours a couple fingers of whiskey from a decanter.
Changes the topic.

STEVEN

Cristal seems nice.

(off Blake)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN (CONT'D)

What? That wasn't sarcasm. I really like her.

BLAKE

Me too.

(smiles)

But I have to confess, I didn't just call you here to meet her... I came across a lead I want you to pursue. An unexpected opportunity --

STEVEN

Dad... can we not --

BLAKE

What? You said you'd never return to CA unless we balanced our portfolio with fifty percent renewable energy.

STEVEN

And you laughed in my face.

BLAKE

I shouldn't have. Bill Prather has a massive solar farm for sale up in Floyd County; I'd like you to meet with him on my behalf. Given your common interests, I think you'll be more persuasive.

STEVEN

(a beat, taking the bait)

What's his company called?

BLAKE

SunVy. You heard of it?

Off Blake, feeling no remorse for having moved on Fallon's tip without her --

EXT. CARRINGTON ATLANTIC COAL PLANT - NIGHT

Outside the fenced site, MATTHEW BLAISDEL (late 30's) is leaving work, the late shift. Shirtsleeves and a hard hat, a white collar worker who's not afraid to get his hands dirty.

He's startled to find Cristal waiting for him in the shadows, silhouetted by work lights. *Something's wrong.*

CRISTAL

Matthew... Can we talk?

INT. MATTHEW'S PICK-UP - NIGHT

Matthew sits with Cristal, digesting the news. Even with the serious agenda, we still sense the heat between these two.

CRISTAL

He's good for me. What you and I had... wasn't good for anyone.

MATTHEW

Why'd you really come down here?
You don't owe me this.
(looks right at her)
If you want me to stop you, I will.

A charged beat. A lot of history -- and chemistry -- here. She's tempted, but determined to do the right thing for once.

CRISTAL

I wanted you to hear it from me. So there's no... confusion.

MATTHEW

Yeah, being here alone with you, not confusing at all.
(off her)
Cristal, just tell me what you want me to say.

CRISTAL

Goodbye.

He looks at her. She means it. Then he kisses her forehead with a sense of finality. And she lets him linger. And when we pull back to reveal Culhane watching from a distance, the only thing that translates is the passion.

WOMAN'S VOICE (PRE-LAP)

I get why you're worried...

EXT. INDUSTRIAL AREA - NIGHT

MONIQUE COLBY (25, African American) CHIRPS the lock on her FERRARI 488 SPIDER, parked in a public lot. She and Fallon join other fine looking 20-SOMETHINGS streaming toward an unseen location.

MONIQUE (CONT.)

You think she's a gold-digger. But you think that about all his girlfriends.

FALLON

This one's different.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONIQUE

Where'd they meet? Massage parlor?
Strip club?

FALLON

Worse. Work. She's smart.
Ambitious...

MONIQUE

You mean she's like you.
(teasing her)
That is a problem.

As the CROWD thickens, we realize we've arrived at --

EXT. MJQ CONCOURSE - NIGHT

What looks like the shitty garage where you'd strip a stolen car is actually ATLANTA'S HOTTEST HIP HOP CLUB. As Monique leads Fallon to the front of the LONG LINE:

FALLON

Someone has to protect my family.

MONIQUE

Your family, or the company?

FALLON

Same thing. Just promise you'll
come to this party Sunday. I can't
do it alone.

MONIQUE

Can I bring a date?

FALLON

For me? Yes, please. Your brother
still single?

MONIQUE

Jeff --?

Monique greets the DOORMAN with a hug. They enter --

INT. MJQ CONCOURSE - CONTINUOUS

The place is alive with strobing lights and sweaty bodies.
Welcome to the Dirty South.

MONIQUE

You know he's in another pissing
contest with your father? For the
Braves this time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON

(plays dumb)

Are they? At least that'll give me
and Jeff something to bond over.

MONIQUE

(relenting)

Look, I'll give him your number,
but break his heart, and I'll come
for you.

As Monique moves off to greet friends, Fallon relaxes,
victorious... until she SEES a text from Culhane: a PHOTO
capturing Cristal and Matthew's intimate moment in his truck.
As this betrayal lands on Fallon --

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - MASTER WING - DAY**

CLOSE ON: bodies underneath the sheets, in the final throes of -- whatever we're allowed to show on the CW. Blake sits up, catching his breath. Cristal stretches, luxuriating.

CRISTAL

You have the best bed ever.

BLAKE

It's better with you in it.

(then)

You came in late last night.

CRISTAL

I always lose track of time when I'm with my girls. Maybe if you hadn't sent a crate of champagne...

He smiles, pulls her in but she wriggles away.

BLAKE

Where're you going?

She kisses him.

CRISTAL

Didn't you read the itinerary Anders sent us last night?

(off him)

10 am: "Engagement Photos, Botanical Gardens." Check your phone.

As she smiles and hops off to the bathroom, Blake reaches for his cell. An EMAIL from Fallon catches his eye: **We need to talk**. He CLICKS the attachment, and as it starts to load --

INT. MATTHEW BLAISDEL'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

As Matthew makes coffee in his modest kitchen, he stares at his phone: **Blake Carrington to Marry CA Employee**. As he grabs a mug, we notice the drawers and cabinets are labeled.

CLAUDIA (O.C.)

How long have I been in this house?

As Matthew crosses to the island with his coffee, reveal CLAUDIA BLAISDEL (30's), lost in thought, making his lunch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MATTHEW

You went out yesterday.
(then, realizing)
You mean how long have we lived
here? Almost 13 years, I think.

CLAUDIA

That's unlucky.

MATTHEW

It's just time.

As he leans over to kiss her cheek, Claudia sees the announcement on his phone. He watches her reaction.

CLAUDIA

Cristal. I didn't know she...
(then)
That's good.

The awkward silence is interrupted by IDA (30's), a caregiver in nursing scrubs, letting herself in the kitchen door.

IDA

Good morning, Claudia.
(aside, to Matthew)
How we doing?

MATTHEW

Good. I know what the doctors say,
but she's been so alert this week --

IDA

That's how it goes. 'Til it goes
the other way. I got it from here.

Matthew nods. As he kisses Claudia goodbye, SMASH TO:

EXT. BLAISDEL RESIDENCE - DAY

Matthew, now with his jacket and bag, hops in his truck as his phone RINGS. He sees the caller ID: **CARRINGTON**. Off Matthew, concerned about the timing of this call.

EXT. ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDENS - DAY

Lush ferns and colorful crocuses provide the backdrop for Cristal and Blake, who, as if caught in a fantasy, KISS...

FLASH! A PHOTOGRAPHER captures the moment, as we reveal this is an engagement photoshoot, the images appearing on a monitor nearby, manned by an ASSISTANT, peered at by Fallon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHOTOGRAPHER

Lovely, now let's do Cristal alone.
Can we get a little fill light on
her face?

As Blake steps over to Fallon, she snarks:

FALLON

Which one?
(off Blake)
How can you stand this after what I
told you?

BLAKE

A temper gets you nowhere, Fallon.
You need patience. And strategy.

FALLON

(re: the photoshoot)
How is this a strategy?

Just then, Cristal's smile fades. Fallon notices, following
Cristal's gaze to see Matthew arriving...

BLAKE

Matthew, thanks for meeting me --

Matthew looks around, confused by what he's walking into.
Fallon's eyes widen with her smile.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

It's a multitasking kind of day.
You've met my fiancée, Cristal?

Blake ushers Matthew over, watching her reaction as he does.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Cristal is an associate in PR --
(to Cristal)
Matthew's my best field engineer --

CRISTAL

I... I --

MATTHEW

I don't believe we've met.

BLAKE

Haven't you? Recently, in fact?

Blake watches as Matthew and Cristal are forced to react.
FLASH! The Photographer shoots candids at Fallon's request.
Blake finally releases the tension, turning to Matthew:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLAKE (CONT'D)

You made an appearance in the PR video Cristal's team put together.

As Cristal struggles to recalibrate, Matthew covers:

MATTHEW

Thought you seemed familiar. Well, congratulations.

BLAKE

(to Cristal)

Excuse us a minute, will you?

Blake kisses Cristal on the lips -- lingering a moment too long -- before walking Matthew aside to talk business, abandoning Cristal with Fallon. Fallon smirks:

FALLON

Have you heard about his wife? That man must be a saint...

Off Cristal, wondering what Matthew and Blake are really discussing, and fearing the worst.

INT. RITZ CARLTON BUCKHEAD - DAY

Steven sits at the bar with the owner of SunVy, BILL PRATHER (40's). They're on their second martini.

STEVEN

We'll send our lead engineer to survey the plant itself, in case --

PRATHER

Forgive me, but what exactly is your role at Carrington Atlantic?

STEVEN

Actually, I'm no longer with the company in an official capacity...

(off Prather's look)

You've heard of my father's efforts to bring fracking into Georgia?

PRATHER

The protests against it, yeah.

STEVEN

Which I funded.

(off his look)

All we wanted was a compromise. My father refused to come to the table. We went to war instead.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN (CONT'D)

He lost. Cost him a lot of money,
respect in the community and, he'd
say, his son.

(back to the question)

So as far as my role? I guess I'm
the black sheep, looking to come
home to greener pastures.

PRATHER

Usually I'd be wary about selling
to Carrington. But the idea that I
could play a part in the company
going green... with you...

Prather swivels his stool over, his knee touches Steven's.
And he doesn't pull it away.

PRATHER (CONT'D)

Let's do it.

Steven takes this in, disheartened. As he swivels:

STEVEN

(nods, extending his hand)
My father will be in touch.

Prather gets the message, shakes his hand and goes. After a
beat, a CUTE GUY (20) on Steven's other side leans over.

CUTE GUY

Not your type?

STEVEN

The ones my dad picks never are.

CUTE GUY

Would your dad pick me?

Steven looks the guy over, considering. With a sultry smile:

STEVEN

Never.

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The first dinner. Anders has outdone himself. Blake sits at
the head, flanked by Fallon and a stewing Cristal. An empty
setting waits for Steven. Fallon fills the awkward silence:

FALLON

I'm seeing Jeff Colby tonight.
(off silence, to Cristal)
The tech guru? He used to work in
IT. Before your time...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLAKE

And yours, Fallon.

FALLON

Daddy hates him --

BLAKE

"Hate" is a strong word...

FALLON

While Jeff was at CA, he developed the music software that would go on to earn him his first billion. Technically, we should've owned it. But a judge disagreed.

BLAKE

Thanks for reminding me, Fallon. I guess I do hate him.

(explains to Cristal)

Her friend's older brother. Bit of a charity case. Tried to give the kid a break...

FALLON

Just goes to show, you never know who's gonna stab you in the back.

Fallon smiles at Cristal; Blake shoots her a look. But Cristal didn't notice, mind is elsewhere. As Steven arrives:

FALLON (CONT'D)

You're missing all the fun, Steven.

STEVEN

I had a date.

Blake senses trouble brewing...

FALLON

A date? I didn't know.

STEVEN

Neither did I.

(eying Blake)

When you said we had "common interests" I didn't realize you were whoring me out, Dad.

BLAKE

Can this wait until after dinner?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

It's fine. I'd be more pissed if he hadn't agreed to let us tour SunVy.

FALLON

What?

(to Blake, stung)

I gave you that tip. And you sent Steven?

Blake looks to Cristal, who waits for him to explain.

BLAKE

When striking any deal, you send in whoever makes the client feel most comfortable. Is that so wrong?

Fallon is devastated. Turns to Steven.

FALLON

I bet he sent you to Prather with the promise of going solar. But did he happen to mention that SunVy's largest site is smack in the middle of a shale field? 800 acres of frackable land.

(as that lands on Steven)

That's why I brought it to him.

STEVEN

(to Blake)

Is that true?

BLAKE

There's a lot to work out...

STEVEN

Actually, there's not.

As Steven takes off, Fallon looks to Blake --

FALLON

You used us both. And why? We could've worked together on this.

BLAKE

(not likely)

Steven wouldn't have gone out there. And you'd be jealous I even asked him to. We'd have fought either way... At least now there's a deal on the table for SunVy.

Fallon rises, turns to Cristal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON

If you've ever wondered why my dad is so successful, it's because he's a genius at making you feel like he's acting in your best interest, when really, it's all about him.

(spikey)

Maybe you two are made for each other after all.

As she hurries off --

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - NIGHT

Fallon runs out the front door --

FALLON

Steven --

But his car is already pulling away.

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - DINING ROOM - SAME

Eating in silence, Blake reaches for Cristal's hand. She brushes him off.

BLAKE

Sorry you had to witness that.

CRISTAL

Fallon's right.

(off his look)

About how you manipulate people. Matthew coming by today? Was that some sort of test?

BLAKE

That's why you've been so quiet...

(off her look)

Someone spotted you two last night. I didn't want to believe it, but --

CRISTAL

You could've asked me --

BLAKE

I wanted to see you together myself.

CRISTAL

(upset by this)

Because if I just told you it was over, it wouldn't be enough?

(CONTINUED)

BLAKE

But you didn't tell me.
(off her)
You said you were going out with
your friends --

CRISTAL

I did, and then I went to --

BLAKE

See him one last time --

CRISTAL

Yes, to tell him I loved you!

BLAKE

Loved?

That got hot fast. But Cristal doesn't back down.

CRISTAL

Like Fallon said, it's not worth
getting upset about. It's only an
engagement.

As she goes, his regret sinks in immediately --

BLAKE

What's that supposed to mean?

CRISTAL

You'll figure it out.
(then, turning to him)
You're Blake effing Carrington.

As she closes the door behind her, off Blake, king of the
deserted castle...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**INT. CRISTAL'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Cristal returns to her home, giving us a glimpse of her life pre-Carrington. Feminine, modern, just the necessities.

Moving deeper into the apartment, she notices a DUFFLE BAG on her couch, a note on top. She reads it... then dials her phone. A MAN answers, speaking in *Spanish*. Cristal does, too.

MAN'S VOICE (THROUGH PHONE)

Hey, I was just at your place --

CRISTAL (INTO PHONE)

What are you doing in Atlanta?

MAN'S VOICE (THROUGH PHONE)

Is this not a good time?

CRISTAL (INTO PHONE)

No, it's not. Where are you?

MAN'S VOICE (THROUGH PHONE)

Out. We'll talk when I get back?

CRISTAL (INTO PHONE)

No, this - You can't just show up --

MAN'S VOICE (THROUGH PHONE)

Look, I gotta go. I love you.

CRISTAL (INTO PHONE)

...I love you, too.

Off Cristal, deeply concerned about this stranger's arrival --

CULHANE (PRE-LAP)

She's a grade-A skank...

EXT. BONES STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

Culhane's parked outside this upscale Buckhead landmark. He leans against the limo, keeping a nervous Fallon company.

CULHANE

He didn't dump her ass on the spot?

FALLON

Daddy deals with things in his own screwed up way. The good news is, too much damage was done for it not to fall apart.

(then, seeing someone)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON (CONT'D)

And when it does, I'll be ready to pick up the pieces. Wish me luck.

Culhane spots JEFF COLBY (28, African American) getting out of his own chauffeured car. As this image lands on Culhane...

Fallon composes herself then walks over to embrace Jeff. Off Culhane, left to watch from the outside as they head in --

INT. RITZ CARLTON BUCKHEAD - FRONT DESK/ELEVATOR - NIGHT

On the FRONT DESK CLERK as he finishes the check-in process:

DESK CLERK

Alright, we have you in the penthouse suite. Will you be needing one key or two?

REVERSE TO REVEAL he's talking to Steven --

STEVEN

Two please.

Steven takes the keys, moves to the elevator where the "Cute Guy" (from the bar earlier) waits. Steven hands him the second key.

CUTE GUY

I did not expect my day to end like this. I mean, I hoped it would...

STEVEN

I'm just glad this day is ending.

CUTE GUY

Want to talk about it?

STEVEN

Nope.

As they step into the empty elevator, Stephen kisses him, the doors closing -- *Ding!* SMASH TO:

INT. BONES STEAKHOUSE - PRIVATE BOOTH - NIGHT

ATHLETES and HIP HOP PRODUCERS eat lobster tail in front of PORTRAITS of old white guys. Fallon and Jeff cozy up in a booth, martinis in front of them, a flirtatious vibe.

JEFF

Gotta say, I was surprised when you called...

(off Fallon)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEFF (CONT'D)

I always assumed you were friends with my sister because you thought hanging with the financial aid kids made you seem edgy.

FALLON

And you think a billion dollars later, you've lost your edge?

JEFF

(leans in)

All I know is, no matter how many zeroes in my bank account, the hottest girl from high school never loses her mystique.

FALLON

But it was my brains you were always most attracted to...

JEFF

Top three, for sure.

FALLON

(smiles, dives in)

You have the second highest bid on the Braves. Right now, Reuther Capital is outbidding both you and my father. So neither of you will win. Not alone. But if Colby Co and Carrington Atlantic were to pool their resources -- say, my dad gets naming rights to the new stadium, you get the team --

JEFF

I should've known you only wanted to talk work. You don't know any other way to get off, do you?

FALLON

Oh, I know lots of ways.

Jeff studies her, utterly wrapped around her finger, as she leans in to kiss him good-night --

FALLON (CONT'D)

Think about it.

EXT. LITTLE FIVE POINTS - DAY

The next morning. The SUN RISES over this bohemian Atlanta neighborhood, including a LOW RISE with a colorful MURAL on the side. A LIMO rolls to a stop, and Culhane hops out. Just as he opens the door to the backseat, pre-lap a DOORBELL --

INT. CRISTAL'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cristal opens her door, surprised to find Blake.

BLAKE

I know this is unexpected --

CRISTAL

You, outside of Buckhead?
Extremely.

BLAKE

(soldiers on)
I come in peace.
(then)
And alone. I promise. No parade of
flowers or crates of champagne,
just a simple apology.

CRISTAL

Anders isn't out front with his
string quartet?

BLAKE

Because you wouldn't like that...?
(off her look, kids)
I'll have them wait in the van.

Cristal smiles. Thawing a bit, she steps back, letting him in. Blake takes this opening --

BLAKE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I didn't confront you
about Matthew because I was afraid
of losing you. I see the irony of
that now.
(then)
Knowing you saw him... it made me
feel like a fool. And act like one.

CRISTAL

You have to trust me.

As he moves towards her -- he clocks the stranger's duffle, a pair of Tims sticking out. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLAKE

It's over with him?

CRISTAL

It's over.

A beat as he decides to trust her this time. Taking her hand:

BLAKE

Trust doesn't come easy to Carringtons. But if I can learn, there's hope for Fallon too.

(off her, he explains)

Don't be mad. Her intentions were good. She was just trying to protect me --

Cristal puts the pieces together --

CRISTAL

So when you said "someone" saw us...

BLAKE

I was just trying to protect her. All I want is for the two of you to get along.

CRISTAL

She doesn't respect me.

BLAKE

Well, she's going to.

(off her Cristal's look)

I'd like to make a counter proposal to my proposal...

OFF this loaded moment, a KICK-ASS SONG KICKS IN --

INT. RITZ CARLTON BUCKHEAD - PENTHOUSE SUITE - DAY

We hear the ORGASMIC SOUND of a couple twisting beneath the sheets. Finally, Steven peeks out, in a tangle with the Cute Guy (who will get a name soon, promise).

CUTE GUY

That was fun. You in town long?

STEVEN

I come and go. You?

CUTE GUY

Same. More coming than going.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

As it should be. I'm gonna hit the shower.

Steven walks off; C.G. admires the view. As C.G. grabs his shirt, he uncovers Steven's money clip: it binds what looks like 2k-3k in one-hundreds. C.G. pauses. But then... Fuck it.

The Cute Guy swipes several hundos... and sees himself out.

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - GROUNDS - DAY

The day of the party. VENDOR VANS stream through the gate, as WORKMEN unload and carry their cargo through the front door --

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - FOYER/BALLROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

In A GLORIOUS MONTAGE, the house buzzes as the STAFF polishes fixtures, places flowers. CATERERS prep canapés and desserts. Then Fallon enters the KITCHEN, sees a CHEF icing a tiered cake. Almost like a wedding cake. As the Chef adds a **Bride & Groom topper**, Fallon reacts: *What. The. Fuck.*

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - GUEST SUITE - DAY

Fallon bursts in, CAKE TOPPER in hand, to find Cristal being laced into a STUNNING WEDDING GOWN by a TAILOR. After a beat:

FALLON

You look so elegant, I hardly recognized you.

(to Tailor)

Glynnis? A moment with the bride.

As Glynnis exits, Fallon crosses, locking eyes on Cristal.

CRISTAL

It was Blake's idea. Since we were already having the party, he thought, why wait? But something tells me you hate surprises.

FALLON

That's not what I hate.

She bites the head off the cake topper Bride. Chews slowly.

CRISTAL

You should be having this conversation with your father.

FALLON

After Matthew, I thought we were done talking about you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRISTAL

Actually, thanks to your stalking, we're closer than ever. We've moved up the wedding day, obviously. But we have another announcement, too.

FALLON

Don't tell me you're pregnant. You let him knock you up, so you could lock him down?

CRISTAL

Fallon, that's no way to talk to your new boss.

(off Fallon, stunned)

That's right. He offered me the COO position.

FALLON

That was supposed be mine.

CRISTAL

Which is why I said "no" the first time he offered it.

(the final nail)

But then I met you.

FALLON

You manipulative bitch!

With that, Fallon charges at Cristal, grabbing a fistful of hair. Cristal retaliates, clawing at Fallon, just as --

Anders opens the door, Glynnis and Blake behind him, eyes wide as Fallon RIPS Cristal's dress. Blake tries to intervene as Cristal shoves Fallon back. Fallon winds up for a SLAP, but just before she lands it, Cristal catches her hand:

CRISTAL

We'll have plenty of time for this after the wedding.

FALLON

Bite me, Cristal.

CRISTAL

Please. Call me "Mom."

Fallon yanks her hand away, storming out. Off Cristal, standing her new ground, with a tiny, yet victorious smile --

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - DAY**

As UPSCALE GUESTS stream in downstairs --

FALLON (O.S.)
She isn't family.

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - FALLON'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Fallon paces as Steven sits on the bed. Traces of the schoolgirl she once was are still visible in here.

STEVEN
She will be soon.

FALLON
It's not the same thing.
(off him)
Look at everyone we know: the Kochs, the Murdochs, the president Dad voted for. Their businesses get passed down to the next generation.

STEVEN
Also worth noting: all of those people are evil.

FALLON
(not her point)
Family dynasties flow through blood -- from parent to child. Wives... they just come and go.

And with this comment, Steve realizes something.

STEVEN
That's what this is really about, isn't it? Mom.
(off her)
Since the day she took off, you've done whatever you can to fill the hole she left. Trying to be the best and brightest --

FALLON
I don't have to try... I just am.

STEVEN
And now you feel like you're being replaced. Not just at home, but at the office.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON

So says your high priced
therapist...

She plops down on the bed next to him. Rests her head on his
shoulder, suddenly exhausted.

FALLON (CONT'D)

That company is the thing he values
most in the world. He should be
giving it to me.

STEVEN

You know no one can ever replace
you, right? Not to me, not to Dad.

FALLON

He's in love. I can't compete with
that.

STEVEN

Then change the game. Or don't play
at all.

He drops a kiss on her head as he rises, encouraging her to
let go of the fight. But the look in Fallon's eyes makes us
think she's taking something else from his advice.

EXT. SUNVY SOLAR ENERGY PLANT - DAY

Matthew and his friend/Assistant Engineer from C.A., WILLY
BOLLER (50's), hop out of Boller's truck, gazing up at the
dozens of solar-powered windmills. They cross to meet Bill
Prather (Steven's "date" gone wrong). Shaking hands --

PRATHER

Thanks for coming out.

MATTHEW

Boss says jump, we jump. And I've
always been curious about this
place.

PRATHER

We're pretty proud. I'll give you a
tour of the facilities.

But as they start to walk, a small fleet of C.A. vehicles
pull up, including 4 SEISMIC THUMPER TRUCKS...

PRATHER (CONT'D)

What's with the thumpers? I thought
you were interested in what's above
ground, not what's under it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MATTHEW

If Carrington's gonna buy the land,
he's gonna cover his bases.

(then)

Tests will take a couple hours,
tops. I'll even disclose everything
we find, and you can use it to milk
Blake for all it's worth.

An irritated Prather walks off, presumably to call someone.
Willy turns to Matthew:

WILLY

Gotta say, I'm surprised you agreed
to run point on this.

MATTHEW

This is my last job.
(off his surprise)
Gave Blake my notice yesterday.
Life's too short.

WILLY

So it's got nothing to do with the
fact he's marrying your girlfriend?

MATTHEW

They're not married yet.

Off Willy's look, wondering what Matthew is planning --

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - BALLROOM - DAY

The full-swing, stodgy cocktail party of Anders' dreams: a
string QUARTET plays. Canapés are passed. GUESTS mingle, the
most powerful and prominent of Atlanta society.

Now in a stunning dress (with or without shoulder pads), a
cool Fallon beelines to Monique and Jeff Colby.

FALLON

(as she embraces Monique)
If I'd had any idea what I invited
you to...

MONIQUE

What do you mean? Everything looks
beautiful. Very white... but --

JEFF

(kissing Fallon's cheek)
Hey. I've been thinking about your
Braves pitch. We should talk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON

Let's. Meet me in the pool house in
an hour?

Before he can respond, Blake commands attention, making an
announcement to all the Guests:

BLAKE

Thank you all for coming.

(then)

Since we got engaged, everyone's
been asking when Cristal and I are
getting married. Well, we're
thrilled to announce we've picked a
date and venue. It's today. Right
here. And you're all invited.

Suddenly, Cristal appears beside him in her (mended,
flawless) wedding gown, to the astonishment of the crowd.

MONIQUE

Wait, this is a surprise wedding?

FALLON

More like an ambush.

As the room erupts in APPLAUSE and CHEERS --

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - BACKYARD - DAY

Cristal steps through the doors only to see that the main
event is outside, as she requested. And it's simple; the most
remarkable thing is the grass is covered with WILDFLOWERS...

Steven, now dapper in a tux, stops next to her. Smiles.

CRISTAL

I can't believe Anders came around.

STEVEN

Pretty sure he didn't.

He motions to where Anders stands, scowling miserably.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

This was all my dad...

And their eyes turn to a gazebo, where Blake stands with a
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, waiting almost nervously for his
bride.

ANGLE ON

Blake, as Steven lands and stands next to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLAKE

After last night, I wasn't sure
you'd stick around. Guess you're
here for Cristal...

STEVEN

Actually, I'm here for you.
(off Blake)
Figured there might be an opening
for "best man?"

Blake looks at him, surprised. And deeply pleased. Suddenly,
the String Quartet's march gives way to the stereo system,
piping in BOWIE'S "Modern Love."

ANGLE ON CRISTAL

Cristal stands, a smile spreading across her face as she
follows friends Libby and Brianna -- in shock but also
support -- bouquets in hand. She passes Fallon, who takes it
all in, standing with Monique and Jeff.

It's spontaneous, lighthearted, anything but stodgy. A fairy-
tale wedding, and most importantly, it's Cristal's.

As she lands, she shares a look with Blake, deep and binding.
And the officiant begins --

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - BACKYARD - DAY

Blake slides the RING onto Cristal's finger, then pulls her
into a kiss as the crowd APPLAUDS. SMASH TO:

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - PATIO - DAY

In a receiving line, Cristal and Blake greets their guests
(let's call the first ones JOE and, his wife, MIKA).

MIKA

I've never seen anything like this.
A pop-up wedding!

BLAKE

Cristal tells me it's a trend, now.

JOE

Well, at least she'll keep you
young!

Cristal turns to Blake ("at least?"). Blake shrugs it off,
then pulls Joe away to keep him from putting his foot in his
mouth again. Cristal turns to Steven, motions to Mika. Left
alone. Sadly sipping her wine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRISTAL

Promise that will never be me.

STEVEN

Don't feel bad for her. She's on her fifth marriage, counting the days 'til number six.

CRISTAL

Now that's a heartwarming story to hear on your wedding day.

STEVEN

Sorry. I hope you two last. It's the happiest I've seen him since --
(a beat, cautious)
Before our mom left...

CRISTAL

He doesn't talk about Alexis.

But before Steven can, they're interrupted --

MAN'S VOICE (O.S., SPANISH)

There's the beautiful bride.

Cristal and Steven turn to see... the Cute Guy from the Ritz. Both Steven and C.G. stop in their tracks. What on earth?

CRISTAL (SPANISH)

You're here...

STEVEN

Wait, you two know each other?

CRISTAL

Do you?

CUTE GUY

(jumps in)

Not really. We crossed paths at the bar near your place, yesterday --

That lands on Cristal, concerned. Steven's very confused...

CRISTAL

Oh. How funny... Well, Steven, this is my nephew. Sammy Jo.

SAM

No one calls me that anymore.
(extends a hand to Steven)
It's Sam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Nephew?

CRISTAL

My big sister's son.

(then, to Sam)

Can we talk?

Cristal pulls Sam aside, as a new Guest approaches Steven.

CRISTAL (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

SAM

You mean why didn't you invite me?

(off her)

It's like you think I'm trouble or something...

CRISTAL

So you're telling me "paths" are the only thing you and Steven crossed..?

(off his smile)

I love you, but I also know you.

And things here are already complicated...

SAM

(glancing around)

Sounds like my kind of place.

Off her look, as we realize Sammy Jo might be an issue --

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - POOL HOUSE - REC ROOM - DAY

Pretty much the ultimate rec room: flat-screens set up for video gaming (Steven's a gamer), vintage pinball, darts, and a gorgeous billiards table in the center, which Fallon and Jeff are playing. She's winning (was there any doubt?).

JEFF

If your father wants naming rights,

CA's brand on the stadium, fine.

But then he has to walk away --

FALLON

Forget baseball for a second.

(as she sinks the ball)

I spent years studying my father, preparing to be his second in command. But then, I look at someone like you. You've never had a shadow cast over you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON (CONT'D)

Everyone knows you by your name,
not your father's. That's what I
want.

JEFF

You want your name on the stadium?

FALLON

I said forget baseball! I have
another investment opportunity for
you.

JEFF

What's that?

FALLON

Me.

As Fallon sinks the eight-ball, we wonder what that means...

EXT. PRATHER SOLAR ENERGY PLANT - DAY

Matthew and Willy set up the Thumpers, spaced out in a
quadrant. As they run them one by one, Matthew coordinating
the team, one of his DRIVERS yells over the RUMBLING:

THUMPER DRIVER

Hey Blaisdel, over here -- !

Matthew heads towards the fourth truck.

MATTHEW

Try it again.

The Driver turns on the truck, but it only RUMBLES for a
moment before --

BANG! A HUGE EXPLOSION THROWS MATTHEW BACK, and instantly
knocks out the Driver.

Willy, Prather and others scramble to investigate --

WILLY

What happened??

PRATHER

Look out --!!

The TURBINES are damaged, spinning out of control. In
seconds, they burst into flames, blades splintering --

One HURTLES RIGHT TOWARDS MATTHEW -- with no time to react.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - BACKYARD - DAY

Blake finds Cristal in a quiet moment, surveying the party.

BLAKE

So did you get everything you ever dreamed of?

Before she can answer, the Guests RING little silver bells.

CRISTAL

Now I did. The kissing bells.

BLAKE

Is this some family tradition?

CRISTAL

It's a superstition. The ringing is supposed to scare away the devil.

As they kiss, the RINGING BLEEDING into --

EXT. PRATHER SOLAR ENERGY PLANT - DAY

The fire from the explosion swells, flames leaping as Willy rushes over to Matthew, who's seriously injured, bleeding out. Willy screams at Prather:

WILLY

Call an ambulance!

MATTHEW

No, call Cristal... Call...

Willy covers for him, to the others who heard that:

WILLY

He means Claudia. His wife.

Off Matthew, barely holding onto consciousness --

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - BACKYARD - DAY

The RINGING bells continue -- a now sickening cacophony --

CRISTAL

And once the devil is gone...

BLAKE

We live happily ever after.

And as they seal it with a kiss --

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX**EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - FRONT DRIVE - DAY**

Blake's '61 Aston Martin Volante is in the driveway, ready to escape. Cristal, now in her "going away" outfit, tosses the bouquet, and it accidentally lands in Fallon's hands -- who looks at it as if it's a rotten fish before flinging it at Steven, who catches it. Sam clocks this with a small smile.

Off to the side, Blake runs into Jeff Colby, as Jeff is hanging up his phone. Coolly:

BLAKE

Jeff. I didn't know you were here.

JEFF

Yeah, thanks for including me.

BLAKE

I didn't...

As Jeff smiles, Fallon drifts over, joining them. To Fallon:

JEFF

Hey, I moved on that tip, just got off the phone with him...

BLAKE

What "tip" is this?

FALLON

Company called SunVy. Heard of it?

As that betrayal lands on Blake, Jeff continues to Fallon:

JEFF

Guy was eager to sell. Sounded like he was having a bad day...

BLAKE

What the hell have you done? This isn't a baseball team, or a hospital wing. You can't just dabble in energy -- you don't have the experience.

FALLON

But I do.

(off his look, shocked)

I'll be Chief Strategy Officer of SunVy, a subsidiary of Colby Co. My own company. My own name --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLAKE

Actually, it's my name --

FALLON

And your new competition.

As Fallon walks away -- proud, scared -- out of her father's shadow. OFF BLAKE -- the enormity of this starting to land...

INT. MATTHEW BLAISDEL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claudia's alone looking through the drawers, trying to make a cup of tea, when the phone RINGS. She ignores it at first, continuing to search for a spoon... finally answering:

CLAUDIA

Hello? This is Claudia...

(a beat)

No, she just left, Matthew's coming home soon -- Willy, what's wrong?

But before we find out, off a concerned Claudia ---

INT. CARRINGTON MANOR - HALLWAY/LIBRARY - DAY

Sammy Jo walks with a peeved Anders, who carries his duffle.

SAM

So how does this work? Are you more of a Bates or a Belvedere?

ANDERS

(ignoring him)

How long will you be staying?

Sam glimpses Steven in the library, mixing a drink.

SAM

I'm still working that out.

Sam claps Anders on the back, peeling off to Steven. Hushed:

SAM (CONT'D)

Hey. Thank you for not saying anything earlier. About the money.

STEVEN

What?

SAM

The money I took. At the hotel.

(off him)

It was like... 1400 bucks. In cash.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM (CONT'D)

Right out of your money clip.
Didn't you even notice?

STEVEN

Nope.

Steven smiles. Sam is stunned that this guy has so much money that he wouldn't miss 1400 bucks...

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Not that I normally pay for sex,
but you were worth every dollar.

SAM

And I don't normally steal from one
night stands. Although, if they all
had that much cash lying around --

STEVEN

Why'd you lie?

SAM

I'm in a tight spot --

STEVEN

No, I mean to Cristal. About us.
Are you the black sheep of your
family, too?

SAM

No. She is.

Off a curious Steven, wondering what that means...

EXT. CARRINGTON STABLES - DAY

On the outskirts of the party, Fallon finds Culhane. She takes his drink, finishes it, and returns the empty glass.

CULHANE

I was about to head downtown.
Unless you need a ride...

FALLON

(flirting)
Do you really have to ask?

CULHANE

(re: party)
You're in a better mood than I
thought you'd be. You work things
out with your dad?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FALLON
Something like that.

But when she turns towards the limo, Jeff approaches.

JEFF
Hey, thought we could run over your
game plan before I go. Got time?

FALLON
Oh. Sure...

Jeff sees Culhane with the empty glass, hands his own to him.

JEFF
Can I get a refill, too? Gin and --

FALLON
(embarrassed)
He's not a waiter...

JEFF
Oh man, I'm so sorry --

FALLON
This is Michael Culhane. He's...

CULHANE
The chauffeur.

JEFF
Oh... Perfect.
(to Fallon)
If you can bail early, let's go out
for a drink. He can give us a ride.

As Jeff escorts her to the limo, Culhane following behind,
the third wheel in this complicated, awkward love triangle --

EXT. CARRINGTON MANOR - FRONT DRIVE - DAY

The whole party is gathered to send them off when Anders
approaches Cristal, her overnight bag in hand.

CRISTAL
You don't have to do that, Anders --

ANDERS
I wear many hats around here.
Valet, party planner -- though you
may have relieved me of that...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRISTAL

I assure you, I'm not out for your job.

ANDERS

Guess that makes me the exception.

CRISTAL

Excuse me?

ANDERS

Should your ambitions ever change, just know among my myriad responsibilities is managing the hiring process for the staff. That includes running background checks.

On Cristal, wondering why he's telling her this --

ANDERS (CONT'D)

When I heard about your tryst with Blaisdel, I decided to run yours.

(off her)

I work with very thorough, very private services. And I have to say -- the results were riveting.

(then)

Samuel Josias Jones. Sammy Jo? I just moved him into the guest wing.

CRISTAL

I don't know what you found, but I can explain --

ANDERS

You don't have to. Like I said, the results were thorough.

(then)

And I know everything.

On a completely numb Cristal, as Blake approaches --

BLAKE

Sweetheart, you ready to go?

Blake leads her towards the Volante, the entire CROWD OF GUESTS gathering to send them off. As Culhane's limo rolls out towards the front gate -- and the gate opens -- a TAXI DRIVES IN, blocks the way out.

Claudia Blaisdel jumps out, an emotional wreck, tear-stained cheeks, barreling towards a stunned Blake --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAUDIA

He tried to quit, and you sent him
to that place!

On the baffled crowd and Cristal, trying to make sense of it.
Fallon steps out of the limo, approaching, hearing it all --

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

It was no accident --

On Blake, this seems like news to him. Cristal turns to him:

CRISTAL

What accident? Is Matthew okay?

The crowd erupts in a sea of whispers. As Blake's BODYGUARDS
approach Claudia, he holds them back, tempering:

BLAKE

Easy. It's alright.
(with coded significance)
This is Blaisdel's wife. She's...
not well.

But even he is startled when Claudia screams above the din:

CLAUDIA

You killed my husband!

The crowd falls silent, as this lands on all the Carringtons.
It hits Cristal the hardest -- something primal tells her
it's true. As tears suddenly, automatically well up...

CRISTAL

Matthew's dead...

Hearing this, Claudia turns her eyes on Cristal, venomous:

CLAUDIA

Don't. You have no right. I know
you were sleeping with him --

Not exactly what you want the guests to hear on your wedding
day. Even Fallon almost feels bad for Cristal. Almost. As the
Guards gently escort Claudia away, to Cristal:

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Matthew's blood is on your hands,
too. You're a Carrington now.

OFF CRISTAL, reeling, wondering *what the hell she has gotten
herself into...*

END OF PILOT