

LEVERAGE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

A quaint little spot on the edge of nowhere.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Two beautiful young women, ALICIA BROWN and DESIREE' STRICKLAND sit drinking coffee.

Desiree' takes drags of a cigarette in between sips of coffee.

Alicia appears troubled.

DESIREE'

I mean that heifer was flying down the freeway like she was in a Ferrari and she's floating a Ford fucking Focus! I was like what the hell?

Alicia SMILES.

DESIREE' (CONT'D)

But anyway, I'm over it. I don't even roll with that crazy trick anymore.

ALICIA

What? I thought you two were a team?

DESIREE'

That bitch is psycho. She's always worried somebody out to get her, or somebody's out to take her man. Bitch please! Don't nobody want him!

ALICIA

Who Darnell? Isn't he a model or something?

Desiree' shrugs.

DESIREE'

Yeah, a "plus" size model, I think his biggest deal was a Sears catalogue or some shit, more like a damn plus ten size model.

ALICIA

Well they say the camera adds ten pounds.

DESIREE'

Alicia the camera may add ten pounds but it's them damn Wawa hoagies that's adding twenty, alright! That nigga looks like Heavy D, without the goatee.

Alicia chuckles.

DESIREE' (CONT'D)

Now that's what I'm talking about. Laugh a little more girl! Smile.

Alicia sighs slightly.

ALICIA

I just can't get the images out of my mind, you know? I just keep playing events over and over. It's all starting to make sense now.

DESIREE'

Girl, are you still trippin' over Anthony?

ALICIA

I just can't believe it! I mean is nothing what it seems anymore? Is nothing sacred? Friendships? Relationships?

DESIREE'

Believe it girl! It's been this way for years. The cliché has become fact! Men ain't shit! It's a hurtful truth.

ALICIA

But why Anthony, D'?

DESIREE'

Alicia, just understand that it's not your fault.

(MORE)

DESIREE' (CONT'D)

The quicker you realize that, the quicker you can confront him about this and move on. That's the only way you're gonna be happy.

Beat

DESIREE'

Now look, you're not settled because you think Anthony's cheating on you right? And you're not gonna be satisfied until you know for sure.

Alicia nods as she listens closely.

DESIREE' (CONT'D)

Now of course he'd never come clean and admit to cheating on you, hell a man would rather have an eighteenth century prostate exam than to tell the truth about creeping.

Alicia chuckles again.

DESIREE' (CONT'D)

So the best way to get better is to catch him in the act. Let the actions speak louder than his lies, right?

ALICIA

Right.

DESIREE'

So how do we catch him?

Beat

ALICIA

We?

TITLE CARD: LEVERAGE

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Alicia and Desiree are walking together around town.

ALICIA

It just hurts so much when they're so much of a friend, you know what I mean?

(MORE)

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Why can't people just let you know who they are right up front? Tell you what they're in it for from jump?

Desiree' nods.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Is that me being naïve?

DESIREE'

Yes. But that's ok. You're allowed to feel the way you feel, Alicia. You've never been that type of mean, confrontational person. You've always left that type of thing up to me. And that's fine.

ALICIA

Right.

DESIREE'

But just so you know, I'm here for you whenever you want to confront his ass and get this ball rolling. Just saying.

ALICIA

Well what do you think we should do? How am I supposed to catch him? I mean, if I knew when he was cheating, I could just follow him and then see for myself, but that's the thing, I don't know when he's doing it.

DESIREE'

That my friend is because men are too slippery for that. It's not gonna be that easy. You gotta be one step ahead of the game, one step ahead of the competition!

Beat

DESIREE' (CONT'D)

We're going to have to get creative.

ALICIA

I don't know, this already feels a little weird.

(MORE)

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Why do people always have to concoct these outrageous, complicated scams and plots. I mean is everybody scheming to get something outta life?

Desiree stops Alicia from walking.

DESIREE'

Yes Alicia! Girl, it's called survival! Get familiar with it. People plan and plot and design and lay all sorts of things to get what they want in life. People been doing it since the beginning of time. Why are we so different?

ALICIA

I guess we're not.

DESIREE'

No we're not.

The two women continue walking.

ALICIA

I just find it really strange.

Beat

ALICIA

Who's better at the scheming, men or women?

DESIREE'

Let's find out.

INT. ALICIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DESIREE'S BEDROOM - SAME

Alicia and Desiree' chat on the phone.

DESIREE'

So what do you think?

ALICIA

I don't know, I've had this really bad feeling about this new chick he's been working with.

DESIREE'

Well who is she?

ALICIA

She's supposed to be this singer/songwriter named Samantha Strong.

DESIREE'

That bitch! Oh yeah, he's definitely doing her!

ALICIA

I was thinking, maybe he's been getting with her while I've been going out of town for the M-600 training.

DESIREE'

Really? How long do you think this has been going on?

ALICIA

I don't know. But you know we've been out of town a lot. What is this like the 5th trip coming up?

DESIREE'

Yeah, and that shit's not getting anymore exciting. Are you ready for this one?

ALICIA

I'm as ready as I'm going to get.

DESIREE'

So Anthony knows you'll be out of town this weekend?

ALICIA

Yep. And he seems really excited. You know what I mean? Like he's too damn happy.

DESIREE'

You think he might try to get with her?

ALICIA  
As much as I hate to say it, yeah,  
I feel like will.

DESIREE'  
Bam! That's it!

ALICIA  
What's it?

Beat

DESIREE'  
The makings of a plan!

EXT. PROFESSIONAL OFFICE BUILDING - NEXT DAY (ESTABLISHING

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Several cubicles, copy machines and computer workstations are spread throughout.

PEOPLE are busy working. It's a typical day at the office.

Alicia and Desiree' sit in a private working area.

DESIREE'  
Check it! This is what we do.  
Anthony thinks I'm going with you  
next week, right?

ALICIA  
Of course. You are going with me,  
aren't you?

DESIREE'  
Not necessarily.

Beat

DESIREE'  
I could technically skip this trip,  
I've already had my recertification  
on the M-6. The only quals I'm  
missing are the O-8-750's,  
integration planning-

ALICIA  
Ah, and that's been postponed-

DESIREE'  
"Bingo," until-

AICIA  
-further notice!

DESIREE'  
Exactly! So, I could stay behind.  
Anthony would think he's in the  
clear with you and I out of town.

ALICIA  
And when the cat's away, the mice  
try to get play!

DESIREE'  
There's our time to catch him!

ALICIA  
Brilliant! With you catching him  
in the act, he can't say shit!

DESIREE'  
Caught red dick'd!

ALICIA  
You could even take pictures!

DESIREE'  
Bitch I will film that bastard,  
chop it up Michael Bay-style and  
post that shit on [www.nigga-please.com](http://www.nigga-please.com) if you want me to!

The two laugh.

EXT. - RESTAURANT - LATER IN THE DAY (ESTABLISHING)

A nice "go to" lunch spot for the working girls.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Desiree' and Alicia are sitting, eating lunch.

ALICIA  
Damn, I bet this has been going on  
every time I'm out of town.

DESIREE'  
Don't worry about it Alicia. It's  
all coming to an end soon. And then  
you can move on with your life.

Beat

ALICIA

Hey what about Perry? Isn't he going to be pissed you're skipping out on the trip?

DESIREE'

To hell with Perry. I'm not worried about Perry. He can be upset all he wants to be. I mean, there's really no need for me to be at this conference, none.

Beat

DESIREE' (CONT'D)

Besides, Perry just wants to lick me up and down anyway, has wanted to for a long time. He's just mad I won't let him.

Alicia laughs.

ALICIA

(jokingly)  
You are sick.

DESIREE'

You just get Anthony pumped up about this trip. Lay it on thick too, girl.

ALICIA

I got it.

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alicia and Desiree' prepare Alicia's last bags.

ANTHONY enters the room.

ALICIA

Ok. That's everything.

ANTHONY

You sure?

ALICIA

Yeah, I think so. I'll be back Wednesday, so I don't need a lot. You pack a lot D'?

DESIREE'

Girl, I always pack a lot. I need at least three outfits per day, so what's that 12?

ANTHONY

Damn you counting tonight too?

DESIREE'

Hey, you never know. I might want to hit the town once we touch down.

ALICIA

The only thing I'm hitting once we touch down is my damn bed. I'm tired already.

ANTHONY

You ok babe?

ALICIA

Yeah, I'm just not feeling this trip already.

ANTHONY

Then don't go. Cancel it. Stay home with me, let me take care of you.

Anthony kisses Alicia.

ALICIA

That sounds sweet baby, but I have to go. Let me just do one more walk through.

Alicia walks up stairs.

DESIREE'

(seductively)

Very nice Anthony! You really know how to make your girl feel special.

Beat

Anthony looks confused.