

NORA (V.O.)
 Nicole and Charlie's son, Henry,
 was born here in Los Angeles and
 currently attends Laurel
 Elementary in Laurel Canyon--

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, CENTURY CITY, LA. DAY

CLOSE on Nicole.

NORA (O.S.)
 --and Nicole works in Hollywood on
 her show while also maintaining a
 full schedule as a mother with
 classes of swim, art, gym and
 music as well as play groups.

And then CUT TO Charlie, in a dark wool suit, who sweats.

NORA (O.S.)
 Nicole is Henry's primary
 custodial parent and to the extent
 that Charlie would like to
 exercise his custodial time, he
 should be making efforts to visit
 Henry here in California.

And now INTERCUT between their two faces as if they're
 having a conversation, though neither of them opens their
 mouth. They both listen to their representatives,
 sometimes with emotion, other times anger, disbelief, and
 self-consciousness. They occasionally look at their hands
 or jot down a note.

BERT (O.S.)
 Nora, you seem to be ignoring the
 fact that they lived in New York
 for ten years--

NORA (O.S.)
 My client worked in New York, for
 several years--that's true. But
 Nicole was born and bred right
 here in LA. She and Charlie would
 come here most holidays and
 summers to spend time with her
 family who all live here. She and
 Charlie were married here, would
 you like to see the photos?

We CUT WIDE.

The room has big windows with views of other surrounding
 glass offices.

Nicole sits next to Nora who looks amazing in an expensive, fitted power suit and heels. Behind them sits, Amir, Nora's associate.

BERT

I don't need to see the photos--
Although I'm sure they both look
beautiful--

Bert grins at Charlie who seems to be sweating through his wool blazer. They sit across the wide table. Bert's associate Nell behind them in a chair by the window.

BERT

It's my client's expectation that
after this TV show is completed,
the parties will move back to New
York where they currently keep an
apartment--

NORA

And it's my understanding that
Charlie PROMISED Nicole that they
would spend more time in LA during
the marriage but because of
Charlie's insistence that his work
keep them in New York, Nicole
ended up staying much longer than
she ever anticipated. In fact, a
few years ago, Charlie was offered
a residency at the Geffen
Playhouse that would have taken
his work and family to LA for a
year and he turned it down knowing
full well that this was Nicole's
desire.

BERT

He wanted to maintain consistency
for his family and his child.

NORA

Was this the same consistency he
wanted to maintain when they went
to Copenhagen for six months so he
could direct a play?

An assistant has her head in the door trying to get Amir's attention.

NORA

So, while I understand that
CHARLIE lives in New York and when
it's convenient for his work
schedule, flies out here to see
his son--

BERT

He flies out here every
chance he gets at great
expense--

NORA

(looking at Charlie)
I don't see any reason you
can't be out here full-time.

Amir acknowledges the anxious assistant and interrupts.

AMIR

Oh... Sorry. Do we want to
contemplate lunch--I'll order now
so it'll come when we're all
hungry?

BERT

Good idea.

AMIR

Everyone good with Manny's?

BERT

I love Manny's.

NORA

(to Charlie)
Have you had Manny's?

Charlie is taken aback, unsure how to process this
question. He shakes his head.

NORA

You'll love it, just really yummy
salads and sandwiches.

CHARLIE

(nods)
Great.

Amir passes out menus. Orders are made, Bert specifying no
butter or cream. It gets to Charlie, he's unsure.

CHARLIE

(re: the menu)
Hmm, I don't know-- Sorry...

NICOLE

(reflexively)
Charlie will have the greek salad.

CHARLIE

OK.

NICOLE

But with olive oil and lemon
instead of the greek
dressing, and I'll get the
Chinese chicken salad.

Charlie nods, satisfied. Amir writes down the orders and hands them to an associate who exits. Nora gets up to pour herself and Nicole more coffee.

NORA
 Congratulations, Charlie, on your
 grant, Nicole told me.

CHARLIE (can't help but smile) Thank you.
 BERT He's a genius.

He tussles Charlie's hair. Everyone laughs awkwardly. Charlie blushes. Nicole smiles sweetly, sensing his discomfort. Nora raises a mug, offering Charlie.

CHARLIE
 Oh, thanks.

NORA
 I told Nicole, I LOVED your play.
 You are one smart cookie. I'd
 love to get inside your brain!

CHARLIE
 Thanks.

NORA
 There was that one moment when you
 smell the toast.
 (to Amir)
 Smell! It was literally my
 favorite thing I saw that year.
 Truly genius.

BERT
 (to Charlie)
 I was sorry to hear it closed on
 Broadway.

CHARLIE
 (to himself)
 They couldn't smell the toast.

Charlie looks at Bert, like why bring that up?

BERT
 It's very competitive, I imagine.

Charlie nods. Nora places the coffee in front of Charlie.

CHARLIE
 Thanks.

NORA

(launching back in)

Now, whenever Charlie is in LA, Nicole, of course, agrees that it will best for Henry to see each parent equally--

(to Charlie)

It's nice out here, Charlie. You should give it a chance.

AMIR

Yeah, and the space -- you can't beat it.

BERT

I love it too, but all of our personal feelings about the two cities aside, we don't share your assertion that the couple is an LA based family. It was very clearly their deal that they would go back to New York after Nicole finished her show.

NORA

I'm not aware of any deal.

CHARLIE

(can't help himself)

I didn't get it in writing.

NORA

Charlie, is this like the deal you made that you and Nicole would spend more time in LA during the marriage?

CHARLIE

(flustered)

We didn't have a deal. It was something we discussed...but...

NORA

So, it's a deal when it's something you want, but it's a discussion when Nicole wants it?

Silence.

BERT

Sidebar!

(putting his hand on
Charlie's arm)

(MORE)