

49 INT. JAMES' OFFICE - EARLY EVENING 49

CLOSE ON A FRAMED PICTURE OF JAMES AND STACEY. Happy, carefree. WIDEN TO REVEAL James sitting at his desk. He can't help but stare at the picture. There's also evidence that he's been sleeping in his office. Just then, we hear an off-camera voice--

KATIE (O.S.)

I never liked her, you know. Even when I said I did, I didn't.

James looks up at her.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Of course, if you take her back, I'll deny ever saying that.

JAMES

Who told you?

KATIE

Not you. I had to find out the oldfashioned way.

JAMES

Office gossip? (Katie nods.) What are they saying?

KATIE

The men hate her. The women are trying to figure out when you'll be ready to date.

James smiles ruefully. Katie sits next to him.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Look, the heart's a complex little muscle so who knows how this ends? But you're a great guy. And a lot of women out there can see it. Even if your wife can't.

James nods appreciatively. If he was in a better place, this might be a moment. So let's call it a moment-adjacent. But Katie can't help but notice something in James' face...

KATIE (CONT'D)

(taking him in)

Hey. Besides the obvious...is there something going on with you?

JAMES

They called. Before you came in.

KATIE

(laughs unsurely)

Who called?

JAMES

The Board.

(beat, haltingly)

I...I just got named CEO of AmeriMart.

Katie looks at him, stunned.

KATIE

(shocked)

You're kidding?

JAMES

They said they wanted new blood.  
New direction.

KATIE

(realizing)

You're not kidding.

Katie can't quite believe it. She's happy for James but, at the same time, she's an incredibly competitive person.

KATIE (CONT'D)

(trying...)

Wow. Congratulations.

JAMES

(smiles)

You could say it like you mean it,  
you know...

KATIE

Oh, I have to mean it, too? (she stands)

Well, I should go. Late for my Logistics meeting. And I don't want to get off on the wrong foot with the new boss.

James rolls his eyes. As Katie starts to exit...

JAMES

Katie...these women who think I'm a  
great guy. Do I know any of them?

KATIE

Just the one who's going to take  
your job if you screw up. Take  
care, boss.

She exits. James watches her go, smiles to himself. Then as  
he thinks and the smile runs from his face, we're --