

~~VICTORIA ADLER~~

~~That's how I became Chief Justice.  
But it means leaving all this  
behind.~~

~~DIANE~~

~~I I don't know what to say.~~

~~VICTORIA ADLER~~

~~Say yes.~~

~~DIANE~~

~~Can I take a few days?~~

~~VICTORIA ADLER~~

~~You can take a week. You've done  
well, Diane. Claim your prize.~~

~~Diane stares at them, looks out toward Will. And...~~

INT. JUVENILE COURTS BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

START

ALICIA

Simple assault.

MARK RICHARDSON

Six months detention, three years  
probation.

ALICIA

Two years probation, no jail time.

Plea bargaining. ALICIA rushing through a courthouse lobby  
with ASA MARK RICHARDSON (31), college lineman who turned his  
football scholarship to a good advantage.

MARK RICHARDSON

You know it's called "bargaining,"  
right? Why am I the only one  
making concessions?

Alicia smiles: enough of pro now to appreciate the game of law.

ALICIA

I just gave you an extra year on  
probation.

MARK RICHARDSON

You're not giving me anything on  
detention.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Because my client doesn't deserve it. He's a 98 pound wallflower--

MARK RICHARDSON

--who clocked a classmate with an algebra textbook--

ALICIA

--*because* he was being bullied.

MARK RICHARDSON

Nineteen stitches. A cracked eye socket. So what's someone from Stern, Lockhart doing in Juvenile Court anyway?

ALICIA

God's work. One of our bigger clients, it's his housekeeper's son. Let him plead "No Contest." Three years probation.

MARK RICHARDSON

Come on, I make that deal, I'm looking for a job.

ALICIA

No, you have the flexibility to go to zero, or you would've made a call to go down to three months.

Richardson smiles.

MARK RICHARDSON

So your husband told you all our secrets?

ALICIA

Some. Look, my client is an "A" student. Never had a bad day before; never have one again. Unless you incarcerate him.

Richardson shakes his head, but it's a head-shake of surrender:

MARK RICHARDSON

One year probation. Two hundred hours community service. And he takes responsibility in open court. No "bully-did-this, I-did-that"--

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Thanks.

MARK RICHARDSON

Go and sin no more.

END

And Alicia starts across the lobby toward her clients.

~~INT. JUVENILE COURTS BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY~~

~~TALIA RAMSEY~~

~~You want Terrance to plead guilty?~~

~~Alicia talks with TALIA RAMSEY (30s), the middle class African-American mother of her client, a concerned and delicate mom who has made her one obsession the protection of her son.~~

~~ALICIA~~

~~I want him to go home. The plea is  
a formality, Talia, that's all, and  
it's a minor misdemeanor.~~

~~TALIA RAMSEY~~

~~But he'll have a criminal record.~~

~~ALICIA~~

~~that would be expunged when he  
finished probation.~~

~~TALIA RAMSEY~~

~~He's not a criminal.~~

~~ALICIA~~

~~I know. How do you feel about  
this, Terrance?~~

~~TERRANCE RAMSEY (13), small, bookish, with prominent  
spectacles that make him look even more like bully bait. He  
shrugs.~~

~~TERRANCE~~

~~I don't know.~~

~~ALICIA~~

~~Think you could tell the judge what  
you did and apologize for it?~~

~~TERRANCE~~

~~I guess. I am sorry.~~

~~ALICIA~~

~~I know. I just--~~

(CONTINUED)

ACT ONE

10           **INT. JUVENILE COURTS BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY**           10

START       Alicia sees Richardson and a GUARD chatting amiably.

                  ALICIA  
          This where you come to celebrate?

                  MARK RICHARDSON  
          I don't like what happened either.

                  ALICIA  
          Your boss wanted six months. You  
          got nine.

Richardson starts off, Alicia follows him...

                  MARK RICHARDSON  
          Look, Florrick is not the most  
          popular name around here.

                  ALICIA  
          That's not what this was about.  
          This was a bait and switch.

Richardson stops, turns to her.

                  MARK RICHARDSON  
          Oh, come on. A judge has  
          indigestion, you get six months.  
          He has a good meal, someone goes  
          free. It balances itself out.

                  ALICIA  
          Not for Terrance Ramsey.

                  MARK RICHARDSON  
          Then what do you wanna do? You act  
          like this isn't the water we're  
          both swimming in.

Alicia starts away. Richardson considers it, looks after  
her.

                  MARK RICHARDSON (CONT'D)  
          Baxter is well-liked. But he's all  
          over the map with sentencing.  
          Someone just complained last week.

Alicia pauses. Waits. Knows she's about to be thrown a  
bone. Okay, she walks back to Richardson.

(CONTINUED)

MARK RICHARDSON (CONT'D)  
Howard Brightman at Legal Aid. You  
think your kid got screwed, talk to  
Howie.

END           Alicia nods, goes, as...

~~11           INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - GRACE'S BEDROOM - DAY           11~~

~~...an image pops up on Grace's desktop computer. A severe  
prison: Stateville Correctional.~~

~~SHANNON  
That's not the way you enter in. I  
think that's for guards.  
(looking out the window)  
I wish I lived on the 9th floor.~~

~~Shannon at the window, looking out. Grace at her computer.~~

~~GRACE  
How many times do you go?~~

~~SHANNON  
To see my dad? Every month. It's  
a long ways. What's yours?~~

~~Shannon shoves Grace aside at the computer so she can type...~~

~~GRACE  
Tamms Minimum. What did your dad  
do?~~

~~SHANNON  
(types)  
Nothing. I mean, he says he didn't.  
They say he sold drugs. Crystal.  
(looks at photos)  
Wow, that's not bad.~~

~~GRACE  
So what did he say happened?~~

~~SHANNON  
He was set up.~~

~~GRACE  
(laughs)  
Yeah, my dad too.~~

(CONTINUED)