

INT: MAGAZINE - AMANDA'S OFFICE

Amanda sits across from Carol, who's sweating bullets.

Amanda looks at one of Carol's pieces.

AMANDA

So I've read the stuff you did for your paper. I like it.

CAROL

Thank you.

AMANDA

So, what else you got?

CAROL

Excuse me?

What else you got?

CAROL

I've got a couple short stories.

AMANDA

Do they take place in a odd little town?

CAROL

Yeah. One's a western, though.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

AMANDA

Come in.

A MAN enters.

MAN

Amanda, I got a quick--

AMANDA

Do you have the design for the splash pages?

MAN

Quick question.

AMANDA

If you come back into this office without my splash page I asked for a week ago, I'll cut your heart out.

Kuthy (email) monique (email) CAROL

Splash pages are that important, huh?

AMANDA

Not really, but I gotta light a fire under people every now and then.

CAROL Understandable.

AMANDA

Listen Carol, I think you've got talent, but all of your work revolves around the same stuff. You can quirk it up all you want but it ends up being redundant.

CAROL
I'm just writing what I know?

AMANDA
Well, if that's true, then you need
to get to know some different
things, different places, people.

CAROL I understand.

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This is not going the way Carol had hoped.

AMANDA

I do think we have something for you.

CAROL Seriously? Okay.

AMANDA

I want an article on an out-oftowner's first experience in New York. What do you think?

CAROL

You want me to write it?

AMANDA

You're either perfect for it or have no chance in hell. I can't decide.

(MORE)

But I want you to go out into this city for the first time then write

something up for me. If I like it, we'll print it and pay you a measly amount for it. If I hate it, it goes in the garbage. Fair enough?

CAROL Sounds good to me.

AMANDA Now go out there and do some experiencing.

Carol gets up.

CAROL

I'm on it.

AMANDA I want it tomorrow, eleven a.m.

CAROL That's twenty-two hours from now.

AMANDA Uh-huh.

CAROL Plenty of time.