

"SKIPPY" 29.

25 CONTINUED:

25

JEANETTE

Your Honor, we just received papers on the discovery motion last night, I would submit we haven't had proper notice to properly--

REVISED  
11/17/08

JUDGE PIERCE

Come on, counsel, you had to know this was coming.

3 Scans

JEANETTE

We actually did not, Judge, and there are strict filing requirements which the plaintiff failed to comply with, accordingly--

10 Pages

JUDGE PIERCE

We're all here.

This is a disaster.

JEANETTE

--I would respectfully ask that you give us time to prepare -- in accordance with civil rules of procedure--

same

STAR

JUDGE PIERCE

No. Let's hear your response or I'm granting the motion.

Jeanette's worst fear. She looks to Oren. Oren turns to Skippy.

SKIPPY

May I?

Oren nods with profound dread. Skippy rises, perky, bright, moves out, as the others hold their collective breath.

SKIPPY (CONT'D)

(sing-songy)

Good morning, Your Honor, my name is Skippy Pylon, I'll be arguing today's discovery motion, it's a pleasure to be appearing before you this fine Chicago morning.

(MORE)

1/10

(CONTINUED)

"LEGALLY MAD"

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

SKIPPY (CONT'D)

As you know, the investigation in question is one commissioned by the law offices of Hamm, Pearle, and Koenig, and as such it would neatly qualify as legal work product, and therefore not be discoverable in a court of law, I have some case law for your perusal, neatly tabbed,--

JUDGE PIERCE

Ms. Pylon, cut the crap.

SKIPPY

Well, doesn't somebody have a little potty-mouth today.

Jeanette winces, as does Oren.

JUDGE PIERCE

We all know the game. The 'lawyers' technically 'ask' for the analysis so you can cloak all the damning evidence under work product, precisely so you can shield it from discovery, it's a disgraceful sham.

And as Skippy talks, she transforms from Mary Poppins to a hint of Joan Crawford.

2/10

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (3)

25

## SKIPPY

Your Honor, privilege is certainly paramount to our judicial process, and if very fine judges such as yourself endeavor to pierce work product, lawyers might simply endeavor not to know the truth at all for fear they could be required to turn it over, and where should that lead us, do patients suddenly stop confiding in doctors for fear of that privilege being pierced, do husbands go incommunicado with their wives, at what point do we let our thirst for facts expunge trust and confidentiality, and I'll remind you this is an adversarial process, it isn't a little game where we all play nice, 'you show me yours, I'll show you mine,' rather, we have two sides competing, often viciously, stealing every edge, angle, advantage, of course we commissioned that study, we're allowed to do so under the procedural rules, you put on that robe to enforce those rules, and we attorneys rely on judges to do exactly that, though admittedly we do get the rogue jurist on occasion who forsakes the law, are you that rogue judge here, well, I never should have guessed, I'm sure we'd all like to know, are you that rogue? Say it. Say it.

They all stare at her. Partly in horror.

CUT TO:

**END**

26 INT. MARTY BRECKER'S OFFICE - DAY

26

MARTY BRECKER, fiftyish, high-paid divorce lawyer, bad comb-over, is there as Steven and Gordon enter. Hugs all around, under--

GORDON

Thanks for seeing us on such short notice, Marty, you're a good friend.

MARTY

Not a problem.

(MORE)

3/10

(CONTINUED)

"SKIPPY"

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Scan 2

(off Paige)

My band -- you'll remember I have a band, it's going well, thank you -- we finally got the audition we've been vying for, King's Row, Wednesday, it's the opportunity of a lifetime, at least mine so far, anyway, our lead just went down with mono, we need a fill-in, I know you worked your way through law school as a wedding singer and I was wondering if, in a pinch...

PAIGE

Wait, wait. So let me see if I follow. Turns out, it's actually not cancer after all, you're just short a wedding singer.

LEIGH

I'm told you're very good, and--

PAIGE

(on the move)

That would be a 'no,' Leigh.

LEIGH

I really can't accept a 'no.'

PAIGE

Take three, then, no, no, no.

CUT TO:

21 INT. SKIPPY'S OFFICE - DAY

21\*

Skippy works at her immaculate desk in her immaculate office, as she SINGS JUST UNDER HER BREATH, "ALL I DO THE WHOLE DAY THROUGH IS DREAM OF YOU." Gordon enters.

GORDON

SMIT

Skippy.

SKIPPY

Gordon. How are you this fine fine morning?

GORDON

Skippy, you know the law on work product and privilege, don't you, sweetheart?

4/10

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

SKIPPY

I'm an attorney-at-law, Gordon, it would be incumbent on me to know it.

GORDON

Yeah. I need you to go to court with Oren and Jeanette, Oren can brief you on the way, you probably won't have to argue but in case you do, the main thing I need is for you to stay relatable in there, can you do that for me, sweetie?

SKIPPY

I don't know what you mean. Do you not find me to be a relatable person, Gordon?

GORDON

Of course I do.

SKIPPY

I think you don't.

GORDON

I do, and--

SKIPPY

I think you don't.

GORDON

Look, all I'm saying is--

SKIPPY

Are you chewing gum, Gordon?

GORDON

What? Oh, yeah, I--

She holds out her hand.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Skippy, I am the senior partner, if I choose to--

SKIPPY

(put it in my hand)  
Gordon.

And like a busted schoolboy, he hands her the gum.

CUT TO:

5/10

END

"SKIPPY"

ACT IV

Scene 3

FADE IN:

29 INT. JAIL CELL WING - DAY

29

Gordon is LED BY A GUARD to a cell at the end... where Oren sits. The Guard lets him in, then leaves. Gordon sits next to Oren. A long, silent beat. Then--

GORDON

It's not like you need the money.

\*

A beat.

\*

OREN

I've always been so sensible, Gordon. Responsible and practical and... I suppose common sense can grow into a malignancy that... chokes you.

\*

\*

\*

\*

Gordon says nothing. He's devastated. A beat.

OREN (CONT'D)

There was just such a confluence of factors, I suppose, easy access to the funds, a victim I happen to detest, it...

(fighting tears now)

I am so sorry. To do this to the firm. To you. I'll never forgive...

GORDON

You did this to yourself, my friend.

OREN

Well. Also to Warren Belson. It was Farmer Savings I embezzled from.

What? OFF Gordon, we:

CUT TO:

30 INT. JOE'S OFFICE - DAY

30

Joe, Jeanette, Brady, and Paige; Jeanette paces, sucking furiously on a cigarette, like she's trying to suck it deep into her stomach.

JOE

START

Does Warren know?

6/10

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

PAIGE

Evidently, he didn't, I'm sure he does by now.

Jeanette sucks.

JOE

Look, Jeanette, now's not the time to panic with one of your--

JEANETTE

It's the perfect time to panic, we're fucked!!

SKIPPY

(entering; sing-songy)  
Potty mouth.

JEANETTE

(erupting)  
Jesus Christ!!

PAIGE

Alright!

A beat, as Skippy looks back in shock, agape. Then--

SKIPPY

Well, I certainly don't know what in life I've ever done to deserve that.

JEANETTE

(getting control of herself)  
I'm sorry. I just--

BRADY

(quietly)  
What's up, Skip?

SKIPPY

Skippy.  
(then)  
I'm actually looking for Steven, to get started on his marriage dissolution.

BRADY

I think he's in his office.

7/10

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

SKIPPY

Thank you.

(to Jeanette)

I find your thin apology to be unacceptable, you, you, you... you fucker.

And she exits, crossing Leigh at the door.

LEIGH

(entering; to all)

If I may so, for whatever it's worth. It's time like these we all pull together and pull for each other. I suppose it's what I love most about this firm. When we hurt, when one person falls... another steps forward to lend a hand.

And with that, she fixes her best puppy-dog look at Paige.

PAIGE

Oh, for God's sake, Leigh. Fine.

Leigh whips out a tape-measure.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

What the..?

LEIGH

We'll need to wig you.

CUT TO:

31 INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

31

Steven is at his desk, on the phone.

STEVEN

(into phone)

I'm not asking you to come back full-time, Lou, I'm saying for now, until we...

(then)

fine, come back naked, I don't give a shit, we just lost Oren, we're faced with losing our biggest client, just get in here so we can talk, you owe us that.

And he CLICKS OFF. A beat. Then Skippy breezes in, under--

8/10

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

SKIPPY

Hello, Steven, my name is Skippy Pylon, I will be your divorce attorney today, I certainly know you know my name, but that's my standard introduction which I extend to you just the same, I'm highly routinized, I stick to my rituals, I stay on message, with great success as you also know, if I may, I'd like to begin with a short prayer for your well-being.

STEVEN

I'm actually fine, Skippy.

SKIPPY

You're not Steven. Divorce is death, it is failure, you have failed. Divorce compromises your immune system, statistically you're more likely to get sick, more apt to get in a car accident, you will go through bouts of self-loathing, feelings of desperation, inadequacy, you will be weak, powerless--

\*  
\*  
\*

Skippy then cups her hands, extends them toward Steven.

SKIPPY (CONT'D)

--these are my hands, Steven. The hands into which you will now put yourself wholly, I am your lawyer, your power, your salvation,--

\*

STEVEN

Skippy--

SKIPPY

No talking, Steven. In divorce law we seek to govern an event fraught with profound emotional pain, yet emotion has no place in the resolution of our process, that's important, Steven, so I'd like you to repeat the mantra, "emotion has no place in the process."

\*

STEVEN

Skippy--

SKIPPY

Emotion has no place in the process.

2/10

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

STEVEN

Emotion has no place in the process.

SKIPPY

Excellent, this is a no-fault State, our only focus will be division of property, to the extent that you succumb to your emotion, this division tends to be less-equitable for you, so the mantra really does bear repeating one more time, please.

STEVEN

Emotion has no place in the process.

*EW*

She hands him a Tootsie-pop, as we:

CUT TO:

32 CLOSE ON A FLAT SCREEN TV

32

GENE KELLY IS SINGING "SINGING IN THE RAIN."

REVEAL

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

Gordon watches the screen. Singing softly to himself, almost as if he's trying to will himself out of the hurt. Brady opens the door. SHE CLICKS OFF THE MONITOR.

GORDON

Hey, honey.

BRADY

Hi, Dad.

GORDON

That there's a he luva credo, don't you think? "Singing In The Rain." Ask me, people would get through tough times a lot faster if... y'know...

She sits next to him.

GORDON (CONT'D)

I fired him. Had to, the man stole from... I do feel bad for him though.

BRADY

You're allowed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

*10/10*