

HACKS Season 1, Ep. 1

HBO

FIRST MEETING SCENE (Just after Deborah's daughter leaves)

DEBORAH

You'll have to excuse her. She has a UTI.

AVA

It's fine.

DEBORAH

Oh and her father just died.

AVA

Oh my God, I'm so sorry. Are you ok?

DEBORAH

Me? Thrilled. So why are you here?

AVA

Oh, well, obviously, it would be a huge honor to work with someone like you whose been working so successfully for so long. I mean you're - a legend.

DEBORAH

Wow. A legend. So, you're a fan?

AVA

I mean, of course! Would I be here if I wasn't?

DEBORAH

What's your favorite joke of mine?

AVA

Man, you know... Well, that's so hard.

DEBORAH

It shouldn't be. I've written over 30,000. Just pick one.

AVA

Ah... you know what? I would have to say that your TV Show is my personal favorite thing that you've ever done.

DEBORAH

You mean my sitcom from 1973? You've seen it?

AVA

Oh ya. I mean, ya, I've seen ... um... clips.

DEBORAH

Clips? Wonderful.

AVA

Um, ya, well, you know a lot of the actors on the show that I most recently worked on were stand-ups...

DEBORAH

No, no - I'm going to stop you right there. I don't work with writers.

AVA

You don't?

DEBORAH

No. Jimmy sent you against my wishes.

AVA

I'm gonna kill him.

DEBORAH

No, I'm gonna kill him.

AVA

Great, well. This sucks.

DEBORAH

Ya, sucks. Well at least you didn't waste too much time researching me.

AVA

I'm sorry, did I do something to offend you?

DEBORAH

Other than walk those chimney sweep boots on my silk rug? Uh, no.

AVA

Sorry, I didn't realize it was a shoes off situation.

DEBORAH

Well, its shoe dependent. Thank you for your time. Good luck with your career honey.

AVA

Fucking bitch. (Under her breath as she gets up to leave.)

DEBORAH

Excuse me. Did you have something else to say?

AVA

Ya. You've just been pretty rude and I just dropped everything to come here?

DEBORAH

Oh, Christ. You want a gold star just for showing up?

AVA

Kinda, ya, because you are right. I'm not a fan of yours. You caught me - this is all just a little fucking annoying because I flew all the way here on Spirit fucking airlines, even though I didn't want this job in the first place. I mean the last thing on Earth I want to do is move to the desert to write some lame jokes for an old hack.

DEBORAH

I think you'd better leave.

AVA

Ya.

DEBORAH

Can I show you to the door? Or would you like to go back up the chimney?

AVA

Oh no, I know my way out. By the way, so cool they let you move in to a cheesecake factory.

DEBORAH

Oh - is that where you wait tables? That seems like a better fit.

AVA

Oh ya, I agree, you classist monster. Id rather slang bang bang chicken and shrimp all day than work here. I mean fuck! What is this - 50 tasles on one couch?

Even Liberace would think its a bit much.

DEBORAH

Oh no, you're incorrect. He actually loved it. He did poppers on that couch in '85.

AVA

Cool! I'm glad Liberace's butthole was nice and loose in your house. Maybe you should have joined him since yours is obviously tight as fuck. Oh, hey - before I leave - did you want to inspect my bag? Maybe I should just piss in a cup. You know what - I'm going to go ahead and leave a stool sample on your lawn.

DEBORAH

Laughs. (Follows her out) Ok! Why are you really here? If you're so in demand, why are you meeting with me?

AVA

Because I can't get any other job. Ok? I tweeted a joke about that closeted Senator sending his son to conversion therapy camp or whatever and everybody freaked out and some other asshole dug up some stupid shit I said when I was 20 years old and I lost my deal and now no one will hire me. Including you. Apparently... so, ya, my life is pretty much ruined.

DEBORAH

Oh, your life is ruined? Please. It sounds like a Tuesday for me. Besides you're just a writer. No one cares.

AVA

Well actually people really do care. Its been a huge fucking problem for me.

DEBORAH

So, what was it? This joke that supposedly ruined your life? I gotta hear it.

AVA

Senator Rogers is upset because he found out his kid is gay. Apparently he heard it from one of the guys he was sucking off in the Senate cloak-room. Ya, ya I don't even do jokes like that. I was just trying to call him out for being a hypocrite because he was caught with a male escort. Didn't help that it was a slow news day. I guess I crossed a line or whatever.

DEBORAH

Oh honey, there is no line. Its just not funny. I mean you should be blacklisted for how bad that joke it.

AVA

Cool. Thank you so much for having me. I'm glad we did this. I am starting to see why your husband left you for your own sister now. BuBye.

Ava leaves. Deborah follows her down driveway trying to stop her from leaving out the front gates.

DEBORAH

Sending your son to the woods with a bunch of other gay teens, the only thing you're going to convert him to is from a top to a bottom.

AVA

Ah- ok...

DEBORAH

Now that's a better joke.

AVA

Omg. Thats why you almost just killed me?

DEBORAH

Wait, no no no, we keep it on the Dad. Ah - Senator Rogers has been in the closet so long his wife keeps trying to donate him to goodwill.

AVA

Ok. To be clear these are all problematic but what if its something like Senator Rogers has

been in the closet so long all his friends are moth balls.

DEBORAH

Moth balls... Senator Rogers has been in the closet so long he shits moth balls. Ya.

AVA

Ya.

DEBORAH

Ya, Thats it.

AVA

Ok. Can I go now?

DEBORAH

No. No. You're hired.

AVA

Wait, What? I said I didn't want the job.

DEBORAH

Well, you need it. Write me 20 jokes before tomorrow morning. Oh and nothing about panty hoes or the Challenger explosion. Ive done them all.