

I KNOW THIS MUCH IS TRUE

Season One, Episode 1

Dominick & Nedra

***NOTE: For online classes/in-studio classes during COVID-19, please skip the section at the bottom of page 5, top of page 6. After Nedra's line, "You gonna make me dance all alone?", go straight to Dominick's reaction of laughing at her. The parts to skip are denoted with asterisks.

INT. DOMINICK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

DOMINICK is on the phone with his friend Leo, laughing.

DOMINICK

It was amazing! Yeah, it was -- I mean, yeah. It's real acting. It's like Brando meets De Niro meets, like, Barney Fife.

KNOCK at the door.

DOMINICK (CONT'D)

Hold on a second. No, seriously, man.

He opens the door. Sees NEDRA, carrying a big messenger bag.

DOMINICK (CONT'D)

Hey, hello.

NEDRA

Hi.

DOMINICK

Uh, what's... (Into phone) Leo, I got somebody here. I gotta go. (Leo teases him) Good-bye.

He hangs up.

DOMINICK (CONT'D)

(to Nedra)

Hey, is it, is it done?

NEDRA

What? Oh, no, this is my doctoral thesis. My apartment, my living space, got broken into. So now I've got to lug this around wherever I go. But your, uh, manuscript, I'm working on every day.

DOMINICK

How did you know where I live?

NEDRA

What, is it some big, dark secret?

DOMINICK

No, it's just...

NEDRA

Can I come in?

DOMINICK
Oh, uh, yeah, sure.

NEDRA
Okay, I thought you'd never ask.

They walk in. Dominick closes the door.

NEDRA (CONT'D)
It's on your check. It's written
right there on the front.

DOMINICK
Sit down.

NEDRA
I saw your street, and I was like,
oh, my God, it's Hillyndale. I
guess I remembered it. I was like,
what, are they trying to be quaint
with that name, or faux British?
Um, and I was wanting to talk to
you since our last conversation.
What you had said, you were saying
that, um, you, you, you made a good
point. That I was being not
emotional or really taking in what
I was reading, and that stuck with
me. So I'm like, I should... I was
concerned that you're giving it to
your mother as a gift. And has she
ever seen anything that's inside of
it?

DOMINICK
Uh, no.

NEDRA
So I think that you should not give
it to your mother until you've read
it yourself, you know?

DOMINICK
Yeah, I got that.

NEDRA
Yeah.

DOMINICK
So is it, is it almost done?

NEDRA
Well, yes, it's almost done. I'm
just...

DOMINICK
Almost done?

NEDRA
Yes. Can you do me a favor?

DOMINICK
Yeah.

NEDRA
Can you just not pressure me?

DOMINICK
Yeah.

NEDRA
I just, I don't, I don't do well
with pressure, and I'm, I'm doing
it. Do you have anything I could
drink, actually?

DOMINICK
Uh, yeah. I have beer and, uh,
water.

NEDRA
I would love a beer. Please get me
a beer!

He goes to the kitchen.

NEDRA (CONT'D)
So this is the place. Wow. It's...
So what do you do, Dominick?

DOMINICK
I paint houses.

NEDRA
Oh! A house painter. Oh! That's
perfect. You have to be strong for
that, I'm sure.

DOMINICK
Yeah.

He brings beers for the two of them.

NEDRA
Solzhenitsyn?

DOMINICK

You thought a dumb fuck like me would be reading what? Mickey Spillane? Hustler?

NEDRA

Oh, I just... that's impressive. I guess there's more to you than meets the eye. I've had such a week. I needed this. Are you gonna feed me too or are you just gonna ply me with alcohol and kick me out?

DOMINICK

I have, I mean, unless you like Raisin Bran or chicken broth, I really, I really don't have much here.

NEDRA

Or we could order pizza. (Spots a framed photo.) Who's that?

DOMINICK

Mm, that's my wife.

NEDRA

Wait, oh, you have a wife?

DOMINICK

Mm, my ex-wife, I meant. That's -- that's Dessa.

NEDRA

Oh, Dessa. What does, what does Dessa do?

DOMINICK

Huh? She works at a pottery studio with her... her new boyfriend.

NEDRA

That is fascinating. Well, my ex-husband, his name is Todd. It was kind of like being married to the Marquis de Sade, except he was all pain, no pleasure.

DOMINICK

Ah, the Marquis de Todd.

NEDRA

Did you just think of that? That's so funny. Or! Todd de Sade.

DOMINICK

Hey, so, uh... I could give you a ride back in this, in this storm, uh, you know? I have a four-wheel drive.

NEDRA

Oh.

DOMINICK

And you've had a few, few to drink tonight.

NEDRA

Do you hear what you're saying? I mean, it's like a storybook line. "I'll run you home in my truck." Is it tall? Is it big? Is it wide?

DOMINICK

It's... it's a 150.

NEDRA

Do you, ooh, look out! Oh, no. I have a better idea. How about we listen to some music?

She goes to the stereo.

NEDRA (CONT'D)

No, don't help me, I know how to work the electronics.

She blasts a late 1980s Top 40 song. Starts dancing wildly, seductively.

NEDRA (CONT'D)

Oh, I love this song!

DOMINICK

Wow. I would have pegged you for a classical music type.

NEDRA

Come on! Dance with me. Come on, Dominick, dance. You gonna make me dance all alone?

Nedra approaches Dominick. Starts dancing against him.

NEDRA (CONT'D)
 Does that feel good?

She tries to kiss him, drunkenly, sloppily.

He laughs.

NEDRA (CONT'D)
 Oh, my. What's happening? What? Oh,
 oh, what'd I do? Are you okay?
 What? What? What's...?

DOMINICK
 (snickering)
 No. I'm just really nervous, and,
 uh...

NEDRA
 Oh, my God. Don't be nervous. Are
 you laughing?

DOMINICK
 I'm not, it's just...

He laughs some more.

NEDRA
 What?

DOMINICK
 It's been a, you know, I'm having a
 hard time getting over...

Nedra runs to the bathroom. Beat. She starts wailing, then
 screaming. Then she struggles with the door. Dominick
 approaches the bathroom.

DOMINICK (CONT'D)
 Nedra? Are you all right? Hey. Are
 you... are you stuck?

NEDRA
 You locked me in!

DOMINICK
 I didn't lock you in. Sometimes
 it...

She finally gets herself out.

NEDRA
 Are you trying to humiliate me, you
 fuckin' Neanderthal?!

DOMINICK

I was really nervous. I just broke up with my wife.

NEDRA

Oh, shut up. Why don't I call your wife? So that we can commiserate about your sexual harassment.

DOMINICK

Hey! Now wait a minute.

NEDRA

And all your fucking...

DOMINICK

That wasn't sexual harassment. You-you came onto me, all right?

NEDRA

You got me to fucking dance in your living room! I never meant for it to go like that.

DOMINICK

I didn't make you dance. All I... I asked to take you home, all right? All I wanted to do was get an overpriced translation. All of this was your idea, lady.

NEDRA

It wasn't overpriced. You know I don't fucking show my real self to anyone. I have to keep it together for the whole fucking system of men like you, you piece of shit!

DOMINICK

Hey, hey, come on. Nedra, hey, hey.

She storms out.