

THE MORNING SHOW

Season 1, Episode 1

Alex & Bradley

Note: When Producer/Executive Producer talk into Alex's earpiece,
that is just a reference point for the actor. Do not cast anyone
to say those lines during the scene.

INT. "THE MORNING SHOW" NEWS STUDIO - DAY

ALEX LEVY preps cue cards on stage. A PA escorts BRADLEY JACKSON to the stage.

BRADLEY
Hey.

ALEX
Hi.

BRADLEY
I'm so sorry.

ALEX
What about?

BRADLEY
Just... yesterday. That must've
been so difficult for you.
Because... because you worked
together for so long.

ALEX
I'm fine. (to the crew) Okay!

Alex sits. Bradley does too.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(to the crew re: which
camera she should look
into)
Over here?

TECH PERSON
In 5, 4, 3...

Tech Person cues Alex.

ALEX
(into the camera)
An unusual thing happened yesterday
at a coal mine protest in Hanover,
West Virginia, when a local
reporter's camera operator was
knocked over by an unruly
protestor. I am here with Bradley
Jackson from SENN in Virginia! (to
Bradley) Hello, Bradley Jackson.
Welcome.

BRADLEY
Hi there. Thank you so much for
having me.

ALEX

You seem a lot more relaxed today.

BRADLEY

Yeah, well, this is a whole lot nicer than a coal mine protest. I'm not gonna lie!

ALEX

Well, so what did happen that day, and why exactly were you so exhausted?

BRADLEY

Well, you know, life in general, is just sort of exhausting.

Bradley laughs.

ALEX

Hmm.

BRADLEY

Umm. But, as... as you know, we reporters... we... we see the way the world works, and sometimes you just wanna get in there and educate people and... and stop them from constantly going in circles with their ideas. I mean, it's just so frustrating. It's... it's sad.

ALEX

So true. So true. As reporters we are trained to never let our personal emotions enter the story. What happened yesterday that made you cross that line?

BRADLEY

Well I... I wasn't even aware that I was being filmed. I was setting up for my story, and my cameraman was knocked down by someone. And something about seeing him struggling on the ground made me want to address the person responsible so... so I did.

ALEX

Hmm. You know a peculiar amount about coal.

Producer in Alex's earpiece: *Alex, be nice.*

BRADLEY

Well, uhh, yes. Yeah I do. I do. I've actually covered a lot of coal mine protests, and I think it's important to know as much about the subject as possible, especially when people are literally fighting each other over it.

ALEX

Yes, well, America has clearly connected to that message. Why do you think that is?

BRADLEY

You know, I think America is tired of Twitter fighting.

ALEX

Hmm.

BRADLEY

It's ignorant, and it's contributing to the dumbing down of our country. Parties have created a good side and a bad side for their own purposes. And once you villainize someone, there is nothing left to do but to go to war with them.

ALEX

I know that you work at a conservative news outlet. What side of that argument do you personally fall on?

BRADLEY

Umm... the human side.

ALEX

What? No -- what does that mean?

BRADLEY

It means I see both sides.

ALEX

But, in leadership, decisions have to be made. You can't just have empathy for everybody and do nothing.

Beat.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Say you're president. What do you do?

BRADLEY

Well...

ALEX

Open or close the coal mine?

BRADLEY

I'm just here to deliver the news to America. That's... that's all I ever wanted to do.

ALEX

So you're a diehard reporter?

BRADLEY

I like to think that I am, yes. The truth matters to me.

ALEX

What would you say to the idea that it's a reporter's sacred creed to never let the story become about them?

Executive Producer in Alex's earpiece: *Jesus, Alex. What are you doing? Stop it.*

BRADLEY

I would say I agree with that.

ALEX

And yet this has become about you.

BRADLEY

As I said before I didn't know I was being filmed. This wasn't part of my live coverage.

ALEX

Well there could be some cynical people who might think that that was completely set up.

BRADLEY

To what end?

ALEX

You're here.

Beat.

BRADLEY

Well there are some non-cynical people, which I believe is most people, that believe the news is changing. And the news is changing because the people who deliver the news, who... who show themselves as honest and decent and trustworthy have, in quite a few cases now, proved themselves to be untruthful, and as a result I think people are wanting more transparency in journalism. I... I think they want to know the person behind the facade. I think they want to trust that the person that is telling them the truth about the world is an honest person. Like you.

ALEX

Yes. Well, the truth is what we are all striving for.

BRADLEY

Yeah. It is.

ALEX

Thank you Bradley Jackson for being with us today.

BRADLEY

Thank you so much.

ALEX

Of course! (into the camera) We will be right back with a surprise secret about Vitamin D.

TECH PERSON

And we're out. We're clear. Back in two minutes.

The women stand.

ALEX

You're good.

BRADLEY

Thank you.

ALEX

Good luck in Ham Hock, Virginia.

Alex walks away.