

Loveline
Pilot Episode: Scylla & Charybdis
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ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. VICTORIA'S N.Y.C. APT./BATHROOM - NIGHT

VICTORIA CROSS (30s, Native New Yorker to the core) is bathing in a bear claw bathtub. Her long dreadlocs hang over the side of the tub. Victoria washes her face tenderly, trying to avoid a black and blue bruise on her left cheek.

FADE TO BLACK.

FLASHBACK - TWO DAYS EARLIER

EXT. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

Victoria and DR. DARIUS JONES (30s) are walking arm in arm through the arch. Darius stops, pulls out a small velvet box, he opens it, and there is an engagement ring inside.

DARIUS
You're my heart.

Victoria smiles.

INT. VICTORIA'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Victoria lives in a luxury apartment, she is watching her performance on CNN. Victoria is a guest on an Anderson Cooper type show, she mindlessly plays with her engagement ring.

VICTORIA
(on TV)
Lydia Saunders is not under my care however, clinically speaking I do believe that her behavior clearly shows signs of possible manic episodes.

CNN HOST
And so let's say that is the case, do you think that could be a viable argument once she goes to trial?

Victoria's VIDEO DIGITAL ASSISTANT, ALEXA, rings.

ALEXA
Video call from Darius.

VICTORIA
Alexa answer.

Victoria pauses the program, the light on the video assistant comes on. INTERCUT VIDEO CALL AS NEEDED.

VICTORIA
Hey babe.

INT. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL/DARIUS'S OFFICE

Darius is a surgeon, he is dressed in scrubs. Darius can be seen on Victoria's screen messing with his Video Digital Assistant.

VICTORIA
Oh my God what's happening? Make it stop, I'm getting vertigo.

DARIUS
This thing barely works, I think I need a new one.

VICTORIA
Can you see me now?

Victoria flashes the video assistant.

DARIUS
Nice tits.

Victoria's face comes up on Darius' screen.

VICTORIA
Thanks, they're mine and they're spectacular.

DARIUS
Are we still on for dinner?

Victoria mindlessly plays with her engagement ring.

VICTORIA
What do you want to eat?

DARIUS
Besides you?

VICTORIA
Yes, besides me.

DARIUS
Let me cook tonight.

VICTORIA
Say what? I think you're cutting
out.

DARIUS
I promised to put you first.

VICTORIA
Why don't I go pick up some secret
ingredients and you can make dinner
Iron Chef style.

DARIUS
Like when we first met? It's a
deal.

VICTORIA
I love you.

DARIUS
You're my heart.

VICTORIA
Alexa off.

Victoria goes back to watching herself on TV.

INT. FRESH FEAST GROCERY STORE - LATE AFTERNOON

Victoria makes her way through the aisles. Victoria notices
that she's being followed, she walks up to JASON who is a bit
disheveled.

VICTORIA
I hope I'm not being presumptuous
but, are you following me?

JASON
I wasn't, I mean I just wanted to
say hi. I just saw you on TV.
(nervous)
We live in the same building, 2-5-5
Park Avenue, yeah 2-5-5 Park
Avenue.
(off look)
I-I just moved in. I'd like to
take you out some time.

Victoria holds up her left hand so that he can see her
engagement ring.

VICTORIA
Thanks, but no thanks. Now if
you'll excuse me-

JASON
Jason, my name is Jason

VICTORIA
Okay, Jason, I'm Victoria, stop
being creepy.

Victoria walks past Jason down the aisle.

JASON
(under breath)
But I do love you.

Victoria didn't hear what he said, she looks back at Jason.
Jason stares at her. UNCLE MARTY (Robert De Niro type) the
owner of the store walks over to Victoria.

UNCLE MARTY
That guy bothering you sweetheart?

VICTORIA
No, he's just odd as fuck.

Uncle Marty gives Victoria a big bear hug and plants a kiss
on her cheek.

VICTORIA
He claims to live in my building
but I've never seen him before.

Victoria turns to look back at Jason, he's gone.

EXT. FRESH FEAST GROCERY STORE - LATER

Uncle Marty is helping Victoria load groceries into a LYFT.
Jason is across the street watching them. After the LYFT
pulls off Uncle Marty looks across the street, he sees Jason.

UNCLE MARTY
Hey!

Uncle Marty crosses the busy street towards Jason. A
delivery truck pulls up obstructing his view when the truck
pulls off Jason isn't there.

INT. N.Y.C. HOSPITAL/DARIUS'S OFFICE - LATER

Darius enters, his back is to the door as he reviews a chart.

DARIUS
Alexa, video call Victoria.

ALEXA
Calling Victoria. No answer would
you like to leave a message?

Darius doesn't see a nurse, DONNA, ENTER she quickly sheds
her scrubs and is completely naked.

DARIUS
Yes.

DONNA
Hey there.

Darius turns around, he smiles.

DARIUS
Oh, no I'm really done this time.

DONNA
That's what you said two days ago.

Donna pulls down Darius' scrubs in one swift motion, he's not
wearing underwear. They kiss, Darius smacks Donna's ass, and
then bends her over his desk, they have sex.

DARIUS
Did you lock the door? I just don't
want us to get caught again.

Darius looks over at his Alexa, the video light is flashing,
he stops abruptly.

DARIUS
No, no, no, no, no, no. Fuck, Alexa
stop, stop Alexa!

ALEXA
Message sent.

Alexa turns off.

DONNA
Once a cheater.

Donna takes her time getting dressed, she walks to the door.

DONNA
Psst, you might want to put that
away.

Donna leaves Darius' office.