

SCENE C

INT. LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 1)  
(Alicia, Penny)

PENNY TAKES A FEW ENVELOPES OUT OF HER MAILBOX, THEN CLOSES AND LOCKS IT. AT THAT MOMENT, ALICIA, HER UPSTAIRS NEIGHBOR AND RIVAL ENTERS. SHE'S UPBEAT AND SMILING, UNTIL SHE SPIES PENNY.

ALICIA

(FROSTY) Hello Penny.

PENNY

(EQUALLY CHILLY) Alicia.

THERE IS A TENSE BEAT, THEN:

ALICIA

Penny, about what happened between us a few months ago, that time we fought and I beat you like rented mule...

PENNY STEPS UP TO ALICIA, GETTING RIGHT IN HER FACE.

PENNY

I don't remember it that way.

ALICIA

(OFF PENNY'S GLARE) Wait, this isn't how I wanted this to go. I actually want to apologize. I mean it.

ALICIA OPENS HER ARMS FOR AN EMBRACE. PENNY, SUSPICIOUS, LOOKS HER OVER. FINALLY, PENNY'S SKEPTICISM MELTS AND THEY HUG.

PENNY

Hey, don't apologize, it was as much my fault as it was yours.

ALICIA

Oh, definitely.

UNSEEN BY ALICIA, PENNY MOUTHS THE WORD "BITCH."

PENNY

Maybe a little more yours.

UNSEEN BY PENNY, ALICIA MOUTHS THE WORD "BITCH" AS WELL.  
THEY BREAK THE EMBRACE.

ALICIA

Let's forget about placing blame.

We're two young, single actresses in  
southern California. We should be  
supporting each other, not trying to  
tear each other down.

PENNY

You're right. No more back-biting.

ALICIA

Good. Things have been tough enough  
lately.

PENNY

Career dry spell?

ALICIA

If it weren't for the residuals for  
the six national commercials I've  
done, I'd have to stop eating out and  
start doing my own laundry again.

PENNY

Please, if I didn't have my tips from the Cheesecake Factory to fall back on, I wouldn't be able to afford Top Ramen. And believe me, if that stuff's the top Ramen, I don't even want to see the crap that came in second.

ALICIA

I'm ready to take anything that comes along. Anything.

PENNY

I know what you mean. I got lucky this week: I'm actually gonna be Supergirl.

ALICIA

(STUNNED) In a movie? It's an indie, right? A student film? Porn?

PENNY

No. (TO HERSELF) Why does everyone guess porn? It's more like live theater. Starting Thursday, I'm gonna be a booth girl at Comic-Con.

ALICIA

Wait, you're gonna be on display at some geek-fest? You win, you are doing worse than me.

PENNY

Well, a job's a job.

ALICIA

I guess. I'm a serious actress. I think a gig as a Booth Bimbo--

PENNY

Babe. It's babe.

ALICIA

--could be damaging to a career.

PENNY

Really?

ALICIA

Yeah, but on the other hand, you should probably go for it. You really don't have much of a career to damage.

ALICIA CROSSES AWAY. AS PENNY SEETHES, WE:

DISSOLVE TO: