



**Boston Legal**

**Nuts**

**Season 3, Episode 12**

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***At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Denise Bauer is in her office sitting at her desk busily writing. Alan Shore walks by, sees her and comes in.***

**Alan Shore:** Denise? I couldn't help but notice your busy hands from afar. I find there's little, more intoxicating than a pretty woman with a busy hand. I imagine, later tonight, when I let my mind wander to you, as it so invariably does, my hand too, will become busy.

**Denise Bauer:** Alan? You've met Vanessa. Right?

**Alan Shore:** ***Surprised, he turns back to see Vanessa Walker sitting behind him. Alan chuckles.***

**Vanessa Walker:** Out of curiosity, how many times have women in the workplace sued you?

**Alan Shore:** It never gets old. Will you be suing me?

**Denny Crane:** ***He comes in.*** I can't fly!

**Alan Shore:** You're just discovering this?

**Denny Crane:** Bella and I were headed for Hawaii, I got detained at the airport, they wouldn't let me board!

**Alan Shore:** Why?

**Denny Crane:** According to their records I'm a terrorist.

**Alan Shore:** What?

**Denny Crane:** That's what they said. A terrorist. Now, Bella's in Hawaii and I'm not. Alan, you've gotta help me.

**Alan Shore:** Okay.

**Denny Crane:** Nobody gets away with calling Denny Crane a terrorist.

**Alan Shore:** What would you like me to do?

**Denny Crane:** Perfect world? We blow 'em up.

**Alan Shore:** Short of that?

**Denny Crane:** Sleep with their wives.

**Alan Shore:** You can do better.

**Denny Crane:** Daughters?

**Alan Shore:** Denny, you're an American! What does any true red-white-and-blue American do when he's been wronged? Or even slightly put out for that matter?

**Denny Crane:** ***He looks at Alan for a moment.*** We sue! ***Alan nods affirmatively.***

***At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Shirley Schmidt is in her office. Vanessa knocks on the door, Shirley opens it.***

**Shirley Schmidt:** Vanessa. Thanks for coming. ***Vanessa comes in and sees Helen Choi sitting there.*** This is Helen Choi.

**Vanessa Walker:** ***They shake hands.*** Nice to meet you.

**Helen Choi:** Hello.

**Shirley Schmidt:** Let's just jump right in since time is running short. Helen teaches first grade in Allston, she tragically had one of her students pass away, due to an allergic reaction to peanuts.

**Vanessa Walker:** Oh. I'm so sorry.

**Shirley Schmidt:** The parents are suing her for wrongful death, citing her negligence in the death of the child. The trial starts Wednesday.

**Helen Choi:** I had another lawyer. But the parent's attorneys are from a big firm and they seemed to have overwhelmed him.

Vanessa Walker: Why are they claiming you were negligent?

Helen Choi: First, for allowing the peanuts to even get in the room. We check the lunches but... another student had brought in a candy bar that I didn't know about. And also at the time of the incident, I was on my cell phone. It probably did distract me for a few seconds, before I got to the epi-pen.

Shirley Schmidt: **To Vanessa.** I've scheduled a settlement conference for today, I'd like you to join us.

Vanessa Walker: How long after that did the child die?

Helen Choi: Oh. He died right there. In the classroom.

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, in Denny's office, he is there sitting behind his desk.**

Alan Shore: **He enters.** Okay, Denny, it's true, you're on a No-Fly list!

Denny Crane: I told you.

Alan Shore: They've obviously confused you with somebody else, I arranged a meeting with a man from Homeland Security.

Denny Crane: Excellent.

**Denny pulls out his guns. Alan is turned away.**

Alan Shore: He's coming here actually. His office is in some disarray. **He turns back to see Denny rifling through his gun drawer.** And we won't be needing any guns just now...

Denny Crane: Just wanna show 'em that I've got 'em. Like a good American. Why is he coming here?

Alan Shore: Well! He didn't want you going there in case you also turned to be...

**A beat.**

Denny Crane: What?

Alan Shore: Well. **He chuckles.** A spy.

Denny Crane: A spy?

Alan Shore: Denny! We'll clear it up. I promise.

Denny Crane: **He cocks he gun.** A spy?

Alan Shore: Isn't there anyone you know?

Denny Crane: Well I can't get anybody. I called Tom Delay, his number's disconnected. Foley's got his hands full. Frist said "Don't take it personally." I called Clarence Thomas. His office said he was indisposed.

Alan Shore: Have you tried going right to the top?

Denny Crane: Cheney?

**Alan nods.**

Shirley Schmidt: **She comes in.** Boys!

Alan Shore: Shirley! Did you hear? Denny can't fly.

Shirley Schmidt: Tell me about it! Have either of you seen Claire?

Alan Shore: No. Why?

Shirley Schmidt: Her assistant's causing a bit of a stir in reception.

Alan Shore: Clarence?

Shirley Schmidt: Ah, if only it were Clarence.

Alan Shore: Clarice?

Shirley Schmidt: I still wish.

Alan Shore: Who?

Shirley Schmidt: Oprah.

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, in the reception, Clarence/Oprah is surrounding by dozens of smiling female employees. They are all cheering and clapping. Clarence/Oprah is getting hugs. Alan, Denny and Shirley come out to watch.**

Alan Shore: Oh, my.

Denny Crane: He's hot. **He walks over to the crowd.**

Alan Shore: Why is everybody hugging her?

Shirley Schmidt: She just gave them all cars. Evidently, high-end.

Denny Crane: **He walks up to Clarence/Oprah.** Denny Crane.

Clarence Bell: Hello, Denny!

**Shirley and Alan shake their heads as Denny and Clarence/Oprah hug. Denny's hand moves down, and squeezes her ass. Shirley gasps. Clarence/Oprah stands back and gives Denny a stern, but bemused look.**



**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, in the kitchen, Alan is there with Clarence/Oprah.**

Alan Shore: Clarence, did something happen?

Clarence Bell/Oprah: Nothing happened, child! It's just January is Martin Luther King month. I used to dress up as Dr King, but kids today, half of them don't know who he is. But they all know Oprah.

Paul Lewiston: **He comes in.** Ah, excuse me. Homeland Security is in your office.

Alan Shore: Okay. **As he gets up to leave he gives Clarence/Oprah a goodbye pat.**

Paul Lewiston: And ah, why would Homeland Security be in your office?

Alan Shore: **He places his cup in the sink and walks out without looking at Paul.** Do you really wanna know, Paul?

**A beat.**

Paul Lewiston: No.

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, in Alan's office, he and Denny sit with Adam Murch, Office of Transportation Security.**

Adam Murch: Dennis Crane, the one we targeted, is a Canadian-born citizen who converted to Islam and took up Jihad against the United States after 9/11. He visited several terrorist training camps in Pakistan with known ties to Al Qaeda. He changed his name to Mohammed Al-Zwari, but his passport still lists him as 'Dennis Crane.' Which is why the name is on the No-Fly list.

Alan Shore: So! **He looks to Denny. Denny shrugs.** Now that we've cleared it up...

Adam Murch: It's not that simple. The current technology doesn't provide airline officials with the target's date of birth, race of physical description. Just the name.

Alan Shore: Well! Are you saying... anyone named Dennis Crane...?

Adam Murch: Will not be allowed to fly on commercial airliners. Unless he can get on the other list of people on the No-Fly list who can fly.

Alan Shore: Okay. So, uh, put him on that list.

Adam Murch: Also not simple. He'll have to fill out a form. And wait for approval.

Denny Crane: Well, how long will that take?

Adam Murch: It's... um... indeterminate.

**A beat.**

Alan Shore: I... you're joking?

Adam Murch: I assure you the Federal Government has no sense of humor. And neither should you when it comes to the war on terror.

Denny Crane: **To Alan.** Let me shoot him

Alan Shore: Mr Murch. There is nobody more red-white-and-blue than this man here. He's for the death penalty, he's pro-life, he doesn't read newspapers. He's exercised every loophole to avoid paying taxes, he's even donated to the Jack Abramoff Ball!

Adam Murch: I sympathize with you. I really do. But these are some of the prices we pay to live in a free and democratic society which is safe.

Denny Crane: **To Alan.** Let me shoot him.

Adam Murch: **To Denny.** Are you threatening me?

Alan Shore: No, that job falls to me, Mr Murch, I will ask you nicely to put Denny's name on the Fly list or I will complicate your life in Federal court. By the time I'm finished, your superiors won't be saying, "Heckuva job, Murchie."

Adam Murch: **And he smiles broadly and chuckles.** You're threatening to mess up my life? You're talking to Homeland Security. **A beat.** We're the master.

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, in the conference room, Vanessa, Shirley, Helen, with Rachel and Mark Beckett and their attorney Susan Bixby.**

Rachel Beckett: We couldn't have been more clear with her. We had a meeting to specifically discuss the allergy, we went over the precise procedure, she knew the severity of the risk.

Vanessa Walker: **Sympathetic.** We understand, Mrs Beckett. Nobody's denying the terrible tragedy that

occurred here.

**Mark Beckett:** But you are denying her culpability. Are you not?

**Shirley Schmidt:** **Sympathetic.** Mr and Mrs Beckett, I'm sure you can appreciate that, as Helen's lawyers we can't admit any liability on her part. But, let's assume, for the sake of argument, she bears some responsibility... she has no assets. Any judgment you get would not be recoverable.

**Rachel Beckett:** This is not about money, Ms Schmidt.

**Shirley Schmidt:** **Still sympathetic.** Okay. Then, if I may ask... what is it about?

**Mark Beckett:** We wanna send a message. We wanna put the word out... that teachers like her need to take care. **To Helen.** You need to take care.

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, in Claire's office, Clarence/Oprah is with her.**

**Claire Sims:** Take off the wig, Clarence.

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** This wig doesn't come off as easily child, it doesn't just pop off like a hood ornament.

**Claire Sims:** What happened? Obviously something went wrong with Sandy.

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** Sandy's a darling girl but she wasn't remotely in a place to have a relationship. Know what I'm saying?

**Claire Sims:** What happened?

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** There weren't any precipitating factors, sometimes two people, despite having a lot in common--

**Claire Sims:** Can you just take off the wig, so—?

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** **In a loud, gruff voice.** Enough with the wig!! Forget the wig!

**A beat.**

**Claire Sims:** Who was that!

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** From the sound of his voice, I'd say, Clavont.

**Claire Sims:** Clarence, you're not schizophrenic. You're just choosing to hide behind these personas, especially when... **She sighs and sits down on the corner of a love seat. Clarence/Oprah is sitting in the chair just next to her.** What exactly happened with Sandy?

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** You know, Honey, I'll make a deal. We'll talk about Clarence and his personal life if we can first discuss yours. Do you have a personal life, Claire?

**Claire Sims:** In the workplace? Absolutely not.

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** Any place? **Claire scoffs.** Why do you dress the way you do?

**Claire Sims:** What is wrong with the way I dress?

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** It just isn't... very sexual. You appear to have a very good body and you cover it up.

**Claire Sims:** I do not!

**A beat. Clarence/Oprah gets up, Claire scoots over, and Clarence/Oprah sits down next to her.** Have you been sexually assaulted, Claire?

**Claire Sims:** Okay, Oprah. Isn't this when, on your show you cut to a commercial, you ask a big, loaded, melodramatic question and then you say, "We'll be right back, after this?" Why don't you say that?

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Alan and Denny are walking in the corridor. They walk past Denise, who is occupied with writing on a tablet.**

**Alan Shore:** **He notices Denise, then pats Denny on the shoulder.** One second, Denny. **Denny walks on, Alan turns back to Denise.** Denny and I are off to Federal Court. It seems he's on the No-Fly list.

**Denise Bauer:** **With mock sympathy.** Gee.

**Alan Shore:** Denise, I thought you'd be more sympathetic. Denny can't spread his wings. **He slowly circles around to her other side. Very closely.** Imagine how you'd feel if you were robbed of the opportunity to spread yours. **He sniffs the air.**

**Denise Bauer:** That is so lame.

**Alan Shore:** Why do you smell of sex, Denise?

**Denise Bauer:** **She is startled, and looks up at Alan.** Excuse me?

**Alan Shore:** A woman gives off a certain scent when she's having sex. Who are you having sex with, Denise?

**Denise Bauer:** Okay. You are out of your mind.

**Alan Shore:** **He sniffs the air.** It smells like Brad. **Denise is startled.** Is it Brad?

**Denise marches off down the corridor. Brad Chase joins her.**

**Brad Chase:** What was that all about?

**Denise Bauer:** He knows.

**Brad Chase:** Knows what?

**Denise Bauer:** That we're having sex. **She pulls him off to the side.** Did you tell anybody?

Brad Chase: How could he possibly know unless you told somebody?

Denise Bauer: I didn't tell anybody. He smelled it on me. **A beat. Brad leans in to sniff her.** Oh, stop it.

**In Judge Young's courtroom, Helen is on the stand. Attorney Susan Bixby is questioning her.**

Helen Choi: I had checked the lunches. I check them all every day.

Attorney Susan Bixby: The school has a strict no-peanut policy.

Helen Choi: Yes. And all parents were notified verbally and in writing not to bring anything with nuts to class.

Attorney Susan Bixby: So what happened?

Helen Choi: Well... the children were eating. All of a sudden... Nate... he was on the floor. I went over. He had gone into shock.

Attorney Susan Bixby: And then?

Helen Choi: And then I followed the protocol, I unlocked the First Aid cabinet; I got out an epi-pen. I jammed it into his thigh. But... It was too late. It turns out another student had brought in a mini candy bar with nuts in it and... I never saw it.

Attorney Susan Bixby: What exactly were you doing when Nate Beckett went into the anaphylactic shock?

**A beat.**

Helen Choi: **Admitting.** I was talking on my cell phone.

Attorney Susan Bixby: Is that permissible for teachers, to be on their cell phones during class?

Helen Choi: It was during lunch but no, it is not permissible. My father had had surgery that morning. I was anxious to check up on him.

Attorney Susan Bixby: In fact, you had your back turned on your students as you spoke on the phone?

Helen Choi: My father had a life-threatening condition. I didn't wanna alarm the students.

Attorney Susan Bixby: How long had Nate been on the floor before you noticed him?

Helen Choi: Well... the children started to scream so... I don't know, not long.

Attorney Susan Bixby: Twenty seconds?

Helen Choi: At the most. I would say under.

Attorney Susan Bixby: But possibly twenty seconds?

Helen Choi: Possibly.

**Vanessa is up.**

Vanessa Walker: How long have you been a teacher?

Helen Choi: Seven years.

Vanessa Walker: Do you like it?

Helen Choi: I love it. It's all I ever wanted to do.

Vanessa Walker: Has anything like this ever happened in your class before?

Helen Choi: No! God, no. I just... I know I shouldn't have been on my cell phone.

Vanessa Walker: If I may ask... what was the outcome of your dad's surgery?

Helen Choi: **She sighs.** He didn't make it.

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, in Claire's office she is at her desk. Clarence/Oprah enters.**

Clarence Bell/Oprah: We're back from that commercial break. In case you wanna continue our conversation.

Claire Sims: You know what? You wanna take off that wig and talk? Fine. But, I'm not sharing my life with Oprah.

Clarence Bell/Oprah: I'm not capable of having that talk as Clarence. Which you know. You got issues girl. Now you can go through life letting people in, or keeping them shut out. Your choice.

Claire Sims: **Seems a few minutes later. Clarice is perched on a window sill and Clarence/Oprah is sitting comfortably at the desk and listening thoughtfully.** I have never been sexually assaulted. I have certainly been groped on the odd date. But... let's just say it's nothing I couldn't handle.

Clarence Bell/Oprah: Is one of the ways you handle it by dressing in a non-sexual way?

Claire Sims: I don't think I dress that way. I dress... maybe a little conservatively but...

Clarence Bell/Oprah: Why? Conservative is not a word I'd use to describe you, Claire. You're a balls-out kinda girl.

Claire Sims: **She gets down off her perch.** In case you haven't noticed! This place is a rather spectacular Boys Club. If you so much as turn your back on Denny Crane, he tries to mount you! Alan Shore is in the Guinness Book of Lechers.

Clarence Bell/Oprah: I don't believe you.

Claire Sims: **She scoffs.** I am standing here talking to Oprah. Believe it.

Clarence Bell/Oprah: Shirley Schmidt is a named partner.

Claire Sims: And a Queen Bee, which is how she'd like to keep it. **She gets behind her desk and rolls up her**

**chair.** Look. I'm busy, let's cut to another commercial.

**Clarence Bell/Oprah:** One of the reasons this may be an Ole Boys Clubs is because the women here feel they have to become one of the boys to succeed. You're a tough broad, Claire. **Claire crosses her arms, and forces herself to listen.** If any girl's got a shot at crashing through that plexi-glass ceiling? It's got to be you. Don't be afraid to be sexy. And don't be afraid to be soft. Succeed on your terms here. Not their's.

**Claire Sims:** How about we both try and work on that? Clarence needs to come back to work. I can't afford Oprah.

**In Judge Patrice Webb's courtroom, Denny is on the stand, Alan is on direct.**

**Denny Crane:** They pulled me off before I could board. Put me in this little room.

**Alan Shore:** At some point somebody joined you in the little room.

**Denny Crane:** Somebody from Transportation Security. Told me I can't fly!

**Alan Shore:** Did he say why?

**Denny Crane:** My name is on the No-Fly list!

**Alan Shore:** You've since cleared up the confusion?

**Denny Crane:** The confusion, yes, but not the problem. I still can't fly! Unless I get these special papers which will take who knows how long? It's ridiculous. It's why I usually fly private.

**Judge Patrice Webb:** You're still not allowed to fly?

**Denny Crane:** No!

**Judge Patrice Webb:** **To US Attorney Randolph.** Why has this reached my courtroom?

**US Attorney Randolph:** Mr Crane is looking for special treatment, Your Honor.

**Judge Patrice Webb:** Special treatment? To be allowed to fly on an airplane without Government interference?

**US Attorney Randolph:** The special treatment he seeks is to get off the no fly list without the specified papers that taxpayers on the list must typically wait for.

**Alan Shore:** Why are typical taxpayers even on the list?

**US Attorney Randolph:** Look! In case you haven't noticed...

**Alan Shore:** Oh, ha, ha! Here it comes!

**US Attorney Randolph:** We're on war on terror. People screamed after 9-11 that we didn't do enough to prevent it. Now you bitch we're too much.

**Alan Shore:** Because you are! Law-abiding, loyal Americans are being treated like shoe bombers.

**US Attorney Randolph:** Shoe bombers don't declare themselves, Mr Shore, in case you haven't...

**Judge Patrice Webb:** Mr Randolp, I'm not persuaded. Who have you got?

**US Attorney Randolph:** I have Linwood Winchell, from the Transportation Security Administration.

**Judge Patrice Webb:** Get his ass up here.

**Denny Crane:** **To the Judge.** I like you.

**Judge Young's courtroom, Susan questions Mike Beckett.**

**Mike Beckett:** Anaphylactic shock can come on suddenly, which is what happened here. The airwaves can become clogged in less than thirty seconds. If the epi-pen isn't administered, it can be fatal.

**Attorney Susan Bixby:** If Ms Choi had gotten to your son sooner...?

**Mike Beckett:** Well, we obviously can't know for sure, but he had had these attacks before and the epi-pen, along with the pills, had proven effective.

**Attorney Susan Bixby:** So, her delay might very well have contributed to his death?

**Mike Beckett:** Yes.

**Attorney Susan Bixby:** Now, Mr Beckett... she's a teacher. Not a doctor.

**Mike Beckett:** Teachers are trained in First Aid, including the use of an epi-pen, this teacher in fact had been trained. We made sure of it.

**Attorney Susan Bixby:** But realistically, is what happened here really a foreseeable thing?

**Mike Beckett:** Yes. Health-care-need students are now typically mainstreamed. Between ten and twenty percent of today's public school students have chronic physical, emotional, or social problems. And the peanut allergy is a big one. Which she knew.

**Shirley is up.**

**Shirley Schmidt:** Ten to twenty percent of our high school students have chronic medical or social problems?

**Mike Beckett:** Fifty million Americans suffer from some kind of auto-immune disease. It's become epidemic.

**Shirley Schmidt:** Are we increasing the number of nurses in our public schools?

**Mike Beckett:** As far as I know, no.

**Shirley Schmidt:** So! We just hand off to the teachers? Reading, Writing, 'Rithmetic, and epidemics?

**Mike Beckett:** She knew her responsibilities, accepted them, then failed to live up to them.

***In Federal Court, US Attorney Randolph questions Linwood Winchell..***

**Linwood Winchell:** Look. We're all sorry for the mix-up. But we are in a pitched battle with religious fanatics who use civilian aircraft as missiles against high-density targets.

**US Attorney Randolph:** Well, can't you just take Mr Crane's name off the list?

**Linwood Winchell:** In which case the one we targeted, that terrorist with the Jihad, is also allowed to travel. None of us want that.

**US Attorney Randolph:** The system can't differentiate?

**Linwood Winchell:** In time it will be able to, but for now, let's make the skies safe. And we're doing that, by the way. There hasn't been an aviation hijacking since 9/11. Mr Crane left that detail out of his lawsuit.

**Alan is up.**

**Alan Shore:** You seem quite pleased with yourself.

**Linwood Winchell:** Actually, Mr Shore, my tone is more exasperated. I'm rather sick of everyone dumping on Homeland Security.

**Alan Shore:** By everyone, you mean...?

**Linwood Winchell:** The media. The lawyers who love to file suit.

**Alan Shore:** The 9/11 Commission. They dumped on you pretty good, didn't they?

**Linwood Winchell:** Somewhat.

**Alan Shore:** Somewhat? A 'D' in port security, an 'F' in improving communications for first responders, a 'D' in border security, an 'F' in aviation security, a 'D' in chemical plant security. These aren't passing grades, Mr Winchell.

**Linwood Winchell:** We're doing what we can. And lawsuits like this one don't help.

**Alan Shore:** I read Ted Kennedy was on your No-Fly list. Does he take the train now?

**Linwood Winchell:** That situation was resolved.

**Alan Shore:** And yet, the British suspects who were arrested last summer for plotting to blow up aircraft, they weren't on the list. Despite being under surveillance for over a year. How is that possible?

**Linwood Winchell:** Some of the more dangerous ones we leave off?

**Alan Shore:** **A beat.** Excuse me?

**Linwood Winchell:** If suspected terrorists knew their names were on a list, they could change their operational plans and make them harder to capture.

**Alan Shore:** So Mr Crane, an American citizen who has no ties to any terrorist organization is on the list, but some of the most dangerous terrorists are not?

**Linwood Winchell:** I'll tell you this, Mr Smug. For every innocent caught in the net, there is ten guilty ones, so don't tell me—

**Alan Shore:** Really, like whom?

**Linwood Winchell:** I can't reveal classified information.

**Alan Shore:** Well, lucky for me, I have my own sources. A recent study of the four hundred and forty-one terrorism-related arrests, made in the United States, revealed that virtually all of them involved lesser-charges, like visa violations, fraud. Not terrorism!

**Linwood Winchell:** You know, Sir? I go to work every day and try to make America safer. What do you do? I'll tell you what you do. You represent a lot of people like Mr Crane, who have a lot of time and money on their hands, who can afford to manipulate the legal system to make my job tougher.

**Alan Shore:** I suppose you're right. One has to wonder how many Denny Cranes are out there, being denied the right to fly, who can't afford an attorney. **He turns to the gallery.** Do we have any with us today? If so, please stand. **And nearly the whole room rises. Old people, children, even a few women.** Everyone here is named Denny Crane. These are just the ones within driving distance, of course, since airplane travel was not an option. **He turns to the people.** Thank you.

***At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Denise is in the kitchen, stirring her coffee. Alan comes up close and sniffs her.***

**Denise Bauer:** Oh! **She moves away.** Would you please?

**Alan Shore:** You still smell of sex, but this time with a... **He leans in to get another sniff.** ...tinge of Jeffrey Coho.

**Denise Bauer:** **She is startled.** Are you on drugs?

**Jeffrey Coho:** **He comes in.** Hi guys.

**Alan Shore:** Are you sleeping with Denise, Jeffrey?

**Denise Bauer:** As he is not...! **She marches off. She lifts her hand and tries to smell her wrist.**

Brad Chase: **He is just outside the door.** So what did he want?

Denise Bauer: Who?

Brad Chase: Shore! I saw him in there.

Denise Bauer: The usual nonsense.

Brad Chase: If it's any help, Sally said that he can't take any role reversal.

Denise Bauer: What does that mean?

Brad Chase: It means that when the woman becomes the predator, he runs away like a little bunny.

Denise Bauer: **Intrigued.** Really?

**In Judge Young's courtroom, Susan questions Rachel.**

Attorney Susan Bixby: Now, Mrs Beckett... this lawsuit can't bring your son back.

Rachel Beckett: No. But maybe it can save somebody else's child. And like my husband said, there are millions of children with auto-immune diseases, many in public schools, relying on a standard of care. If this lawsuit can sound a bell... We count on our teachers. My God, we trust you with our babies.

**Vanessa is up.**

Vanessa Walker: I don't mean to be insensitive. But you're a person of means, are you not, Mrs Beckett?

Rachel Beckett: I'm financially secure. If you think for a second that eases my pain...

Vanessa Walker: I'm that sure it doesn't. But... **Delicately.** And I'm sorry if this does sound insensitive... but, you had the means to hire a shadow nurse, didn't you? **Rachel just glares.** Some parents do that. They sit in the back of the classroom pretending to be a lab teacher or... **A beat.** Or... you could've put your son in private school where the teacher-student ration is less than thirty to one.

Rachel Beckett: **Quiet rage.** How dare you?

Vanessa Walker: I apologize, Ms Beckett. But you're sitting in that chair playing armchair quarterback, saying that my client could've prevented this tragedy. When in fact... you could've as well.

Rachel Beckett: I would have done whatever I thought necessary, Ms Walker. Including private schools. Or shadow nurses. After meeting with your client I didn't believe that to be necessary.

Vanessa Walker: Because my client struck you as being both capable and dedicated.

Rachel Beckett: Yes.

Vanessa Walker: Thank you.

**In Federal Court, all parties are present, US Attorney Randolph is delivering his closing.**

US Attorney Randolph: We live in a different world since 9/11. But no one here seems really willing to live in that world. Sergeant Mike Kraus, of the army's 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in both Iraq and Afghanistan, was recently quoted in the New York Times. He said, "We're nowhere close to sharing the sacrifice, and it must be shared, because it's only in that sharing that society will truly care about what's going on over there." In previous war times the public was called upon to make great sacrifices. They were told to give up meat, and rubber and steel. Young men were drafted into the military. Today, there's no draft, there's no rationing, no one's telling you to buy war bonds, no one's rounding you up to put in internment camps because of your nationality. The No-Fly list is an inconvenience, Your Honor. And an inconvenience for a very small part of the population. Just think, if we had been able to stop those 9/11 hijackers from ever getting on those planes because their names were on a list warning us of their potential for harm. But all Mr Crane seems to care about is, he's delayed getting to Maui. Some sacrifice. **He goes to sit down.**

Denny Crane: **Under his breath to Alan.** This is going to be long. Isn't it?

Alan Shore: **He pats Denny then gets up.** Some of the new iPods, you can load up to twenty thousand songs on them. Streams of videos, pictures, all on a thing this big. **He indicates about four inches.** The technology in this country is staggering! And yet, the Government can't get their computers to erase my client from the No-Fly list. Even though they admit he shouldn't be on it. Instead, anybody named Denny Crane can't fly. Now! Mr Winchell is correct, he doesn't need me to indict Homeland Security, the 9/11 commission already did that. The American public certainly doesn't need to hear it from me. No! What Homeland Security could really use from me or others, preferably others, is a little help. Why not get it? I'm sure Tom Ridge is a very nice man, capable too, as is Michael Chertoff. But I can get twenty thousand songs on my iPod! We have geniuses in this country. True pioneers of innovation. Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, Steve Ballmer, If we could just round up some of our best Steves. We've got kids in garages inventing Google and YouTube. Jets can not only fly by computer, but they can now take off and land on auto pilot. Should we truly be stumped by this No-Fly computer list? How about something so simple as issuing a flyer's license? It could have your picture, fingerprints, you show it, scan the card and your fingers at the gate, if it's a match you get your aisle seat! This can't be undoable. Expensive? Maybe. But judging from recent spending patterns we've got billions to throw around. Halliburton alone has profited ten billion from the war, maybe we could get them to kick in? Why is it our Government leaders only tap



into the private sector for campaign contributions or to pass out contracts to cronies? Bill Gates is out there! Paul Allen! Has anybody called them? I bet Mark Cuban would personally fund the computer upgrades if you gave him free publicity. Is it really against national policy to think outside the box? This isn't about beating up on Homeland Security. Everybody knows they're trying, I'm sure they're good people, but they simply cannot dispatch a representative to this courtroom to say the problem isn't fixable, while thousands of Americans are being denied due process. It so easily has to be fixable. And in the meantime my client sits here today, a law-abiding man, grounded! While Bella lays writhing in Maui!

**Judge Webb tries to hide her smirk.**

**Alan Shore: He goes to sit down. To Denny. Too long? Denny gives him a 'Who knows?' look.**



**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Denise is walking in the corridor looking at a hand-held computer. Alan comes up to walk along beside her. He leans in to sniff her.**

**Denise Bauer:** Stop it, I'm serious!

**Alan Shore:** Just one little waft.

**Denise Bauer:** Alan! I am not finding this amusing, I am about to register you as a sex offender!

**Alan leans in for another sniff, then stops with surprise on his face.**

**Denise Bauer: She turns back.** What?

**Alan Shore:** This time I detect both Brad and Jeffrey. Denise, if its public course I should be allowed to play.

**Denise looks past Alan's shoulder and sees Brad making encouraging motions.**

**Denise Bauer:** Alan? Let's go to your office for a minute.

**Alan Shore:** Really?

**Denise Bauer:** Hm. **Alan leads the way. Denise exchanges nods with Brad who walks away with a satisfied smile. She follows Alan into his office.** Wanna pull out your three-wood?

**Alan Shore:** I was thinking my sand-wedge.

**Denise Bauer: She walks up to him.** Let's go.

**Alan Shore:** Sorry?

**Denise Bauer:** See? You like to talk. I don't. I like to... do. I also like to be spontaneous.

**Alan Shore: He chuckles.** Well, what are you saying? **He walks away.**

**Denise Bauer:** I'm saying you've got five minutes. Your desk looks available.

**Alan Shore:** You, you wanna have sex on my desk?

**Denise Bauer:** Uh hm. Right now.

**Alan Shore:** Surely you jest? **A beat.** Don't you?

**Denise Bauer:** I don't joke about sex. **She walks up close.** So? Are we on the desk... **She reaches behind Alan to tap the desk.** ...or not?

**There's a bit of a standoff as they look at each other. Suddenly Alan grabs Denise, lifts her, then flips her on to the desk. From outside the office we hear her yell. The next second she's running to the door, she opens it, closes it and stands for a moment gasping in shock. Her hair is mussed and disheveled. Brad is there.**

**Denise Bauer: She marches up to Brad.** You can tell Sally she was wrong! **And she marches off. She passes Jeffrey as he comes up.**

**Jeffrey Coho:** Hey!

**Denise Bauer:** No. No. **She continues marching off.**

**Jeffery and Brad exchange unfriendly glares.**

**In Judge Young's courtroom, Susan is closing.**

**Attorney Susan Bixby:** Helen Choi was specifically trained to use an epi-pen. She knew how critical even a few lost seconds could be. She was on her cell phone, against school policy, had her back turned to her students. She didn't even notice Nate when he first went down. And with anaphylactic shock the difference between life and death is seconds. Now it would be different if Nate had suffered some sort freak reaction. I suppose we could all say, "Well, sometimes bad things happen." But the reality is that kids with special needs, with medical needs, are now mainstreamed in our public schools. Our teachers need to be vigilant. And she wasn't. As a

result a little boy died. We need you to send a message, not just to Helen Choi, but to all teachers, that this is not acceptable. Like Rachel Beckett said, "We trust you with our babies." **She goes to sit.**

**Shirley gets up.**

**Shirley Schmidt:** Lawsuits are about allocating burden. For example, we want our cars to be safer, so we hit the manufacturers with a judgment that makes it more cost-effective to install the airbag. The problem here, as Ms. Bixby correctly states, is we have more and more special needs kids going into our public schools, combined with an unprecedented escalation in auto-immune diseases, autism. The peanut allergy alone has doubled in recent years.

"So, who do we heap this responsibility on? Who else? The teachers. The average annual starting salary for a teacher is \$32,000. For that, we ask them to teach, police, provide emotional and social guidance. In some schools, they actually have to clean the toilets. Now, let's throw in healthcare.

"This teacher, she works 65-hour weeks. In addition to her actual classroom duties, she teaches sex education to the older kids, she teaches a standardized test the school mandates in order to qualify for funding under the No Child Left Behind Act. She spends another ten hours a month meeting with parents. She supervises extra-curricular activities, goes on overnight class trips, cleans and disinfects toys, coaches. She teaches fire drill safety procedures, healthy eating habits, she's certified in CPR, first aid, and food sanitation.

"She is so overextended that when her own father had to undergo a life-threatening medical procedure, she couldn't be at the hospital. So she called on her cell phone to see if he had lived. Which he hadn't. She then turned away from her students, so as not to traumatize them with her grief, which as a teacher she was expected to internalize.

"She has no savings ... no house. And today she's being sued because, without her knowledge, one of her students snuck a bite-sized candy bar containing traces of peanut into her classroom. Now she's being publicly blamed for the death of a child whose parents had the means to implement a multitude of safeguards. They implemented none of them except a teacher.

"Is it any wonder half our teachers are quitting the profession outright within five years? Never mind who's going to handle the epi-pen. Who's going to teach?"

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Claire is in her office sitting at her desk. She is wearing a bright red, low-cut, short-sleeved dress. Clarence comes in and hands her some papers.**

**Claire Sims:** Oh. Thank you. **Clarence turns to leave.** Clarence? **He turns back and shyly stands in front of her desk.** I believe the deal was, if I dish, you dish. So? What happened with Sandy?

**Clarence Bell:** She just...uh... she just didn't like me that way.

**Claire Sims:** Could I get you to look at me for a second? **Clarence bravely looks at her.** There will be women who do.

**Clarence Bell:** **He smiles.** Is that all?

**Claire Sims:** Yeah. That's all.

**Clarence chuckles as he leaves.**

**In Federal Court Judge Patrice Webb is giving her decision.**

**Judge Patrice Webb:** Mr Randolph, I realize that Homeland Security has had a pretty rough go of late. And I certainly don't want to pile on. But, I have to agree with Mr Shore. Given the capacity of technology today, this has to be a fixable problem. I don't think Mr Crane should have to sit around waiting for you fix it. It is the order of this court that you take the petitioner off the No-Fly list. Or in the alternative, put him on the list of those who can fly even though they're on the No-Fly list. **Alan chuckles as he pats Denny.** We're adjourned.

**Denny Crane:** Mai Tais. Bella, midnight Hawaii time my head will be the center of a thigh sandwich.

**Alan Shore:** **He chuckles.** Due process does have its dividends.

**Alan and Denny leave the courtroom.**

**Denny Crane:** Maybe you should come with me.

**Alan Shore:** Forget it. I'm not getting sloppy seconds after Bella.

**Denny Crane:** And there will be...

**Bethany Horowitz:** **She comes up.** Denny?

**Denny Crane:** Bethany? Where... What a coincidence.

**Denny Crane:** Actually not. I heard you were here.

**Denny Crane:** Oh.

**Bethany Horowitz:** Listen. I've been doing a lot of thinking about what you said. Never mind all the reasons not to date somebody, what does your heart say? 'Cause mine says to give this a chance.

**Denny Crane:** Oh.

**Bethany Horowitz:** Can I take you to dinner?

Denny Crane: Well actually I'm getting on a plane tonight.

Bethany Horowitz: Where are you going?

Denny Crane: Hawaii.

Bethany Horowitz: I see. With somebody?

Denny Crane: Well... actually... yes.

Bethany Horowitz: Is it my mother?

Denny Crane: Technically... yes.

Bethany Horowitz: I see. Have a lovely time! Sorry to bother you. **She walks away.**

Alan Shore: Denny, I'm a fairly staunch advocate of telling the truth. But sometimes it's more humane to lie.

Denny Crane: I felt like a deer in the headlights. I hope I didn't hurt her.

**Suddenly, BAM, he's hit by a missile from the side. Denny is face down, Bethany on top.**

Bethany Horowitz: At least my mother taught me how to tackle. Goodbye, Denny Crane! **She gets off.** And tell Bella... she better watch her back. **And off she goes.**

**A beat.**

Alan Shore: **Admiring.** That is one tough broad.

**Denny groans.**

**In Judge Young's courtroom, the jury is filing back in.**

Judge Young: Mr Foreman, the jury has reached a verdict?

Foreman: We have, Your Honor.

Judge Young: What say you?

**Shirley, Vanessa and Helen stand up.**

Foreman: In the matter of the Estate of Nathaniel Beckett vs. Helen Choi, we the jury find in favor of... the defendant.

Judge Young: Thank you for your services, this jury is dismissed.

Helen Choi: **She is shocked.** I don't know what to say. Thank you. Thank you both so so much.

Shirley Schmidt: Congratulations.

Vanessa Walker: We can help you get you re-instated, if you like.

Helen Choi: Oh, thank you. But... actually my brother-in-law has a real-estate business and... well, I decided to go for my broker's license.

Vanessa Walker: **Surprised.** Oh. Okay.

Helen Choi: Yeah. It's a really exciting opportunity and I'd be crazy not to take it. There's room for growth, and you know, I think it might be something I'd enjoy, so I figured, why not? Right? **There was something hollow in her tone, as if she's trying to convince herself. But it's just one more teacher giving up.**

Vanessa Walker: Yeah.

**At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Alan and Denny are out on the balcony having scotch and cigars.**

Alan Shore: What time's your flight?

Denny Crane: Nine. You can still change your mind.

Alan Shore: Ah ha, ha! I'm sure by now Mr Winchell has added my name to the No-Fly list.

Denny Crane: Alan! I'm grateful for everything you did, but I wasn't crazy about you attacking the Government.

Alan Shore: Don't be silly. I'm sure you're a little crazy.

Denny Crane: Hm. I happen to agree with a lot of what Randolph said in his closing. People in this country gotta sacrifice more.

Alan Shore: Is that why you're flying commercial and not taking your Gulf Stream?

Denny Crane: It doesn't do any good to sit back and criticize.

Alan Shore: Sometime it does, Denny. Sometimes the most patriotic thing you can do is criticize. Liberty in this country was founded on that very ideal. How did it happen that dissent became some form of heresy?

Denny Crane: Well, I'm all for dissent... when I'm sure I'm right.

Alan Shore: **Chuckles. A beat.** Denny, I'm not sure I've ever told you this but I truly love America. I would never consider living anywhere else. But this country is only two hundred years old. It's a work in progress. Especially lately.

Denny Crane: Alright, Mr Smarty Pants. You get to change one thing. What is it?

Alan Shore: Get rid of all stores that end with 'Mart.'

Denny Crane: Besides that.

Alan Shore: One change. **He sighs.** Well, first I'd like to stop people from passing off narrow-mindedness and intolerance as family values.

Denny Crane: No, no, no. That's political. Doesn't count. Name a change that relates to this issue. Government

technology.

**Alan Shore:** I made that suggestion in court. Hire the geniuses, not the guy who's got the best lobbyist, or the rich friend who'll take you to his quail ranch and let you shoot 'em. Hire the thinkers.

**Denny Crane:** The Steves?

**Alan Shore:** For a start. Instead of every Tom, Dick and Brownie, let's turn our visionaries loose. At least we'll be rid of those stores where you can buy both meat and CD's. What would you change?

**Denny Crane:** Not a thing.

**Alan Shore:** Not a thing?

**Denny Crane:** This country works, Alan. You Democrats don't want to admit it. Oh, I'm not saying there aren't kinks, foam chips off the occasional space craft, we start the odd war on false pretenses. But by and large, America works. That's why I'm completely nuts about it.

**Alan Shore:** ***He lifts his glass.*** To Denny Crane.

**Denny Crane:** ***He lifts his glass.*** Completely nuts.