NICO
(with flirtatious
understatement)
Well, it's a living. But I put my
pants on one leg at a time just like
everybody else.

HUDSON HENRY
I work with models every day. And
I've got to tell you, you're the
sexiest woman I've ever seen in my
life.

Nico laughs it off. She takes a sip of her drink. But this
is all too much for her. Nico excuses herself, heads for
the bathroom. Hudson's eyes don't leave her as she goes.
Ashleigh notices this and seethes with envy.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES STREET RESTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A spacious unisex with neon lighting. Music pumps in, a
little surreal. Nico rinses her hands at the sink. Looks
up into the mirror. As if really seeing herself for the
first time in years, she leans in closer, examining her face.
What does she look like to this hot young man?

CUT TO:

INT. BICHARL'S - LATER NIGHT

Steve plays the piano very well. He and Victory sing the
Elvis Costello song "Allison". A little tipsy, they are
having a great time. The song finishes and they share a
smile sitting next to each other on the piano bench.

STEVE CHERRY
I think this is going really well,
don't you?

Suddenly, he looks incredibly sexy. Victory doesn't know
what to say.

VICTORY
Against all odds, Steve Cherry, I am
having a really good time. But you
know what, I need to go. I've got
to get back to work.

STEVE CHERRY
Oh yeah, your show is tomorrow. But
don't go. We're having fun.

VICTORY
Yeah, but this is a big deal for me.
And I'm so excited about it.
STEVE CHERRY
Really? So let me ask you something.
Can you make actual money in fashion?
I mean, if you're not Calvin Klein
or whatever.

VICTORY
What do you mean?

STEVE CHERRY
Well, when you have those small
businesses, they're always on the
brink. That's why I mostly don't go
there anymore. No upside.

VICTORY
(explaining helpfully)
Well... maybe it might be a small
business to you, Steve. But to me,
it's my whole life.

STEVE CHERRY
But what's it worth? A hundred
thousand? If that, I'd be willing
to take a look at your P&L. Give
you some advice.

VICTORY
(a bit testy)
Thanks. But if I want your advice,
I know how to ask for it.

STEVE CHERRY
All I'm saying is, I buy and sell
companies your size all the time.
To guys like me they're trading cards.

VICTORY
Yeah, well, to girls like me you
rich billionaire guys are like trading
cards.

He laughs and this does it -- she's in a cold fury.

VICTORY (CONT'D)
I am an artist. I built my company
myself, one stitch at a time. I
drove out here twenty years ago with
NOTHING! I've been living off my
hard work and my talent ever since!
In New York City, the toughest town
in the world.

STEVE CHERRY
(wryly)
Maybe they should write a song about
it.
He underscores this statement with a little piano riff. This really sets Victory off.

VICTORY
Okay, we're done here. Waiter.
Check please.

STEVE CHERRY
What? Come on, baby, you're overreacting. Mellow out, let's have some dessert.

WAITER delivers the check. Steve reaches for his wallet but Victory is quicker and hands the waiter her black Amex card.

VICTORY
Never, ever tell me to mellow out! I'm on the brink of building my business up into an international conglomerate.

STEVE CHERRY
(amused, provoking)
Well, good luck with that.

The waiter returns with the check and whispers to Victory.

WAITER
I'm sorry, m'am. Your card has been declined.

Victory gets up with her head held high.

VICTORY
(to Steve)
And when I have stores all over the US and Europe and Asia, I'm going to buy your Hummer and paint all over that stupid Cherry!

She walks off with the waiter and out of Steve's view (she thinks) she empties her purse of every dollar and even all of her spare change.

CUT TO:

INT. NICO'S TOWNHOUSE - LATER NIGHT

Nico enters the dark and silent house. She drops her keys on the table by the door. Her heels echo on the hardwood floors as she wearily heads upstairs.

CUT TO: