

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. MICHAEL'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.

ANOTHER JUNGLE - VICTORY - SIDE 3 OF 4 PAGE 4 OF 5

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 over-  
reacting. 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!

//END

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:

LIPSTICK JUNGLES - VICTORY - SIDE 3 OF 4 PAGE 50