PAQUITA SIDE
2/18/13

INT. V3 - DANI'S OFFICE - DAY

...where Dani can't seem to get settled at her new desk. She
shuffles papers. Adjusts her seat. Readjusts it...then
startled when...

PAQUITA (25, stunning, in transition from sorority president
to business woman) enters. Note pad in her hands. She leads
with her ambition.

PAQUITA
I'm sorry--

Dani looks up, quizzically: who is this and why is she sorry?

PAQUITA (CONT'D)
Maybe I should have knocked. Do
you like knocking? Is knocking
okay? Or too intrusive?

DANI
Excuse me, who are you?

PAQUITA
Paloma.

DANI
...Paloma. How can I help you?

PAQUITA
Actually, it kinda works the other
way around. I'm your assistant.

Dani laughs, then realizes Paloma is serious.

DANI
Thank you, but I don't need an
assistant.

PAQUITA
Everyone needs an assist once in
awhile, no?

Paloma straightens the papers and pens on Dani's desk. Dani
bristles at the invasion of personal space.

DANI
Thank you for your help but I
can... arrange my own pens.
PALOMA
(persistent)
How do you take your coffee?

DANI
I can make it myself --

PALOMA
I trained at Starbucks for two
weeks under the finest barista
it's a pre-req for V3 assistants.
I can make anything you want.
Latte? Americano? Cappuccino?

DANI
Just plain coffee, and I really
don't need --

PALOMA
Drip? Okay, how many sweeteners
and what's your ideal ratio of
coffee to skim?

DANI
Paloma...

PALOMA
Skim/low-fat mix?

DANI
(irritable)
I take it black. It's not
complicated and for the last time I
don't need help with it.

PALOMA
(then)
Look, I graduated from Northwestern
Summa Cum Laude with a BA in
English. It is not my great desire
to get coffee for you, or anyone
else for that matter. But...I did
ask to be transferred to your desk.

Dani looks up now, surprised.

DANI
Why...?

PALOMA
Rex Evans gave an interview on ESPN
-- said you gave him the courage to
come out as the first openly gay
football player.
(MORE)
PALOMA (CONT'D)
That is monumental. That is inspirational. You change peoples lives. I could learn things from you. But you could also learn things from me. For example...how to let other people take care of you every once in a while.

Dani, surprised by this observation.

DANI
Something I’m not very good at.

PALOMA
Help me help you, Dr. Santino.
(them)
Surrender, Dani.

DANI
(sighs, realizing)
Resistance is futile.

PALOMA
So... I’ll go get you a black coffee.

Paloma smiles, jets out of the office (Paloma jets everywhere)...Dani calls after her.

DANI
With a smidge of two percent!

Off Dani... eyeing those surprisingly well-organized pens.

INT. V3 - ELEVATOR - DAY

Scene 2

Where Nico and Paloma are alone on the elevator. It’s quiet. Paloma clears her throat, so Nico...

NICO
‘Morning, Paloma.

PALOMA
(beaming smile)
How’s our day going, Mr. Careles?

Nico nods politely... he’s not engaging.

PALOMA (CONT’D)
I’ve always thought elevators can be one of two things: awkward or...very exciting. A lot of energy locked up in a small space.