

AARON

Aaron Schultz. I won a Fulbright and a Rhodes and became fabulously wealthy writing financial software code. But spending my money grew painfully insipid and stale, so now I'm here at Harvard Law.

EMMETT

Well, that's—

PADAMADAN

Sundeep Agrawal Padamadan. In my country I was a benevolent dictator, until the coup d'état. Now I am studying at Harvard Law until my inevitable return. And you may call me "Your Majesty."

EMMETT

Pleased to—

ENID

Enid Hoopes. I did the Peace Corps, building family clinics by hand out of mud and trees. It was hot and exhausting and I loved every minute of it. But Harvard Law needs me more. Because we need more women in power fighting the oppressive, patriarchal—

(ELLE sunnily enters the room.)

ELLE

I love your top! It's so fatigue chic. So how psyched are you guys? Snaps, our first day at Harvard Law.

(silence)

Hi. I'm Elle Woods. And this is Bruiser Woods.

ENID

(grudgingly)

Enid.

ELLE

Oh my God, we both have names that start with an E!

ENID

(sarcastic)

Oh my God, we're, like, practically twins!

(Other STUDENTS snicker.)

EMMETT

(coming to rescue)

We're just going around the room... tell us something about yourself.

ELLE
Me? Okay. So I'm a Gemini with a double Capricorn moon and I have a bachelor's degree from UCLA where I was Sig Ep Sweetheart, president of Delta Nu Sorority and founded the charity Shop for a Cause.

EMMETT
(encouragingly, a good section leader)
Huh. I don't think dogs are exactly allowed in class.

ELLE
(smiles a bit)
Oh, Bruiser's not a dog. Bruiser's family.
(WARNER enters followed by VIVIENNE.)

WARNER
ELLE?!

ELLE
Omigod, Warner! That's so weird; I totally forgot you go here!

WARNER
What are you doing here?

ELLE
I go here.

WARNER
You got in to Harvard?

ELLE
What? Like it's hard?

EMMETT
I think this is yours.
(reading)
Woods, comma, Elle...

ELLE
Is this my social agenda?

EMMETT
No, your academic roster.

ELLE
Right. There's that.
(to WARNER)
Let's totally catch up after class.

(ELLE is about to take a seat when VIVIENNE KENSINGTON sees her. If anyone ever personified the tasteful Talbotts blue blood, it's VIVIENNE. She spots ELLE and her head-to-toe pink.)

VIVIENNE

All that pink you're wearing. Is that even legal?

ELLE

Pink's my signature color.

VIVIENNE

So I gathered.

EMMETT

Callahan should be here any second. Three years ago I was sitting right where you're sitting and I'd heard the same rumors I'm sure you've heard too. Callahan's ruthless. What you really need to know is—

(EMMETT falls silent as CALLAHAN enters.)

CALLAHAN

—You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be used against you.

(The CLASS sits up straight to listen.)

When you choose a career in law you're bound to hear that "a lawyer is a shark." Ignore that. It's simplistic and it's stupid. Only some of you will turn out sharks. The rest... are chum.

(No reaction from the CLASS.)

What's my point? I'll tell you. From this class I will hire four young sharks to work at my billion-dollar law firm. As interns. For me. Virtually guaranteeing a career. Provided you can survive.

(CALLAHAN notices ELLE in the front row.)

Now, Ms...?

ELLE

(brightly)

Woods. Elle Woods.

CALLAHAN

Someone's had their morning coffee. Would you summarize the case of State of Indiana v. Hearne from your reading, please.

ELLE

Okay, who assigns reading for the first day of class?

(Some of the CLASS laughs, but most flinch. CALLAHAN turns slowly.)