

NATALIE SIDES

M'LISS

So Natalie, we rehearse from 9 to 6 Monday through Saturday. Are you ok with the pay noted on the Breakdown?

NATALIE

Its generous and more than I was expecting.

M'LISS

Who's your agent?

NATALIE

Don't have one yet?

M'LISS

Well if you are interested in theatre work you may not need one. Theatre work is stable unlike the movie and TV gigs that dominate Hollywood. Where's your passion?

NATALIE

I love being on stage, I get chills, it's such a high. It's hard work though. I am talented no doubt, but most of my performance skills come from hard work.

M'LISS

You know you were off-key on a few parts of that song.

NATALIE

That was just nerves, but I will work harder than anyone on this project. I am focused, and passionate about the journey. Please give me a chance.

M'LISS

We have a long term plan for this show and the stars of it. If your words are real, then this will be a great home for you. You got the job!

NATALIE

Thank You. I won't disappoint you. I will be here tomorrow at 8.

Natalie screams with excitement and exits.

NATALIE, SERENA, TARA SIDES

Serena grabs a bottle of tequila and starts pouring.

SERENA

Let's have a shot, shall we?

*They all take a shot.
Natalie declines.*

NATALIE

No thanks. Why would she do that?! He's such a pig.

TARA

But he was her pig at one point.

Tara pours another shot.

Music and groaning swirl together.

The girls all run to the wall to listen as they hear the sounds of things breaking.

SERENA

It's amazing who you find yourself sleeping with in this business.

TARA

You'd almost think she was me!

Tara leads the other dancers in a belly laugh.

SERENA

He is so arrogant AND he has a thin wallet. What a turn off.

*The girls all laugh again.
Serena notes that Natalie isn't laughing.*

SERENA
(CONT'D)

What?

NATALIE

Nothing. Sleeping your way to the top is just as hard on your soul as doing it through hard work. It's just very different in the toll it takes. That way's just not

me. This show is just a stepping stone, I've got bigger plans.

TARA

Yeah, we all did, honey. But in the meantime a little Ecstasy never killed anyone...Not the show, these.

Tara holds up a baggie of pills and waves it, offering her one.

NATALIE

No, thanks.

SERENA

Okay, I'll take hers.

Serena snatches the baggie and pulls out a pill. Serena extends it toward Natalie again.

SERENA
(CONT'D)

Sure? This'll feel good.

NATALIE

I don't need that to feel good. I feel good when I've worked hard accomplishing something. My high comes after a great performance.

TARA

Oooo, look who's getting all Oprah on us.

NATALIE

And, what's wrong with that? Shouldn't we all be working on having a better life?

Tara pops the Ecstasy tablet in her mouth.

TARA

Here's to a better life!

SERENA
(to Natalie)

Girl, you better learn to play the game.

NATALIE

That's the last thing I want to do! And you, Serena, your opportunities are here and now. Don't waste

them. You need to get focused on what you're doing with your talent.

SERENA

Oh, please, get off your soap box already. Who's up for hitting a dance club when the show is over? I need to let some steam off!

NATALIE

OK I agree, let's have some fun! Gotta forget about that crap that is going on next door. I'll go.

TARA

I'm in! Turn on some music to get ourselves in the mood!

NATALIE

Yeah let's do Express, I have been trying to convince M'Liss to put it in the tribute show. I just love doing Aguilera!