

HORO.S.K.O.P.E.

Teleplay

By

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. TRAILBLAZERS JOELLE'S OFFICE-MORNING

Magnified zodiac signs on white paper slowly become smaller and smaller until it reaches normal size.

JOELLE V/O

As a Cancer, learn to be subjective
to change.

JOELLE FLASHBACK BEGIN:

INT. TRAILBLAZERS 'HEAVY HITTERS" OFFICE-AFTERNOON-**FLASHBACK**

INSERT: THE COMPUTER SCREEN

CANCER: Change is coming in a flash, be prepared to rock and roll.

A lovely young lady, JOELLE BUCHANAN, early 30's, zodiac CANCER is the master mind behind the horoscope reading. Around the room are different framed cover pages from a well known magazine called Trailblazers.

Various framed Trailblazers magazine covers featuring worldwide iconic figures are coordinated with design on the wall. The editor-in-chief is an authoritative tall clean cut man, BRAXTON HENNESSEY, late 40's, zodiac SCORPIO.

Mr. Hennessey enters the office with a team of two, Joelle Buchanan and Skye Marton, zodiac SAGITTARIUS. Skye quickly stands up out of her seat while Mr. Hennessey works the room.

SKYE

Mr. Hennessy, I'm almost finished
my column for the Blazing Hit List.

Joelle is disgusted by Skye.

JOELLE V/O

Sagittarius people have a way of making sure they consume the attention they need from others. If it's not in the form of being verbally abrupt, it can be just as little as moving around the room in order to be noticed.

Mr. Hennessey's posture becomes extremely stern seeming quite irritable as Skye explains her column.

JOELLE V/O (CONT'D)

Mr. Hennessey's body language reads agitation, Scorpios don't like to be deterred from their mission at hand.

MR.HENNESSEY

Skye, we'll discuss this later, that's not what I'm here for.

Mr. Hennessey eyes soften when looking at Joelle type on her laptop. He grins.

MR.HENNESSEY (CONT'D)

Jo, can I have a word with you in my office please.

Jo gives Mr. Hennessey a warm cozy smile.

JOELLE

Sure, I'm just finishing up this last section of the horoscope page.

MR.HENNESSEY

Take your time, I'll be in the office for about....

Mr. Hennessey rolls his wrist around and views his custom Rolex watch.

MR.HENNESSEY (CONT'D)

...for about another hour.

Skye's jealous stares are quite noticeable as she listens to Joelle and Mr. Hennessey's conversation.

JOELLE

No problem, I'll be there before you know it.

MR.HENNESSEY

That's my girl!!!!

Mr. Hennessey charismatically jaunts away.

After Joelle finishes tightening up her last couple of lines on her laptop, Jo shuts down her computer and gathers her school books together. Jo feels Ms. Marton's snaky eyes hawking her and Joelle quickly turns to Skye.

JOELLE

Can I have my article bible back.

Skye aggressively handles the article bible off of her desk and passes it to Jo. Joelle takes her laptop next to her desktop, puts it into her bag along with the article bible and ensures that she has everything before she leaves.

JOELLE V/O

I never ever write my pieces or valuable information on my work desktop computer because Skye can't be trusted. Sssssnaaaakkeee!!!

INT. TRAILBLAZERS MR.HENNESSEY'S OFFICE-AFTERNOON-**FLASHBACK**

Joelle is a little nervous when she strolls into Mr. Hennessey's neat elegant office. For some reason, Joelle's warm presence knocks the edge off of Braxton.

MR.HENNESSEY

Would you like a beverage?

Jo is smug as she sits down.

JOELLE

No thanks.

MR. HENNESSEY

Joelle, I wanted to speak to you about your internship here at Trailblazers. It was brought to my attention that after next week, your internship will be over with us. After looking at your time here, I have to say that you've been the fire starter that helped give Trailblazer a new twist, and I want to thank you for that.

JOELLE

Thanks Mr. Hennessey.

MR.HENNESSEY

You remind me a lot of myself when I first started here.

JOELLE

I really appreciate having the opportunity to work at Trailblazers and lucky to have been apart of such a great team.

MR.HENNESSEY

You've done exceptionally well writing for different segments of the magazine, but your horoscope page is extremely captivating. You have a niche for it. I've received the most head nods for the horoscope section since you've been writing it.

Joelle becomes a bashful Cancer and smiles from ear to ear as she is showered with compliments.

MR.HENNESSEY (CONT'D)

Believe it or not. This hasn't happened in over a decade.

JOELLE

Wow, that means a lot to me.

MR. HENNESSEY

You're graduating this year from New York University, correct?

JOELLE

Yes, in a month.

MR.HENNESSEY

Well, why not stay and write for one more issue since you have a month left, why are you leaving so soon.

Mr. Hennessy's Scorpion persuasive eye gape and tone is extremely winning.

JOELLE

I'm in the creative writing master's program, so I need time to prepare and finish my thesis.

MR. HENNESSEY

I see. Well, I would like to see you at Trailblazers permanently in two months as the sole writer for the horoscope page.

Jo's eyes light up and is speechless for a moment after being offered a job at such a major magazine company.

JOELLE

I would be more than honored to be apart of Trailblazers "Heavy Hitters Team".

Braxton Hennessey has a boost of Scorpion confidence as his mission is smoothly accomplished.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. NEW YORK UNIVERSITY-EVENING-**FLASHBACK**

Joelle's first class has been cancelled for the day giving her time to hang around until her last class. Jo sketches a Pisces zodiac superhero on a model sheet as she patiently waits.

Joelle decides to check her emails on her phone and comes to find out her class "Writing Great Characters" is cancelled as well. It seems to be Joelle's lucky day. Warm weather, new job, and no class, looks like it's time to celebrate.

EXT. BAYSIDE QUEENS-EVENING-**FLASHBACK**

Joelle picks up take out from a Thai restaurant.

INT. JOELLE AND DRAKE'S HOUSE BAYSIDE-EVENING-**FLASHBACK**

As Joelle steps into the house she hears the television on in the living room. Assuming that her man Drake is in his usual spot watching TV, Jo creeps up quietly to surprise him.

She walks into an empty room only to find a Digital Alpha Masters commercial playing on their 92" flat screen TV. Joelle displays Canceranian dreamy eyes while looking at DRAKE WOODS, late 30's, on T.V.

INSERT - THE TELEVISION

DRAKE

My name is Drake Woods, head of the analysis department, and the spokes person for Digital Alpha Masters. We are the masters that serve you with the best advance technologies suitable for all establishments.

JOELLE V/O

Drake is the type of Virgo who believes that his title and what he does at his job reflects who he is, therefore, Mr. Woods is very involved when it comes to Digital Alpha Masters. Drake did a fantastic job on that particular commercial and I'm extremely proud of him.

JOELLE

(yells)

Drake, I got us your favorite Thai.

Joelle toggles back and forth between the kitchen and dining room setting up the table for dinner. Jo looks at the TV as the intro of the show King of Queens begins to play as a on the television as a rerun.

JOELLE V/O

Not once has Drake missed the King of Queens rerun. Maybe he's upstairs taking a mean one.

(chuckles)

Virgos are creatures of habits and routineers.

Jo takes advantage of the extra time she has for her surprise dinner while Drake is upstairs.

She grabs a bottle of white wine but can't find the wine bottle opener.

CUT TO:

As Jo searches around the home office for the wine opener holding the wine bottle, she walks pass what looks like a shrine of achievements. Drake's PhD Diploma in Computer Science is framed royal style followed by other achievements from New York University and Digital Alpha Masters.

Joelle finds the bottle opener near her desk and her wall of achievements include a New York University Bachelors in English and American Literature as well as her Diploma in Theoretical and Applied Cosmetic Cybernetic at Avalon School of Astrology.

Jo rushes back to the dining room and still no sign of Drake. As Joelle runs upstairs to the bedroom, she hears the television playing in the spare room.

A time line of photos with Drake and Joelle on the hallway walls are revealed as Jo saunters past them and in the mood to joke around and play with Drake like a typical Cancer. She sees that the bathroom is empty.

Sounds of a football game grabs her attention and ascends louder when she gets closer to the bedroom. As Jo opens the door suspiciously, the crowd roars when the commentator yells touch down.

When the door fully extends open, Jo does a triple take as she watches Drake's co-worker Bobby Badger moaning while he has Drake bent over like a running back.

Drake breathes with pleasure and snaps out of it while Joelle is flabbergasted. Drake and Bobby scrimmage around.

DRAKE

Jo, it's not what you think.

FREEZE FRAME:

JOELLE V/O

Virgos. they never cease to amaze me with the deep dark secrets they tend to harbor. Not only is my man bisexual...he's a TAKER.

JOELLE FLASHBACK END.

INT. TRAILBLAZERS JOELLE'S OFFICE-MORNING

Jo breaks out of a mean daydream when her office door is abruptly opened. It's no one but the one and only Skye. As Ms. Marton looks around Joelle's fortress and examines all of Jo's achievements at Trailblazers accomplished in such a short period of time, Skye's eyes become green with envy.

Joelle rolls her eyes at Skye because as a Cancer, Joelle can't help but to feed off of Skye's negative and grimy mood.

JOELLE

Why don't you try knocking sometimes.

SKYE

For what, you're not my BOSS.

JOELLE V/O

Now see...Skye is a Sagittarius who believes that her title allows her to do whatever she wants with no hesitation. I'm not too crazy about Ms. Marton, but only keep it cordial with her because she's Mr. Hennessey's assistant now.

Joelle shakes her head and refuses to engage in an idiotic battle with Ms. Marton.

JOELLE

How may I assist you then Skye?

SKYE

Braxton wants your outline for next month's horoscope page.

Joelle appears to be a bit agitated because she doesn't have it ready. As a Cancer Jo has a bad habit of wearing her heart on her sleeve.

JOELLE
I'm working on it.

Joelle becomes very defensive when Ms. Marton begins to invade her private space.

SKYE
It's due by the end of the day.

Joelle's blood starts to boil, but she keeps it cool, calm, and collect.

JOELLE
I'm fully aware of that Skye.

Before Skye could continue chastising Joelle, Mr. Hennessey in with demands.

MR. HENNESSEY
Joelle, I need you to pull up your horoscope issue from January of this year...and Skye can you book the conference room for me to meet with Mr. Chance for next week like I asked you to do an hour ago.

JOELLE V/O
Boy I'll tell you, Braxton is a true Scorpio, he often takes things over the top especially when it's unnecessary.

Ms. Marton's whole demeanor changes as if she's some sort of Stepford wife.

SKYE
Yes, Mr. Hennessey, I came in to give Joelle a courtesy reminder that her page outline is due today.

Mr. Hennessey lightens up a tad bit all of a sudden.

JOELLE V/O
Ooooooooo!!! The Sagittarian facade is so charismatic that very few seem to notice that it's an act.

MR. HENNESSEY
Thank you Skye.

MR. HENNESSEY (CONT'D)

Joelle, make sure your outline is something worth looking at this time. It's Trailblazer's twenty fifth Anniversary issue, which is a huge accomplishment for our company.

Skye's sneer fades away as Mr. Hennessey heads down the hall. Ms. Marton eyes Joelle as if she were a grim reaper ready to confiscate Jo's soul.

SKYE

Just as fast as they give you a paycheck, they'll give you a pink slip.

Joelle heeds Skye grin as she walks away without closing Jo's door the way she found it. Joelle irritably jumps up to close it and slowly reads into what just occurred.

JOELLE V/O

I don't trust Skye as far as I can spit, she is a shark who hunts for the biggest fish in the sea in order to excel and has been very successful in her ventures of doing so. Mr. Hennessey has been acting strange lately...maybe she's telling the truth.

Joelle walks back to her desk and inspects at her horoscope outline once again in a daze.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. TRAILBLAZERS OFFICE-NOON

Joelle decides to take a trip to the other side of the building. She stops in front of a closed door with a sign that reads Marketing and Public Relations.

She opens it and wanders in and the receptionist is no where to be found. Joelle humbly gestures some acknowledgement to a few people in the department as she advances to a back office.

CUT TO:

The closed door reads a sign Head of Department Aneesa Bayani. Jo attempts to open the door but it is locked.

CUT TO:

Joelle speed dials on her cell phone reading "Bestie" and steps back into her office closing the door.

INT. ANEESA'S HOUSE GARAGE TEANECK, NJ-NOON

A tall gorgeous woman, ANEESA BAYANI, early 30's, in a mechanic jumper is tightening up bolts on chromed out motorcycle rims. Aneesa hears her phone ring, grabs it, and smiles when she answers it.

ANEESA

Jo Jo!!!

INTERCUT BETWEEN JOELLE AND ANEESA.

Joelle yomps back into her office.

JOELLE

Where are you? I was at your office.

CUT TO:

Aneesa polishes the rims while on the phone.

ANEESA

My meeting was cancelled, so I decided to pimp out the rims on Rubie....been wanting to for awhile.

CUT TO:

JOELLE

I need to meet you for lunch.

ANEESA (O.S.)

I wasn't planning on coming back to the city today.

Joelle becomes a little antsy.

JOELLE

It's an emergency, I need to talk to you about a situation involving work.

CUT TO:

ANEESA

What happened?

CUT TO:

Joelle scans the room as if she is being watched.

JOELLE

I can't talk about it right now,
meet me at our favorite restaurant
in a hour.

ANEESA (O.S.)

I'm on my way friend.

Joelle slowly descends to a comfortable state of mind. With Aneesa being the Cancer's fellow sister sign, a Capricorn, she always knows how to make Joelle feel better.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. OUTSIDE SEATING RESTAURANT NEW YORK CITY-AFTERNOON

The summer breeze softly blows on Joelle's face as she sips on a Patron Margarita on the rocks. Jo sees Aneesa swiftly ride by on her gem Rubie.

JOELLE

Dam, Aneesa sure knows how to pimp
out a ride.

Joelle is always amazed by Aneesa's presence and style.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS-AFTERNOON

Rubie is an immaculate beauty, a red hot motorcycle with custom chrome designs on the body. Aneesa installed some high fashion chromed out wheels on her baby. Her motorcycle helmet is sharp, sleek, and matches perfectly with Rubie.

Aneesa parks Rubie, takes off her helmet, swings her beautiful dark hair into place, and runs her fingers through her silky locks.

She gets off her bike wearing layered black and white wife beaters, ripped vintage dark blue jeans, stylish biker boots, a belt that says red hot, and is laced with Goth jewelry accessories.

EXT. OUTSIDE SEATING RESTAURANT NEW YORK CITY-AFTERNOON

Joelle then glances at her outfit that resembles, not plain Jane, but plain ol'Jane. Aneesa stops traffic crossing the street as if she owned the world.

SLOW MOTION/FREEZE FRAME:

JOELLE V/O

When Aneesa walks in the room....
it stops.

A server is fixated on Aneesa coming there way. He places a raspberry mojito opposite Joelle. Aneesa strides over and hugs Jo Jo. She sits and cuffs her glass.

ANEESA

My bestie always on point with my drinks.

Joelle expresses tenderness and Aneesa stares into Joelle's eyes sensing something's wrong.

ANEESA (CONT'D)

Who do I have to fuck up today?

Joelle inches forward in her seat ready to gossip.

JOELLE V/O

And yes, us Cancer's sure love to gossip.

Joelle sighs before speaking.

JOELLE

Skye barged into my office today rude as fuck dropping little hints about my position being in jeopardy. That snake said it in a very sarcastic way as if she knew something I didn't.

Aneesa cringes when she hears Skye's name.

ANEESA

Skye just said that because she's jealous of you and your achievements at Trailblazers. Don't pay any attention to her, she's trying to get under your skin.

The server comes over ready to take their order and addresses Aneesa.

SERVER

Hello ladies, may I take your order.

JOELLE

For appetizers....

He re-adjusts his body facing Joelle.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

We'll have lamb skewers and shrimp scampi appetizers and I'll have the duck comfit salad with cranberry balsamic vinaigrette.

Full attention on Anessa next.

ANEESA

May I have the surf and turf and a side salad with blue cheese.

SERVER

Will that be all.

JOELLE/ANEESA

Yes.

Joelle and Anessa both look at each other and smile.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

I don't know Nee Nee, Mr. Hennessey has been acting strange all of a sudden. I think he is fuckin Skye and she is talking hater raid in his ear. When we are all in the room, it feels like they are tryna act like they not fuckin.

Anessa's eyebrows rise.

ANEESA

You think.

JOELLE

For sure. And to be honest with you, I haven't been too impressed with my horoscope pages lately either. How do you feel about my horoscope page these days?

Joelle eyes roam as she sips her drink trying to avoid Anessa's answer.

JOELLE (CONT'D)

Nee Nee!!

Anessa prepares to tell Joelle the truth.

ANEESA

It hasn't been as good as it used to be on some real talk shit.

Joelle is in silence for a few seconds.

ANEESA (CONT'D)

I think that you just need a break....you've work yourself to death.

JOELLE

Trailblazers and mentoring the girls at the center is a lot of work. I've had my fun, I just want to work on my career.

ANEESA

But you been working like a mad woman ever since you left Drake and I still don't understand that whole situation.

As Aneesa sips on her drink, Joelle is totally disgusted with hearing Drake's name.

JOELLE V/O

Well, no one knows the real reason we broke up.

JOELLE

We had our differences.....he had ways I just couldn't accept and for the record our break up has nothing to do with why I'm busy.

Aneesa lightens up a little when she sees Jo getting combative.

ANEESA

Maybe if you take some time out for yourself and reflect, it will give you a better perspective on things. Take a vacation, start dating again.

Joelle's eye widen as she realizes that Aneesa has raised a valid point.

JOELLE

A vacation does sound kinda nice. I guess after I finish my twenty fifth anniversary page for Trailblazers then I can chillax.

ANEESA

Why don't you come with me to Miami for a four day vacation.

(MORE)

ANEESA (CONT'D)

Trailblazers is flying me out there for the Infinite Innovations event. We can stay at my parents' beach house out there.

Aneesa's smirks at Joelle a bit persuaded by her idea.

JOELLE

Mmmmmm.. it sounds veryyyyy tempting but, my career is on the line, that comes first.

JOELLE V/O

Last time I went on vacation was a year ago for me and Drake's 4 year anniversary just weeks before I caught him getting his back blown out.

ANEESA

Come on, it will be my treat, we haven't been away together in a while.

Jo smiles from ear to ear because the word FREE is an offer the she can't resist.

JOELLE

I guess I can strategize and think of a game plan while sitting on the beach.

The Bff's laugh.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT ONE