

spiraled out of control, a chain of events that . . . resulted in Josh Conway being tied up and assaulted with a gun put in his head, a gun put in his mouth and tortured for eight hours until he escaped.”

3. Ultimately, Defendant Fulbright and Mr. Ergonis were prosecuted and convicted for kidnapping and torturing Mr. Conway. Defendant Fulbright, specifically, was convicted of two (2) separate felony offenses for conspiracy to commit kidnapping and aggravated assault. She was subsequently sent to prison for her crimes.

4. Mr. Conway has since endeavored to move on from the traumatic, near-death experience to which Defendant Fulbright subjected him. He is currently pursuing a law degree at Nashville School of Law, and he volunteers in Nashville Judge Seth Norman’s drug court helping people who struggle with substance abuse issues. He also has a beautiful one-year-old son, works full-time, and serves as an usher in his church.

5. Despite Plaintiff’s best efforts to recover from the harrowing experience of his kidnapping, however, Defendant Fulbright has deliberately made Plaintiff’s recovery impossible and re-subjected him to its trauma. Specifically, in 2015, Defendant Fulbright appeared on a national television program and recounted an utterly fabricated version of her crimes that repeatedly defamed Mr. Conway, blamed him for his own kidnapping and torture, and minimized her own involvement and criminal misconduct despite her prior guilty plea and incontrovertible guilt. Specifically, Defendant Fulbright’s outright lies – which were both premeditated and manufactured with actual malice – falsely accuse Plaintiff, *inter alia*, of having stolen cash from her, stealing tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of her jewelry, and drugging her. Defendant Fulbright’s lies were also libelous and defamatory *per se* and have seriously impugned Plaintiff’s personal and professional reputation. Accordingly, this lawsuit followed.

I. PARTIES

6. The Plaintiff, Mr. Joshua “JT” Conway, is a citizen of Tennessee and a resident of Davidson County.

7. Defendant Kumari Fulbright, Inc. is a for-profit Florida corporation with its principal place of business located at 8350 Savannah Trace Circle, Suite 1806, Tampa, FL 33615. Its registered agent is Defendant Kumari S. Fulbright, whose current mailing address is the same.

8. Defendant Kumari S. Fulbright is the criminal defendant who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit kidnapping and aggravated assault against the Plaintiff in the criminal case *State of Arizona v. Kumari Semone Fulbright*, CR-2007 4823. Defendant Fulbright also appeared as herself on the nationally-broadcast television program “One Bad Choice,” which aired on or about July 16, 2015, and which was subsequently made available to the public on Amazon.com, Youtube.com, Microsoft.com, and numerous other media outlets.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. This Court has jurisdiction over this dispute pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-10-101, Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-10-111, and Tenn. Code Ann. § 20-2-201, *et seq.*

10. Venue in this matter is proper pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 20-4-101(1) and Tenn. Code Ann. § 20-4-104(1).

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. Defendant Kumari S. Fulbright is a former model, Arizona beauty queen, and law student. She was previously engaged to Mr. Robert Ergonis, a convicted felon

who is currently serving a twenty-two-and-one-half (22.5) year prison sentence for his role in kidnapping and torturing the Plaintiff in December of 2007.

12. On or about December 8, 2007, Plaintiff was invited over to the home of Defendant Fulbright, kidnapped at gunpoint by three armed men, tied up, and tortured by Defendant Fulbright and Mr. Ergonis for approximately eight hours until he escaped.

13. According to the summary of Defendant Fulbright's crimes that was admitted by Defendant Fulbright and offered by Defendant Fulbright's own defense attorney during her guilty plea colloquy:

"Mr. Conway was invited over to Ms. Kumari [Fulbright]'s house on Knox, on December 8th of 2007

Mr. Ergonis was heard talking to someone on a cell phone and he indicated that he would call when he was ready for her to get in the shower and to make sure that a key was left under the mat. Our records would show that there were approximately 14 cell phone calls believed to be made on Mr. Ergonis's phone to Ms. Fulbright's phone on December 8th in the early morning hours and in the early afternoon hours on that date, and Mr. Conway then came over to Ms. Fulbright's residence, she then got into the shower.

Mr. Ergonis and Mr. Radde arrived at the Kumari Fulbright residence on Knox and they knocked down Mr. Conway, he is tied up, and taken at gunpoint to another residence Then Mr. Ergonis brings back Mr. Conway to Ms. Fulbright's residence [T]he door is opened by Ms. Fulbright, and Mr. Conway is there and he is still bound, and Ms. Fulbright says, 'where have you been, it's about time.'

And then, during the course of Mr. Conway's presence at Knox, at this point in time the evidence would show that Ms. Fulbright said, 'I have been waiting all week for this.' Mr. Conway was kept at the Knox residence and was bound, and at some point in time [Defendant Fulbright] held a knife or brandished a knife towards his ear and made threats to him about cutting his ear."

14. The facts of this guilty plea colloquy were subsequently admitted in full by Defendant Fulbright in open court. Specifically, Defendant Fulbright was asked: “Do you agree with what your attorney said happened?” She answered: “Yes.” She further stated: “I am guilty.”

15. Of note, the horrifying criminal acts that Ms. Fulbright admitted that she had committed against Mr. Conway during her plea colloquy also barely scratched the surface of her actual involvement, which was even more heinous than she initially acknowledged. For example, during Mr. Ergonis’s trial, Defendant Fulbright was asked under oath: “[While Mr. Conway was tied up,] did you ever threaten Mr. Conway and threaten to cut off his balls?” She was forced to admit: “I did.”

16. For her role in planning and participating in the Plaintiff’s kidnapping and torture, Defendant Fulbright ultimately pleaded guilty to two (2) separate felony offenses for conspiracy to commit kidnapping and aggravated assault. She served approximately two (2) years in prison for her crimes, and she was also ordered to pay the Plaintiff restitution.

17. According to Mr. Ergonis’s prosecutor, Mr. Conway was kidnapped, tortured, and very nearly killed for only one reason: because “Kumari Fulbright started a chain of events with a lie, a chain of events that spiraled out of control, a chain of events that . . . resulted in Josh Conway being tied up and assaulted with a gun put in his head, a gun put in his mouth and tortured for eight hours until he escaped.”

18. The specific lie that precipitated the crimes at issue involved Defendant Fulbright’s false claim that the Plaintiff had been stealing from her. In particular, Defendant Fulbright falsely “told her ex-fiance that Conway stole her jewelry” – some of which her ex-fiancé had given to her as a gift – which was worth tens of thousands of

dollars.

19. Defendant Fulbright's false claim that the Plaintiff stole jewelry from her was made with knowing falsity. Moreover, Defendant Fulbright has known this lie to be false each and every time that she has told it over the past decade.

20. In reality, as Defendant Fulbright is well aware, Defendant Fulbright *asked* the Plaintiff to pawn her jewelry for her because she needed money, and the Plaintiff pawned Defendant Fulbright's jewelry specifically at her request. In fact, the Plaintiff spoke with Defendant Fulbright on the phone about the sale while he was carrying it out.

21. Notably, this fact has previously been proven to a jury. Additionally, robust, overwhelming, and objective evidence proves that Defendant Fulbright has repeatedly told this lie in bad faith, with malicious intent, and with full knowledge that it was false. If made under oath, her claim that Mr. Conway stole her jewelry would be perjurious.

22. For example, verifiable video evidence and simultaneous phone records that were introduced during Mr. Ergonis's trial proved that Mr. Conway was talking to Defendant Fulbright on the phone about her request to sell her jewelry at the moment that he pawned it.

23. During Mr. Ergonis's trial, this conversation between Mr. Conway and Defendant Fulbright was also corroborated in full, under oath, by the pawn shop's owner, who witnessed it firsthand.

24. During Mr. Ergonis's trial, Defendant Fulbright was also forced to admit, under oath, that she never filed a police report concerning her purportedly "stolen" jewelry, which was worth tens of thousands of dollars.

25. Further, during Mr. Ergonis's trial, Defendant Fulbright was forced to admit, under oath, that she never filed an insurance claim concerning her purportedly

stolen jewelry, which – again – was insured and worth tens of thousands of dollars.

26. In sum, considering these objective facts and a great deal of additional evidence, Defendant Fulbright’s claim that the Plaintiff stole her jewelry was – and is – an utter fiction that was deliberately manufactured by Defendant Fulbright for the purpose of maligning the Plaintiff and furthering her own malicious ends.

27. Even today, it is still not entirely clear why Defendant Fulbright manufactured her lie about Mr. Conway stealing her jewelry. During Robert Ergonis’s trial, however, his prosecutor suggested that: “[Defendant Fulbright] was worried that Rob was going to figure out that all the nice jewelry that he’d given her was gone,” and that “she was trying to get back with him.”

28. What is clear beyond any doubt, however, is that Defendant Fulbright lied about Plaintiff stealing her jewelry, and that “that lie started th[e] whole chain of events” leading to Plaintiff’s kidnapping, torture, and near murder.

29. During the time period surrounding her decision to orchestrate Plaintiff’s kidnapping, and when discussing it publicly thereafter, Defendant Fulbright cultivated – and reveled in – a reputation for maliciousness and cruelty. Among other things, she was described publicly as being “out of her mind with anger,” “enraged,” “crazed,” “off the wall,” “nuts,” “manipulat[ive],” “threatening,” and “crazy.” Similarly, Defendant Fulbright described herself in court during Ergonis’s trial as “a stone cold bitch with ice water in her veins.” She has also intimated since that Plaintiff’s kidnapping was “justified.”

30. Additionally, according to Defendant Fulbright herself, she testified that money was “the only thing [she] really seem[ed] to give a fuck about” following Plaintiff’s kidnapping. Defendant Fulbright further testified that she “want[ed] to be a celebrity.”

Following the Plaintiff's kidnapping, Defendant Fulbright also described herself in court as being "very focused on monetary success."

31. According to Mr. Ergonis's attorney, Defendant Fulbright was "trying to work a deal for a reality show" during Mr. Ergonis's trial in furtherance of her ambition to use Plaintiff's kidnapping to help her become a wealthy celebrity. Mr. Ergonis's attorney further stated that "she's going to write a book" about Plaintiff's kidnapping.

32. After being released from prison, Defendant Fulbright's plans "to work a deal for a reality show" involving Mr. Conway's kidnapping came to fruition.

33. Specifically, on or about July 16, 2015, Defendant Fulbright appeared on the nationally-broadcast television program "One Bad Choice" in an episode about Plaintiff's kidnapping entitled "Kumari Fulbright" that was viewed by more than half a million people. The episode was subsequently made available to the public on Amazon.com, Youtube.com, Microsoft.com, and numerous other media outlets.

34. Regrettably, the episode at issue remains available for public viewing on several unauthorized third-party websites, such as the following: <http://www.movie25.sr/watch-one-bad-choice-s01e04-online-free/>.

35. A full, accurate and complete transcript of the episode at issue, copied verbatim by undersigned counsel, is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.¹

36. The episode recounts the story of the Plaintiff's kidnapping, violent torture, and near-murder, and it is told exclusively from Defendant Fulbright's perspective. Throughout the episode, Defendant Fulbright repeatedly states – falsely – that the

¹ The transcript of the episode at issue was previously available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBFa7cMYE0k&list=ELgtsULw4bxaM51XwRR7s90g&index=2>.

Plaintiff stole money from her, drugged her, and stole her jewelry, leading to her decision to have the Plaintiff kidnapped.

37. For example, at various points during the episode, Defendant Fulbright stated: (1) “[M]y jewelry was in that pouch. . . . I knew Josh was the only person who had access to my house. . . . It all became clear. Josh was lying and stealing from me”; (2) “Josh was to blame for the night I blacked out and my cash went missing,” (3) “You [while speaking to Plaintiff] drugged me so you could steal \$300”; and (4) “I wanted [Plaintiff] to feel the pain that he had inflicted on me through this betrayal.” With respect to Plaintiff’s kidnapping and torture, Defendant Fulbright also states: “I thought I was justified.”

38. Defendant Fulbright’s statements during the July 2015 broadcast contained several material and deliberate falsehoods concerning Plaintiff. In particular:

39. At no point did Plaintiff ever steal money from Defendant Fulbright;

40. At no point did Plaintiff ever drug Defendant Fulbright; and

41. At no point did Plaintiff ever steal jewelry from Defendant Fulbright. In fact, as noted above, at no point was Defendant Fulbright’s jewelry ever even stolen. To the contrary – as prosecutors proved during Mr. Ergonis’s trial – her jewelry was pawned at her request.

42. Upon information and belief, Defendant Fulbright’s “reality” television appearance and false statements about Plaintiff were made for the express purpose of defaming and injuring Plaintiff, enhancing Defendant Fulbright’s personal reputation, and enriching and benefitting Defendant Kumari Fulbright, Inc., a for-profit corporation of which Defendant Fulbright is an officer, director, and shareholder.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

1. Libel Per Se

43. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

44. Defendant Fulbright, for her own benefit, for the benefit of Defendant Kumari Fulbright, Inc., and with specific intent to harm Plaintiff, repeatedly broadcast false statements about Plaintiff on a national media program with actual malice; with full knowledge that the statements were false; with reckless disregard for their accuracy; and/or with negligent disregard for their falsity.

45. Defendant Fulbright specifically caused the above-referenced statements about the Plaintiff to be publicized to a national television audience. Additionally, the publication of Defendant Fulbright's statements to a national television audience that included the Plaintiff and thousands of other viewers in the Nashville media market during and after July 2015 was both reasonably foreseeable and intended.

46. Defendant Fulbright's false statements concerning Plaintiff, which accused Plaintiff, *inter alia*, of committing several crimes involving moral turpitude, were all libelous and defamatory *per se*.

47. Defendant Fulbright's false statements about Plaintiff have caused Plaintiff to suffer actual injury to both his personal and professional reputation.

2. Defamation By Implication

48. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

49. In appearing on a nationally televised broadcast and causing false statements about Plaintiff to be publicized to hundreds of thousands of viewers, Defendant Fulbright, for her own benefit and for the benefit of Defendant Kumari Fulbright, Inc., implied facts about Plaintiff that were not true.

50. Defendant Fulbright's innuendo implied a defamatory connection concerning Plaintiff that caused Plaintiff to suffer actual injury to his personal and professional reputation.

3. False Light

51. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

52. By the act of publicizing materially false statements of and concerning Plaintiff, Defendant Fulbright, for her own benefit and for the benefit of Defendant Kumari Fulbright, Inc., gave publicity to events involving Plaintiff that placed Plaintiff before the public in a false light.

53. The false light in which the Plaintiff was placed would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.

54. Defendant Fulbright had knowledge of, or, in the alternative, acted with reckless or negligent disregard as to, the falsity of the publicized matters concerning Plaintiff.

55. The false statements that Defendant Fulbright made about Plaintiff were seriously offensive and have caused actual injury to the integrity of Plaintiff's right to privacy.

4. Tennessee Consumer Protection Act

56. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

57. Defendants individually and collectively disparaged the services or business of the Plaintiff by making false or misleading representations of fact about him.

58. The Plaintiff has suffered actual injury as a result of Defendants' actions.

5. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

59. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

60. Defendant Fulbright's false statements about Plaintiff caused Plaintiff to suffer severe emotional distress.

61. Defendant Fulbright's actions were intentional and/or reckless.

62. Defendant Fulbright's conduct was so outrageous that it is not tolerated by a civil society.

63. Defendant Fulbright's conduct caused serious mental injury to Plaintiff.

64. Defendant Fulbright's conduct caused a significant impairment to Plaintiff's daily life.

65. Plaintiff is a normally constituted person whose injuries are supported by medical and/or scientific proof.

6. Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress

66. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

67. In the alternative, Defendant Fulbright negligently made false statements about Plaintiff.

68. Defendant Fulbright's conduct caused serious mental injury to Plaintiff.

69. Defendant Fulbright's conduct caused a significant impairment to Plaintiff's daily life.

70. Plaintiff is a normally constituted person whose injuries are supported by medical and/or scientific proof.

7. Battery

71. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

72. While Plaintiff was restrained, and without Plaintiff's consent, Defendant Fulbright intentionally, unlawfully, and harmfully made contact with the body of Plaintiff by, *inter alia*, hitting him, biting him, putting her nails into his neck, and putting a knife in his ear.

73. Defendant Fulbright's actions caused Plaintiff harm.

8. Assault

74. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

75. During Plaintiff's kidnapping, Defendant Fulbright made an intentional attempt, or the unmistakable appearance of an intentional attempt, to do harm to or to frighten Plaintiff by brandishing a knife in front of him while he was restrained and by threatening "to cut off his balls."

76. At the time that Defendant Fulbright threatened “to cut off [Plaintiff’s] balls,” Defendant Fulbright had the present ability and/or gave the unmistakable appearance of the present ability to cause Plaintiff harm or fright.

77. Defendant Fulbright’s actions caused Plaintiff harm.

9. False Imprisonment

78. The Plaintiff incorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

79. During Plaintiff’s kidnapping, Defendant Fulbright intentionally and unlawfully restrained, confined and/or detained Plaintiff and compelled him to stay and/or to go somewhere against his will.

80. To accomplish this result, Defendant Fulbright used force and/or the threat of force against Plaintiff.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

1. That Defendant Fulbright publicly retract all of the above-referenced defamatory statements;
2. That this Court permanently enjoin Defendant Fulbright from repeating any of the above-referenced defamatory statements;
3. All compensatory, consequential and incidental damages to which the Plaintiff is entitled in an amount not less than \$1,250,000.00;
4. Punitive damages in an amount not less than \$3,750,000.00;

5. Treble damages and attorneys' fees pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-18-109;
6. Disgorgement of all proceeds arising from Defendant Fulbright's defamatory statements about Plaintiff;
7. That to the extent that Defendant Fulbright is unable to satisfy the judgment issued, the assets of Defendant Kumari Fulbright, Inc. be sold to satisfy the judgment;
8. A jury to try this cause;
9. Post-judgment interest;
10. Discretionary costs;
11. That all costs be taxed against the Defendants; and
12. All such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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1803 Broadway, Suite #531
Nashville, TN 37203
daniel.a.horwitz@gmail.com
(615) 739-2888
Counsel for Plaintiff JT Conway

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 8th day of March, 2016, a copy of the foregoing was sent via certified mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

Kumari S. Fulbright
8350 Savannah Trace Circle, Suite 1806
Tampa, FL 33615

Kumari Fulbright, Inc.
C/O Kumari Fulbright, Registered Agent
8350 Savannah Trace Circle, Suite 1806
Tampa, FL 33615

Kumari S. Fulbright
P.O. Box 261567
Tampa, FL, 33685-1567

By: 
Daniel A. Horwitz, Esq.

Exhibit A

Transcript of “One Bad Choice” Episode: Kumari Fulbright¹

0:25

(Kumari Fulbright) I had worked so hard and so long

0:29

for everything I achieved in my life.

0:31

(grunting and groaning)

0:34

But when someone I loved betrayed me...

0:37

You blame me?

0:37

Just stop!

0:38

(Kumari) I made a decision

0:40

that I'll regret forever.

0:41

(crying)

0:43

(Kumari) And just like that,

0:44

my entire world came tumbling down.

0:47

I'm so stupid! I'm so stupid!

0:50

♪♪

1:17

My name is Kumari Fulbright.

1:19

My family is originally from Michigan

1:22

and I went to college

1:24

at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

1:26

I was a 4.0 student.

¹ The transcript of this episode was previously available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBFa7cMYE0k&list=ELgtsULw4bxaM51XwRR7s90g&index=2> and copied and pasted verbatim by counsel.

1:28

I've been very competitive in everything that I do.

1:31

Yeah? Okay, I'll be right down.

1:34

(Kumari) I was just really ambitious and pushed myself hard.

1:38

(rap music playing)

1:46

(Kumari) I even started my own business.

1:49

I would rent out nightclubs

1:51

and bring in different artists

1:54

and deejays for the students to come.

1:56

Hey, Jim, girls only for the next few minutes.

1:59

It's turning into a sausage party in here.

2:02

(Kumari) Anyone from the outside looking in could see,

2:05

this girl has way too much on her plate.

2:07

It just became my normal to be extremely busy.

2:12

It was quite a balancing act.

2:14

I met Rob at a casino, and he was very confident.

2:20

Hey, babe.

2:20

Hi!

2:23

I had just recently turned 21.

2:25

He was clearly much older than me,

2:28

but as someone who had

2:29

a mature personality, it was a good fit.

2:32

The age difference kind of melted away.

2:34

The movers left.

2:35

Our stuff's on the way to Tucson,

2:36

except they forgot to pack this.

2:40

I thought you could use it.

2:41

Oh, babe, thank you.

2:44

Rob was really up front with me

2:46

that he had had some run-ins with the law.

2:48

He had used drugs in the past.

2:50

He had even been to prison for drug offenses,

2:53

but that was a long time before.

2:55

Now I trusted him with my life.

2:58

He really was, I think,

2:59

the proverbial bad boy with a heart of gold.

3:01

I've really got to get back to work.

3:03

Yeah, okay.

3:03

I'm not gonna be here late tonight, though.

3:06

Okay.

3:06

And I love this.

3:08

Thank you. Mwah!

3:12

(Kumari) After I graduated from Michigan,

3:14

I moved to Tucson to start law school.

3:17

My decision to go to Arizona was very much so based

3:21

on my relationship with Rob.

3:22

The most important thing.

3:22

Oh, the big "K."

3:25

This is important.

3:25

Yes.

3:27

I've had it since college.

3:28

Yes. Thank God the big "K" made it.

3:30

He had a residence in Arizona.

3:33

I didn't want to introduce long distance into the equation.

3:39

Spit it out.

3:39

What?

3:42

Don't "what" me.

3:44

We said this was gonna be a non-smoking house now.

3:46

Okay.

3:46

You swore on your mother.

3:48

Okay, all right.

3:48

(coughing)

3:50

I'd always been very attracted to guys with an edge,

3:54

but sometimes that made Rob difficult to deal with.

3:58

(instructor) Tort reform is generally considered

4:02

a tool of the civil code.

4:04

However, it also has an impact

4:06

on criminal law.

4:07

(Kumari) It didn't help that I was insanely busy.

4:10

Once law school began, I didn't sleep at all.

4:13

I would stay up studying till 2:30 in the morning,

4:16

go to sleep, wake up again at 5:00

4:19

to study before class.

4:20

So, can someone please talk about how tort reform

4:23

might also impact the criminal code as well?

4:26

Kumari.

4:27

I was super, super involved.

4:29

Every organization that they had,

4:31

I wanted to participate in.

4:32

(overlapping chatter)

4:37

In addition to all of the academic stuff,

4:39

I was also really involved

4:41

with the social aspect of law school,

4:43

and that's when things with Rob

4:45

started to take a turn for the worse.

4:47

There you are.

4:47

(imitates beatboxing)

4:50

Yeah, it's pretty unpretty.

4:52

All these 12-year-old

4:54

Judge Judy wanna-bes buzzing around.

4:57

I look like a chaperone.

4:57

(laughing)

4:59

No, what you look like is a narc.

5:02

Little by little,

5:04

we were starting to live separate lives.

5:06

I stick out like a sore thumb in my own house.

5:08

Well, then I guess you better leave.

5:11

(laughing) I'm kidding.

5:14

But we do need ice.

5:15

Please?

5:15

Okay.

5:20

(Kumari) I told you about this.

5:24

I'm on the law school prom committee,

5:25

so Saturday, a few of us

5:26

are gonna road-trip to Sedona,

5:28

do brainstorming, happy hour--

5:30

not necessarily in that order.

5:32

I know, but Saturday?

5:34

What, do we have something?

5:35

Tahoe's next weekend.

5:36

Yeah, no, no, I know. It's nothing.

5:38

It's just, uh, well,

5:40

if you're not gonna be around on Saturday,

5:43

(laughing) Rob.

5:43

(laughing)

5:45

What are you doing?

5:46

It may not be the most expensive piece

5:47

I ever gave you, but...

5:49

maybe it's the most valuable, you know?

5:51

So to speak.

5:53

Take it out for a spin.

5:53

Oh!

5:54

(Kumari) I didn't see the proposal coming,

5:56

despite the fact we had been

5:58

in a relationship for some time.

6:00

No good?

6:00

No, no, no, no, no.

6:03

It's good. It's-- it's great.

6:04

It's gorgeous. Thank you.

6:06

"Thank you." Is that a yes?

6:09

Oh, my God, yes, yes, yes, yes, it's a yes.

6:11

Oh, my God. Oh! Thank you.

6:15

(Kumari) He caught me so off-guard.

6:18

I think that's the reason I said yes.

6:21

I did love him.

6:23

I just didn't feel like we were at a strong enough point

6:26

to say, hey, let's take this step.

6:28

I wasn't sure if this was the right decision for me.

6:34

So, Mom and Dad are good with me getting engaged?

6:37

(Blake) Yeah.

6:38

They didn't say anything bad?

6:41

You mean, 'cause he's 20 years older than you,

6:43

was married before and has a couple kids?

6:46

Nah.

6:47

Look, as sketchy as he might be,

6:51

it takes about ten seconds

6:52

to see that Rob loves you more than life.

6:56

No joke-- he would do anything for you.

7:00

Kumari, you there?

7:04

What's wrong?

7:06

It just doesn't feel right.

7:10

I feel like Rob did this to try to fix what's wrong

7:13

or, like, lay claim to me or something.

7:16

He's so jealous of the guys I go to school with.

7:21

I don't know if I can spend

7:22

my entire life with him, Blake.

7:25

(Blake) Ah, you don't have to. You can say no.

7:29

Can I?

7:34

(Kumari) After Rob proposed, our relationship continued

7:38

but it started to show signs of deterioration.

7:42

We were headed for a blow-out.

7:44

How many times? How many goddamn times, Rob?

7:44

What?

7:50

I wake up to this stench of you disrespecting me, lying to me.

7:55

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Lying to you?

7:58

This is just such the perfect symbol

8:02

of everything that is wrong.

8:04

(Kumari) All of my frustrations with Rob

8:07

came out at once and I lost it.

8:11

You know what, Kumari? Take a breath.

8:12

What am I, a child?

8:14

You think you can just patronize me,

8:16

wave a shiny object in my face

8:18

just to shut me up?

8:19

Really? You think I can shut you up?

8:21

You think anyone can shut you up?

8:35

(Kumari) Even though it was something that was so insignificant,

8:37

I knew I was done.

8:39

I just had a complete diva hissy fit.

8:41

Babe, can we just talk about this, please?

8:43

How did I ever think that this was gonna work?

8:45

Oh, come on, look. Look, I'm sorry.

8:47

Look, I won't--

8:48

Stop packing for a second, please.

8:49

I won't smoke in the house anymore, okay?

8:51

I promise.

8:51

Really, Rob?

8:53

You think this is just about your cigar?

8:53

Look--

8:55

I was fed up with everything.

8:57

Okay, please, can you just stop packing

8:58

for a second and talk to me?

8:59

I'm done talking, Rob.

9:02

Walking away from that relationship was difficult.

9:05

Rob really loved me, but I knew I couldn't be married to him.

9:08

No! Are you not listening to me?

9:10

Just stop, will you?

9:13

Get out of my way.

9:16

Kumari.

9:17

And that was how we ended it.

9:21

But walking away from him would lead me down a path

9:24

I never would have imagined--

9:26

a path that would nearly destroy us both.

9:34

I'm not one of those guys

9:35

who's just trying to get into your pants.

9:37

I like you.

9:39

That stuff meant a lot to me!

9:41

Let him tell me.

9:43

Here. Now.

9:50

♪♪

9:54

We're just two people having a drink.

9:56

Just casual.

9:57

Just friends. Just friends.

9:59

(Kumari) Once Rob and I had broken up,

10:00

we didn't have a lot of contact.

10:02

I was back in the throes of my busy life.

10:05

I know what you're doing.

10:05

What?

10:07

I was just complimenting your hair.

10:07

Uh-huh.

10:09

Now, wait a minute.

10:10

Did you think this was a date?

10:11

(laughing)

10:12

(Kumari) I met Josh through a mutual friend.

10:15

That is such BS.

10:15

Okay, guilty.

10:19

I am trying to get into your pants.

10:19

(laughing)

10:22

Someday, a respectfully lengthy

10:25

period of time from now,

10:26

I would like very much to make my way

10:29

to the general vicinity of your pants.

10:31

(laughing) Okay.

10:33

Points for honesty.

10:36

I was really feeling like I shouldn't

10:38

be involved with anybody at the time.

10:40

It was just too soon after dating Rob,

10:42

but Josh was very persistent.

10:45

Permission to rephrase?

10:48

I'm not one of those guys

10:50

who's just trying to get into your pants.

10:52

I like you.

10:54

From the first second we met, it was--

10:57

I swear, it was like at first sight.

10:59

(laughing) "Like at first sight"?

11:03

Josh was completely different

11:04

from anybody that I'd ever dated.

11:07

He was just quite a charmer.

11:09

Okay, listen.

11:11

I think you know I'm coming off of a big breakup.

11:14

I think you don't know that while I'm super flattered,

11:20

I'm also super busy, so if you want to date me...

11:25

I do.

11:26

It's gonna mean me out in my office

11:29

and you out in the living room,

11:31

watching college football or whatever.

11:35

Stipulated. Where do I sign?

11:37

Oh, well, lucky for you,

11:38

I carry around contracts, so...

11:41

Okay, bust 'em out.

11:41

Oh, really?

11:43

Yeah.

11:43

Okay.

11:45

I was really into him, and I was really excited

11:48

by the idea of a new chapter.

11:53

Yeah. This weekend?

11:56

(Kumari) After a couple of months,

11:58

Josh and I were seeing each other a lot.

12:00

Josh was doing all of these things

12:03

to really be a long-term boyfriend.

12:05

I don't know. That's gonna--

12:07

Yeah, but Phoenix?

12:08

(Kumari) One day, I got a phone call

12:10

from a modeling agent

12:12

for a potential gig out of town.

12:14

He asked me to come up

12:16

and meet the editor of a magazine,

12:17

and I said, I just can't make it.

12:19

You know I would if I could,

12:20

but I've got finals next week.

12:22

I'll take you.

12:22

What?

12:24

Yeah, I'll drive.

12:24

Really?

12:26

Yeah, you could study on the way

12:27

and, I mean, don't get sick

12:30

and puke on my fine Corinthian leather, but...

12:32

Thank you.

12:34

(Kumari) Josh really saw what I was looking for,

12:37

and he made a point to be that.

12:40

Forget what I just said.

12:43

My amazing boyfriend's gonna save the day.

12:49

(Kumari) I had the meeting. It was very successful.

12:53

Josh was there to pick me up.

12:55

Thank you so much for driving me tonight.

12:59

It was really no problem.

13:01

It was kind of fun.

13:03

On the way back, I'm doing my study thing

13:05

and all of a sudden, I start to feel really dizzy,

13:08

and eventually, I guess I blacked out.

13:20

(Kumari) I wake up very disoriented.

13:23

Josh?

13:28

Josh!

13:32

Hey, how are you feeling?

13:36

Totally out of it. What happened?

13:39

Uh, you passed out last night.

13:41

You must have drank a ton.

13:43

I only had one drink that I didn't even complete.

13:46

It was very strange.

13:48

Have you seen--? I had, like, \$300 in here.

13:52

What the hell?

13:54

That's weird. I'll go check my car.

13:54

Okay.

14:01

Remember when we pulled over

14:02

and your purse fell out?

14:07

No. I mean, God, I must have really blacked out.

14:11

None of this I remember,

14:13

and none of it sounded right.

14:17

Did you take your allergy medicine before you drank?

14:21

No, I didn't take anything and I barely drank.

14:25

Do you think that guy slipped you something?

14:32

I'll go check the car.

14:40

I was just completely at a loss.

14:46

I can't believe it's not in here.

14:49

(Kumari) That \$300 never turned up.

14:51

What's up?

14:53

(Kumari) And weird things kept on happening.

14:56

My ring-- my canary yellow ring.

14:58

I wanted to bring it home

15:00

to my mom's cleaning-- her guy.

15:01

Okay, all my other jewelry's in here, except that.

15:05

I looked through this thing, like, a kajillion times.

15:08

(Kumari) I didn't know if it was because I was busy or what,

15:12

but I never lose things that matter to me.

15:14

I didn't even know you had a canary ring,

15:16

and "kajillion"?

15:18

Canary yellow... diamond.

15:20

You've commented on it before.

15:23

Last week.

15:26

I don't know.

15:27

Next week, exams will be over.

15:29

I'll clean up my house. It'll turn up. No big deal.

15:31

You're gonna miss your flight if you don't hurry up.

15:34

Oh, all right.

15:36

Um, don't forget to water the plants,

15:37

and take in the mail-- you have the keys?

15:38

Mm-hmm.

15:38

Okay.

15:39

Start the car and I'll be 30 seconds behind you.

15:41

(laughing) Hurry up.

15:41

Okay.

15:44

(Kumari) Josh was taking care of my place

15:46

while I went to see my family for Thanksgiving,

15:49

and I was grateful for the help.

15:59

(Kumari) When I got back from visiting my family,

16:03

I'd stopped stressing about the missing ring

16:05

until I got an even bigger shock.

16:12

Hey, babe, did you take my jewelry--

16:16

to be fixed, I mean?

16:18

(Josh) No, no, I didn't.

16:20

Um, where is it?

16:25

Your ring? I thought you lost it.

16:28

Not the ring.

16:29

The rest of my jewelry was in that pouch.

16:32

I left it on the dresser.

16:34

Maybe it's out here?

16:40

(Kumari) I really wasn't sure what to think,

16:44

but I knew Josh was the only person

16:46

who had access to my house.

16:50

Maybe somebody broke into the place

16:53

or maybe the housekeeper took it?

16:57

No one broke in, Josh.

17:01

Betty's been gone for two weeks.

17:05

Did you take it?

17:07

What?

17:12

Josh, if you did, just--

17:14

Kumari, I swear to God, I didn't take your stuff.

17:17

Look, I'll help you look around for it,

17:18

but you pointing the finger at me is--

17:20

Who else is there to point a finger at?

17:24

Look, did you need money or something?

17:26

No, and I don't need your insulting implications either.

17:31

(Kumari) It all became clear.

17:33

Josh was lying and stealing from me.

17:36

If you made a mistake, we can fix it.

17:40

Kumari, I swear. Look in my eyes.

17:43

I didn't take your stuff.

17:48

I gave him what I felt, like, every opportunity

17:51

to just kind of, like, come clean and say,

17:53

"Oh, gosh, I made a mistake."

17:54

That stuff meant a lot to me!

17:56

But I didn't take your st--

17:57

I can't believe you would do this!

18:00

Kumari.

18:00

I trusted you.

18:02

Are you being serious?

18:02

Get out.

18:04

Get out, Josh. Get out!

18:10

(Kumari) I didn't want to believe Josh had done this.

18:15

This man who I'd let into my life

18:17

and fallen in love with had betrayed me.

18:20

That's when I made the choice

18:22

that would throw my entire life into a tailspin.

18:32

So, this comically large flower is for you.

18:35

Confessed?

18:47

I don't know, Rob.

18:48

Josh just has the way about him.

18:56

Yeah? What way is that?

18:58

He could convince you that the sky is red.

19:01

(Kumari) I called my ex-boyfriend Rob for help.

19:04

He had been my go-to for so many years.

19:08

He always protected me and looked after me.

19:11

He had been to prison.

19:13

He was street smart and could be intimidating.

19:16

He'd know what to do.

19:17

You don't want to go to the cops?

19:17

No.

19:19

(Kumari) I also told Rob that I was sure

19:22

Josh was to blame for the night I blacked out

19:24

and my cash went missing.

19:25

'Cause now you're thinking there's this other thing

19:27

where maybe he drugged you.

19:28

And he steals how much?

19:30

\$300.

19:33

But, please, no cops.

19:34

I don't want to get him in trouble.

19:35

I just... I just want my stuff back.

19:41

I could get him over here.

19:43

Maybe you could talk to him?

19:45

Just a man-to-man kind of thing?

19:49

Sort of scare him straight?

19:51

(Kumari) There was no real idea
19:54
how he would go about talking to him,
19:56
but I thought, just Rob's presence
20:00
and confrontation would be all it would be.
20:05
Okay.
20:10
You know I'd do anything for you, right?
20:17
He said he was on his way.
20:20
Okay.
20:20
(doorbell ringing)
20:22
He's here.
20:25
You're on the corner?
20:26
Okay, the front door's unlocked.
20:28
I'm gonna be in the bathroom. Okay.
20:32
(Kumari) I felt really violated by Josh.
20:35
I was hurt, I was angry.
20:37
I wanted my stuff back and him out of my life.
20:43
Hey.
20:43
Hi.
20:45
So, this comically large flower is for you.
20:48
Thanks. Come in.
20:58
Listen, I don't want to beat a dead horse

21:01
and we can chalk it up to whatever,
21:04
but those pieces meant the world to me, Josh.
21:06
I know they did, Ku,
21:08
and I don't want to beat a dead horse either,
21:10
but I didn't take them.
21:12
Okay.
21:13
He continues to deny it.
21:16
I'm just boiling on the inside,
21:18
thinking about what he had done.
21:20
Hang out, and when I'm out,
21:23
we can go see the Christmas lights at the armory.
21:29
(Kumari) I just figured by the time I finished my shower,
21:33
Rob would have everything settled with Josh,
21:37
but that's when everything
21:39
began spinning out of control.
21:41
(sports playing on TV)
21:43
Hey, Josh, I'm Rob.
21:45
I think you've heard of me.
21:47
Get up. Get up!
21:48
Wh--wh--what are you doing?
21:50

I heard there's some jewelry missing.

21:51

I--I swear, I--

21:53

How about you swear not to speak

21:54

until spoken to-- you got that?

21:56

Nod your head so I know you got it.

21:58

Yeah?

22:00

Come on, Josh, we're gonna take a little ride.

22:04

You're just gonna be a steady camper, yeah?

22:04

Yeah.

22:17

(Kumari) When I came out of the shower, they were gone.

22:21

I didn't know what Rob had planned.

22:25

I thought maybe they went to Josh's house

22:29

to go get the jewelry.

22:30

Rob, where are you?

22:33

We're at my place.

22:33

That is not what--

22:34

Kumari, he confessed.

22:34

Confessed?

22:38

To what, exa--?

22:40

No, you know what?

22:42

Let him tell me.

22:44

Here. Now.

22:48

(Kumari) I just felt all my muscles tense up

22:51

and I filled with an angry passion.

22:55

I just wish I didn't lose control in such a big way.

23:02

(phone clatters on floor)

23:05

(breathing heavily)

23:11

You're just gonna keep him here?

23:13

We can't let him go.

23:17

(crying) I'm so stupid, I'm so stupid.

23:41

(Kumari) Hearing Rob say, Josh confessed,

23:43

he took your jewelry, just triggered rage.

23:46

You son of a bitch! I trusted you!

23:50

Listen--

23:50

No! "Listen"? "Listen"?

23:53

You sat right here and said

23:55

you had no idea what I was talking about.

23:58

You made me feel like the crazy one!

24:03

I owed this dude-- a bad dude-- a lot of money.

24:06

I'm sorry. I panicked.

24:09

To buy some more time,

24:10

I hit a couple of pawn shops.

24:13

Only an hour prior,

24:14

he was sitting on my couch and denying it.

24:18

I didn't know I could get that angry,

24:21

but I wanted revenge.

24:24

I was in trouble-- I swear to God.

24:26

No! That wasn't the trouble.

24:29

This is the trouble.

24:31

I wanted to punish him.

24:32

I wanted him to feel the pain

24:34

that he had inflicted on me through this betrayal.

24:37

I swear to God--

24:37

All right, let's settle down.

24:38

Settle down. Take a breath.

24:40

(Kumari) I was on a roller-coaster of emotions

24:42

from heartbreak to anger.

24:46

You drugged me so you could steal \$300?

24:49

You flat blamed me for blacking out!

24:52

You blamed me?

24:52

It's done!

24:53

Listen to me. Listen.

24:55

The best thing we can do

24:56

is sit tight till Monday, okay?

24:58

The pawn shops open at 9:00.

24:59

We'll get there bright and early.

25:01

We'll get your ring back, we'll get it all back,

25:02

and then we'll get on with our lives, all right?

25:04

You're just gonna keep him here?

25:05

We can't let him go.

25:07

(Kumari) The pawn shops where he said he'd taken the things

25:10

are now closed.

25:11

What do we do?

25:13

The only option was to wait until Monday morning.

25:19

(football game playing on TV)

25:25

(Kumari) It's a very casual scene.

25:28

We order pizza.

25:30

Just people sitting around

25:33

and not really knowing what they're doing.

25:36

It spun into a full-blown kidnapping,

25:39

and I thought I was justified.

25:47

Ku, I've got to get Dave back.

25:49

It won't be long. You okay with this?

25:54

Yeah. Yeah, I'm good.

25:59

If he tries to escape, shoot him in the legs.

26:02

Nothing above the waist.

26:05

(Kumari) I didn't know there was gonna be any tying up

26:08

or any guns.

26:09

The moment that I saw that, I could have stopped it.

26:12

I could have said, what's going on?

26:14

And I didn't make that choice.

26:17

I'm really sorry.

26:20

Ku, I never meant to hurt you.

26:23

I was just scared.

26:25

And I'm screwed, and I'm sorry.

26:31

I love you. You know that.

26:33

No, I don't know that.

26:38

And I don't know how this got so crazy.

26:43

Anyway, Monday, we'll go get everything

26:45

and we'll figure it out from there.

26:48

Just untie me, please.

26:51

You want to know when I untie you?

26:54

Monday.

26:57

(Kumari) I should have let him go then.

26:59

I just wasn't thinking clearly.

27:14

Then, can I get some pizza, please?

27:18

Seriously, I'm starving.

27:21

And you know I am,

27:23

'cause it's that crap pizza from Clemmy's.

27:49

Can you believe it?

27:50

I mean, eating Clemmy's.

27:56

(both laugh lightly)

28:04

I'm sorry.

28:08

I'm really sorry, Ku.

28:10

I never meant to hurt you.

28:11

I'm serious.

28:15

I shouldn't have stole it and I shouldn't have

28:17

taken it in the first place

28:18

and I shouldn't have lied to you.

28:19

I'm sorry.

28:21

Josh...

28:30

(grunting and groaning)

28:36

(Kumari) I've had this man tied up in my living room for hours.

28:41

Who knows what he may do?

28:43

(grunting and groaning)

28:48

(gunshot)

28:56

(grunting and groaning)

28:59

(gunshot)

29:02

(Kumari) After the gun went off,

29:03

Josh and I looked up at each other,

29:06

like a moment of, are you okay?

29:09

(grunting and groaning)

29:14

Josh!

29:15

Help!

29:17

(Kumari) When Josh took possession of the gun,

29:20

all emotions that I felt previously

29:22

were replaced by fear.

29:23

Go!

29:26

Help! Call 911!

29:29

(knocking)

29:30

Somebody!

29:35

(Kumari) It was in that moment panic washed over me.

29:41

(Josh) This lady over here.

29:44

(Kumari) And I'd realized what I'd done

29:47

and I realized the gravity of the situation.

29:55

As I was running back to my place,

29:58

it was instinctual.

30:03

I called my brother in Florida.

30:05

(line ringing)

30:10

(Blake) Hello?

30:11

Hey, it's me.

30:11

(sirens in distance)

30:14

I'm--I'm so stupid, I'm so stupid.

30:17

I'm so stupid. (crying)

30:19

(sirens)

30:30

(Kumari) I'm standing there in almost a trance.

30:33

I know that I've made a terrible mistake.

30:41

It was only a matter of seconds

30:43

before the police came knocking.

30:45

Clearly, they don't know which end is up,

30:48

and they're just trying to sort it out.

30:52

♪♪

30:56

I had to go down to the police station

30:58

for questioning.

31:00

I was clearly a suspect, but they couldn't arrest me

31:03

until they checked out Josh's story.

31:06

I was terrified.

31:08

So many things were running through my mind.

31:11

You sat right here and said

31:13

you had no idea what I was talking about.

31:16

(Kumari) I had let my emotions take over

31:19

and I caused another person pain.

31:22

No! "Listen"? "Listen"?

31:24

(Kumari) I realized what I was capable of,

31:28

and it was frightening.

31:30

(grunting and groaning)

31:32

What Josh did was wrong,

31:33

but what I put him through was a lot worse.

31:36

Just untie me, please.

31:38

(Kumari) It was a decision that could ruin my life.

31:42

Maybe you could talk to him?

31:43

Okay.

31:46

Kumari Fulbright, you're under arrest

31:49

for assault and kidnapping.

31:51

You have the right to remain silent.

31:53

If you refuse to waive that right,

31:54

anything you say can be used against you

31:56

in a court of law.

31:57

♪♪

32:00

(Kumari) For this all to be happening was so much to process.

32:05

You have the right to an attorney.

32:06

If you cannot afford an attorney,

32:08

one will be appointed to you.

32:09

♪♪

32:11

Do you understand everything I've just said to you?

32:13

♪♪

32:16

(Kumari) The worst thing I could possibly imagine

32:19

was happening to me, and it was all my fault.

32:24

♪♪

32:30

(sirens in distance)

32:33

(police radio chatter)

32:35

(Kumari) As they're taking me in to process me

32:39

and book me and do the fingerprints,

32:42

I'm just still crying.

32:46

My life is flashing before my eyes--

32:48

or what was my life.

32:51

Everything I worked for is gone.

32:53

(police radio chatter)

33:02

(Kumari) They lead me over to have my mug shot taken.

33:08

So much is going through your head.

33:10

(police radio chatter)

33:12

(crying)

33:17

(clicking)

33:19

(newscaster) *What made this successful young woman*

33:21

go from this to this?

33:23

Fulbright and two accomplices

33:25

stand accused of kidnapping and torturing

33:27

her ex-boyfriend Joshua Conway.

33:39

(Kumari) Once I was released on bail,

33:41

it didn't take long before the incident hit the press.

33:45

Miss Fulbright.

33:45

Miss Fulbright.

33:47

(overlapping chatter)

33:51

(Kumari) This was a wildfire of a story

33:53

that had gone national, international--

33:56

every media outlet you can imagine.

33:59

I was just portrayed

34:01

as someone I didn't even recognize.

34:05

I couldn't believe it was me,

34:08

and it affected me and my family so greatly.

34:12

They were humiliated by my actions,

34:15

and that hurt me as much as anything.

34:19

(newscaster) Police say Kumari had several accomplices.

34:22

When they left her alone with the victim,

34:23

he managed to fight back.

34:25

She's been indicted on five felony charges.

34:29

I thought about the amount of time I was facing,

34:33

which could have been up to 55 years.

34:35

I knew I needed to accept responsibility.

34:49

(newscaster) Fulbright's lawyer contended she was a good person,

34:52

a law student at the U of A

34:53

who got involved with the wrong people.

34:56

Pima County Superior Court Judge Michael Miller

34:58

sentenced her to two years in prison

35:00

and six years probation.

35:06

(Kumari) I knew that my time in prison was going to be difficult.

35:10

My dad just reassured me that I was doing the right thing

35:14

and that we would get through it together as a family.

35:16

But, as part of my plea agreement,

35:19

I had to testify at Rob's trial,

35:21

so moving on was difficult.

35:29

(Kumari) When I was told that I would have to testify against Rob,

35:35

I was shocked.

35:37

I already felt horrible that I dragged him into this mess,

35:42

and now I was being asked to give testimony

35:45

that could send him to prison.

35:46

Miss Fulbright, I think the court deserves to know

35:48

exactly what kind of witness you plan to be here.

35:51

(Kumari) While he wasn't perfect,

35:55

I didn't want to see Rob suffer

35:58

for something that I felt responsible for.

36:01

Isn't it true, Miss Fulbright,

36:03

that on the date in question,

36:05

the defendant zip-tied the victim's hands

36:08

and held him against his will in your apartment?

36:11

(Kumari) During my testimony, I did the best that I could

36:15

to portray myself as the person who was to blame.

36:20

Okay, the fact is

36:21

that Rob was trying to calm everything down

36:24

the entire night.

36:25

He was trying to get me under control.

36:31

(Kumari) But it didn't do any good.

36:33

Because of that night,

36:35

because of what I asked Rob to do,

36:37

he is serving 22 1/2 years in an Arizona prison.

36:44

Not only did I lose everything,

36:47

but I ruined Rob's life too.

36:59

(talking quietly)

37:05

(Kumari) I wasn't allowed to finish law school,

37:07

but I was able to help other inmates

37:10

with their legal problems.

37:12

When I think about what I've learned about myself

37:15

throughout this process, some of it's not pretty,

37:20

but I still think I have a lot to offer.

37:25

I just didn't know how hard it would be

37:27

to start over again.

37:47

(announcer) This episode of "One Bad Choice" continues now.

37:51

♪♪

37:58

(Kumari) I've been out of prison for three years now.

38:01

I'm so excited you're graduating today.

38:04

I know.

38:04

Finally.

38:06

Finally.

38:07

Having an experience like this

38:09

allows you to look at your life

38:12

through an entirely different prism.

38:14

This always, like, relaxes me so much.

38:17

(Kumari) I've learned to take things in stride

38:20

and handle situations in a lot less emotional manner.

38:24

Hello.

38:24

Hi.

38:24

Hi, Dad.

38:26

Hey.

38:27

(Kumari) This is not a good way to make your debut, Miss Chancellor.

38:31

How's my hair, Dad?

38:34

Lovely?

38:36

Did they do something to it?

38:37

(laughing)

38:38

(laughing)

38:38

(laughing)

38:41

Everything that's important to me now

38:43

is completely different than what was before.

38:47

Oh, I'm so excited.

38:49

(man) Ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to welcome you

38:53

to the University of South Florida's

38:56

Spring 2014 Commencement.

38:59

(applause)

39:00

I hereby declare this convocation open.

39:04

(Kumari) I am so thrilled and excited

39:07

to be getting my MBA from the University of South Florida.

39:11

(man) Kumari Fulbright.

39:13

(cheers and applause)

39:18

(Kumari) Because of my felony conviction,

39:21

I can never practice law,

39:22

but this gives me a new lease on life.

39:25

I can't wait to share that with my family

39:28

as a way to start trying to make them proud again.

39:32

(speaker) So, graduates, I wish you much success.

39:35

Congratulations, congratulations.

39:38

(applause)

39:40

♪♪

39:42

Grandma!

39:42

Hello!

39:45

Oh, I'm so happy for you!

39:47

(Kumari) We've always been a close-knit family,

39:49

but when you go through something like this together

39:52

and you come out on the other side,

39:53

it is-- it's bonding in a new way.

39:56

I'm so happy. I'm so happy for you.

39:59

(Kumari) I gave my family so much pain, and they stuck by me.

40:04

You're all right. Yeah, I'm really proud of you.

40:05

You did good.

40:05

Thanks, Dad.

40:06

Yes, I am.

40:06

Grandma.

40:07

Oh, I love you.

40:09

(Kumari) I think about what I did every single day...

40:14

but I've been given a chance to make a new life for myself,

40:19

and all I can do is make the most of it.

40:22

To Kumari.

40:24

(cheering)

40:27

That's the best toast I've ever heard.

40:29

♪♪