



**Conversational Topics Analysis between Males  
and Females in Legally Blonde's Movie Script: A  
Sociolinguistic Study**

**تحليل المواضيع الحوارية بين الرجل والمرأة في فيلم ليجالي  
بلوند: دراسة لغوية اجتماعية**

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## Authorization

I, Hiba Tawfiq Abu Al Rub, hereby authorize Middle East University to provide libraries, organizations and even individuals with copies of my thesis upon request.

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## Thesis Committee Decision

This thesis “Conversational Topics Analysis between Males and Females in Legally Blonde's Movie Script: A Sociolinguistics Study” was discussed and certified on 21/1/2017.

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**Conversational Topics Analysis between Males and Females in  
Legally Blonde's Movie Script: A Sociolinguistic Study**

**By: Hiba Tawfiq Abu Al Rub**

**Supervised by: Dr. Norma Al-Zayed**

**Abstract**

This study aimed at identifying the different kinds of conversational topics used by male characters in which they become more talkative and more frequent than female characters in the movie script of Legally Blonde. It also aimed at identifying the different kinds of conversational topics used by female characters in which they become more talkative and more frequent than male characters in Legally Blonde's movie script. The sample included (21) characters derived from Legally Blonde's movie. Ten females and the rest are males. To collect the required data, checklist was developed and validated. The checklist has been divided into the following analysis categories: (minimal responses, taboo words, and swear words). Each category has units of analysis with two columns were specified for males and females. The researcher found out that the frequency of each unit of analysis after watching and listening to the movie, in order to find the percentage of the amount of talk for males and females within all analysis categories. Results showed that females use minimal responses and less swear words than males. Males, in contrast use taboo words more than females. Finally, some suggestions and recommendations for future research are suggested.

**Keywords:** sociolinguistic, gender, conversational topics, minimal responses, swear, taboo .

## تحليل المواضيع الحوارية بين الرجل والمرأة في فيلم ليجالي بلوند: دراسة لغوية اجتماعية

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### الملخص

هدفت هذه الدراسة الى تحديد أنواع مختلفة من المواضيع الحوارية التي يتحدث بها الرجال أكثر من النساء في نص فيلم ليجالي بلوند. كما هدفت أيضا الى تحديد أنواع مختلفة من المواضيع الحوارية التي تتحدث بها النساء أكثر من الرجال في نص فيلم ليجالي. وشملت عينة الدراسة على (21) شخصية استخرجت من فيلم ليجالي بلوند عشر شخصيات منها نساء وماتبقى منها رجالا. أنشئ نموذج لجمع البيانات المطلوبة وتم التحقق من صحتها. وقسمت هذه النماذج الى فئات تحليلية كالتالي : (الردود المختصرة و الألفاظ النابية و الحلفان). تحتوي كل فئة على وحدات تحليلية بعمودين مخصصين للرجال و النساء. وللحصول على نسب الكلام عند الرجال و النساء ضمن الفئات التحليلية قام الباحث بايجاد تكرار كل وحدة تحليلية بعد مشاهدته للفيلم. وأظهرت النتائج أن النساء يتحدثون أكثر من الرجال في فئتي الردود المختصرة والحلفان ، وعلى عكس ذلك فإن الرجال يتحدثون أكثر من النساء في فئتي الألفاظ النابية. و أخيرا، تم اقتراح بعض من التوصيات للأبحاث المستقبلية.

الكلمات المفتاحية : علم الاجتماع، النوع ، الحوار ، الردود المختصرة ، الحلفان ، الألفاظ

النايبة.

# Chapter One

## 1.0 Introduction:

### 1.1 Background of the Study:

Language is a communication tool for both genders. They can meet their basic needs and express themselves through language. It is considered a mirror for showing different points of views for each one. Therefore, it reveals the gender differences. As a result, feminists and sociolinguists attempt to describe the differences in language use between them. Since gender is embedded into everything in today's society, many feminists and sociolinguists examine the relationship between language and gender as a field related to the form, components of language such as grammar, vocabulary, syntax, and stylistics.etc. Sunderland, (2006) states that gender and language have been linked in scholarly writings well before the second wave of women's movement began in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Radford, et.al, (1999) claims that the investigation of the relationship between the language use and the structure of society is considered as the center of sociolinguistics. This discipline focuses on the context and the manner of social interaction (in the business sector, house, and church), the relationship between speaker and addressee and the social backgrounds of the speaker and addressee (sex, age, social class, etc.)

Coates (1988) argues that many studies have highlighted the differences between men and women in language use that they behave linguistically in different ways, and that appear through men's language which is seen as superior, whereas women's

language is seen as inferior and something that stands out of the norm. Coates also states that

“Researchers now analyze spoken and written data with the aim of understanding how gender is constructed in everyday life and of assessing the role of language in the creation and maintenance of contemporary masculinities and femininities” (p.221).

Communication is a process in which two or more people are involved in a spoken interaction. Graddol & Swaan (1989) claim that interaction content can be observed by focusing on what males and females choose to talk about in a conversation.

A conversation has different function for male and female. According to Tannen (1992) from the perspective of male, as an individual in a hierarchical social order in which they are either one-up or one- down. They try to achieve the upper hand and save themselves from being down from other's attempts. Therefore, conversations are negotiations. This point of view expresses male life as a struggle to preserve independence and avoided failure. On the other hand, to a female, as they are in a network of connections .They try to protect themselves according to who wants to marginalize them. Therefore, conversations are negotiations of closeness. This point of view expresses female-life as a struggle to save intimacy and avoid isolation.

In mixed- sex conversation, males and females tend to achieve their interactional goals by improving their different communication competence. Therefore, communication can be considered as a balancing act with needed for intimacy and independence. Each one has a different way of thinking. Therefore, men and women express different methods and patterns to describe their thoughts and opinions by words

in different social contexts. Tannen (1990) explains the differences between males and females in the way they use language in conversation according to their thinking. He observes that:

For males, the conversation is the way you negotiate your status in the group and keep people from pushing you around; you use talk to preserve your independence. Females, on the other hand, use conversation to negotiate closeness and intimacy; talk is the essence of intimacy, so being best friends means sitting and talking. For boys, activities, doing things together, are central. Just sitting and talking is not an essential part of friendship. They're friends with the boys they do things with. (p.193)

Although males and females are mostly similar creatures from physical, biological and behavioral of perspectives but, they are totally different in their nature. As a result, they attempt to express their individuality according to their worlds. Moreover, the nature of male is different from the nature of female in various aspects, such as, thoughts, love, and feelings, communication, perception, interests and responses, as well as, their needs and how do they look at things.

In the book, Men are from Mars and Women are From Venus, Gray (2004) wrote:

Men and women are different in nature and the way of thinking. Men expect women to think, communicate, and react the way men do; women expect men to feel, communicate, and respond the way women

do. We have forgotten that men and women are supposed to be different. Moreover, our relationships are filled with unnecessary friction and conflict. (p. 4)

The title of his book reflects the idea that males and females are different. Men and women are from the same planet, but often communicate differently which causes many differences between them. The differences which appear in gendered language can cause some of the varieties in the stylistic way that distinguishes each of them during a certain situation.

This study deals with the relationship between language and gender with a practical analysis of *Legally Blonde's* movie scripts. This movie starts with the young Elle Woods. She is preparing herself for a big night. Other girls in the same house wish luck for her. She goes with her best friends for shopping to choose the perfect dress for this special evening's date. She returns to the house and gets herself ready to the date with her boyfriend Warner, who is going to propose to her "If I'm going to be a senator by the time I'm thirty, I need to stop digging around. That's why I think it's time for us, Elle, Pooh Bear ... I think we should break up!" - Warner.

At this moment Elle's world has been damaged. She feels depressed and angry. She loses her relationship with her boyfriend because she's too blonde. She feels heartbroken; her friends decide to go with her to a beauty salon in order to feel better. In a beauty salon, her friends are busy and discussing Elle's condition. While, Elle taps a few magazines. She spots a picture of Warner's older brother, who is engaged to a Vanderbilt. It strikes Elle to get Warner back.

She decides to get into Harvard University. She wants to prove to Warner that she is serious. She gets the support from other girls in the house as they all support by

her. At the same time, she also makes an admission essay. They eventually approve her to join Harvard. Elle reaches at Harvard for a confrontation with Warner. Warner is very surprised to see her because she is not serious. She wants to win Warner back, although the law field is far from her interests. At the same time, Elle must wage the battle of her life for blondes who are suffering from the endless indignities every day and for herself.

Movies like *Legally Blonde* are sufficient models to illustrate the differences between males and females in language. The movie discusses gender issues and also is concerned with gender stereotypes, gender roles and their respective expectations. The producers give more attention to the language of the characters.

The main reason I selected this movie is the obvious gender differences in language use through conversations and that can be seen through its dialogs. *Legally Blonde* declaims exactly what it means to be a woman. Most of females in the movie are ridiculous, blondes, silly, they all have perfect and they all love to gossip. It also stresses exactly what it means to be a man. It portrays the perfect men as educated, well-mannered and well-behaved.

This study discussing conversational topics like minimal responses, taboo words, and swear words which are spoken by the characters in *Legally Blonde's* movie script. By analyzing this movie I can apply what I have read and studied about language and gender to the script as it offers me a lot of different speeches for both males and females. Through analyzing the speeches of exchange dialogs, I can clearly observe how language reveal attitudes to gender also how language users speak or write in distinctive ways.

The producers of the movies rely on the language of their characters to reveal their point of views. So we can notice how the language of the females differ from that of male, in many aspects. For example females always shout when they hear good news

and most of their talk is about men . While, men look, act, and perform in a certain way to be classified them as proper men.

No doubt, each male and female has their own linguistic behavior of using language in conversations. Males see themselves as individuals in a world of hierarchy. Therefore, the conversations they are involved in investigated their own stylistic way to express negotiation for who is up. While females see themselves as individuals in a world of network connections. Therefore, the conversations they get involved in their own stylistic way that expresses the negotiation of closeness. As a result, men show of themselves as being dominant speaker while females take place as a subordinate one during the conversation so, each one expresses himself or herself through their own stylistic way.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem:**

In Legally Blonde's movie script, there are many kinds of conversational topics in which males become more talkative and more frequent than females. In contrary, there are many conversational topics in which females become more talkative and more frequent than males. This phenomenon about gender differences in language use is the focus of sociolinguistics. Finally, we still have a lot to learn about differences between males and females in different situations.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study:**

**The study aims at achieving the following objectives:**

- Identifying the different kinds of conversational topics used by male characters in which they become more talkative and more frequent than female characters in Legally Blonde's movie script.

- Identifying the different kinds of conversational topics used by female characters in which they become more talkative and more frequent than male characters in Legally Blonde's movie script.

#### **1.4 Questions of the Study:**

**The study attempts to answer the following questions:**

- What kinds of conversational topics are used by male characters in which they become more talkative and more frequent than female characters in Legally Blonde's movie scripts?
- What kinds of conversational topics are used by female characters in which they become more talkative and more frequent than male characters in Legally Blonde's movie scripts?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study:**

The topic of this study has been of an interest, for so many researchers for which the issue of differences between genders is considered to be a very popular issue in our society and culture. Studies have been conducted to explain the actual gender differences in using certain conversational topics during the conversations. To the best, knowledge of the researcher, none of these studies were conducted in Jordan within the sample of the study. Therefore, this study may fill in the gap in the related literature. It is worth conducting such a study to make contributions to sociolinguistics. Hopefully, this study will be an additional reference for researchers who are going to conduct similar topics related to language and gender. Although we still have a lot to learn about differences between males and females.

### **1.6 Limitations of the Study:**

This study is limited to the frequency of the conversational topics used differently by males and females in a particular context. In other words, it is limited to the topic a sociolinguistic study of conversational topics analysis between males and females in Legally Blonde's movie script. Because the sample is relatively small, results cannot be generalized beyond the sample and instruments used.

### **1.7 Limits of the Study:**

This study conducted at Legally Blonde's movie scripts, the popular American sociolinguistics movie, during the First semester in Amman, Jordan 2016/2017.

### **1.8 Definition of Terms:**

**Gender (Male/Female):** Gender refers to behaviors, roles, expectations, and activities in society. Theoretically, Giddens (2006) states that "gender, by contrast, concerns the psychological, social and cultural differences between males and females" (p.458). Operationally, it is a term based on the social characteristics of gender norms (male and female) which are developed through socialization in different cultures. This term includes the nature of gender norms, relationships between them, their behavior and how they can communicate with each other.

**Sociolinguistics:** Theoretically, "Tradgill (2000) states that sociolinguistics is that part of linguistics which is concerned with language as a social and cultural phenomenon. It makes use of the subject matter; the methodology is findings of the social sciences" (p.32-33). Operationally, sociolinguistics is the study of the

relationship between language and society, and how language is used in multilingual stage communities. Furthermore, it investigates the effect of language on society.

**Conversation:** Theoretically, Goffman (1976) states that

“conversation, restrictively defined, might be identified as the talk occurring when a small number of participants come together and settle into what they perceive to be a few moments cut off from (or carried on to the side of) instrumental tasks; a period of idling felt to be an end in itself, during which everyone is accorded the right to talk as well as to listen and without reference to a fixed schedule ... and no final agreement or synthesis is demanded, differences of opinion to be treated as un-prejudicial to the continuing relationship of the participants”  
(p.264)

Operationally, it is the term that refers to the spoken interaction between people in their daily life. This process of chatting can be derived from formal and informal spoken interaction. Through it, people can express their thoughts, personal feelings and express themselves.

**Minimal Responses:** Theoretically, Reid (2005) defines minimal responses as “The signals listed above such as uh-uh, yeah, mmm, functioning as direct feedback to the current speakers showing that their messages are being received. There are various terms to refer to this function, such as response token, response cues, minimal responses and so on. Here the term minimal responses have been chosen for this essay. Minimal responses are verbal and non-verbal indicators of a person’s co-participation in a

conversation" (p.8) Operationally, minimal responses are monosyllabic used by male and female during the conversation such as, "mm", "uh"...etc to express different points of view through turn-taking. On the one hand, the purpose of female usage of minimal responses is to let the speaker know that she is listening. On the other hand, males try to show lack of interest.

**Swear:** Theoretically, Andersen (1998) states that

"Swearing forms part of everyday language use for people of all ages and cultures throughout the entire world. Although many swear words have lost their literal meaning and people have a more easy-going attitude towards swear words than previously, the use of swear words still have the power to provoke"(p.8)

Operationally, a swear word is an expression used by persons to emphasize and to assure what they say to make the listener believe their speech.

**Taboo words:** Theoretically, Keith & Burridge (2006) state that “taboos arise out of social constraints on the individual’s behavior where it can cause discomfort, harm or injury”. (p.1) Operationally, taboo words is a social phenomenon regards with words, actions or way of speaking which can be described as rude, vulgar and low-class.

**Legally Blonde's Movie:** It is an American movie was written by Karen McCullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith in 2001. The plot of this movie revolves around Elle Woods who attempts to reclaim ex-boyfriend by getting a law degree from Harvard

University. This movie shows the differences between males and females through many conversational topics.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Review of Related Literature**

#### **2.0 Introduction:**

Gender difference, as a social phenomenon, has been reflected in language and has been studied in many separate areas for a long time. In the past decades, sociolinguistics research, dealing with the relationship between gender difference and language, have undergone significant change and gained full development. This chapter is divided into two parts, the review of the theoretical literature and the empirical studies. It sheds light on the studies that have dealt with the concept of conversational topics analysis between males and females generally from a sociolinguistic perspective. It highlights the following aspects (minimal responses, using taboo words, and swearing) in both local and international perspectives theoretically and empirically.

#### **2.1 Review of Theoretical Literature:**

The biological differences between men and women are considered as a crucial factor, biological differences explain the gap between men and women through their behaviors. Mostly, these differences amount to the full contradictory. As a result of this controversial issue, many researchers have been concerned with the nature of the conversational between men and women from many linguistic aspects in their books such as, Yvonne Dalliare's book A Thousand and One Difference between Women and Men, Jo Tanenbaum's book Discover of Differences and Deborah Tannen's book You Just Don't Understand me. In addition to the works of other writers such as Deborah Cameron and others. All of these seminal works confirm the depth of the gap between

women and men. Moreover, they address the issue to reserve the coexistence, intimacy, harmony and even the conflict between them.

Subon (2013) argues that there are many differences in the speech of both women and men. These differences are fundamentally set apart by their choice of forms, topics of conversation, and etc. One of the principle qualities of men's discourse is that they talk more than women, ask few inquiries and speak fundamentally on aggressive matters. They tend to prodding, games, hostility and getting things done. Then again, women center their discourse around family, home, self, sentiments, and connection with others. He likewise guarantees that women utilize more obliging types of address, ask a larger number of inquiries and utilize more diversion than men do. Astoundingly, men some way or another utilization a greater amount of fillers, supports, and affirmatives than women. In any case, both genders are immediate in their discourse. Analyzing the linguistic forms used, women appear to be more polite in their discourse than men as they favor utilizing their ethnic gathering terms when tending to and alluding to each other.

Jan (2012) shows that women can be recognized from men, either basically or by socialization. This sex-difference see either judges women' distinctive discourse as socially useless and lacking, or holds onto it as an 'alternate yet similarly substantial' culture, the diverse and inadequate' approach is condemned for inferring that, to enhance their societal position, singular ladies ought to change over their style, and modify themselves to men's semantic things. In any case, generally, unmistakably by and large, women and men have entry to a similar arrangement of phonetic and conversational gadgets, and tend to utilize them in an unexpected way, yet for similar purposes. Obvious contrasts in utilization reflect contrasts in status and in objectives.

Robin (2010) stresses that women have to learn how to speak as a lady otherwise they will be criticized. Additionally, if they avoid learn how to speak like a lady, they will not hold the floor in the presence of men or they will not be capable of holding it. Thus, they will be reviewed for being unable to take part in a serious discussion like men. Lakoff's ideas about women's language can be divided into three classes: (1) it lacks the resources that enable women to express themselves strongly, (2) it encourages women to talk about trivial subjects, and (3) it requires women to speak tentatively.

Pinker (2008) explains that swearing is something universal and that the words and concepts, used in swearing, may be considered taboo in some cultures. What he intends to say is that in the history of world languages, "many words stay taboo for centuries", whereas dirty words may have turned "clean". Pinker further identifies five categories of swearing: dysphemistic swearing, abusive swearing, idiomatic swearing, emphatic swearing, and cathartic swearing. Firstly, dysphemistic swearing has a dysphemistic effect that makes the listener think about a negative matter (e.g. that's bull shit!). Secondly, abusive swearing is used to abuse or insult others (e.g. Fuck you asshole!). Thirdly, idiomatic swearing is used to arouse interest or to show off (e.g. Fuck, man!). Next, emphatic swearing is used to emphasize something (e.g. It was so fucking big!). Finally, cathartic swearing is often used when something bad happens and the speaker is undergoing a negative emotion (e.g. Damn this coffee!). In all cases, swearing is tended to occur in almost all cultures, and it is basically associated with letting off one's emotion.

Ljung (2007), he relies on the biological differences between men and women to confirm that it is natural that men and women have different ways of speaking, although both live in the same environment. Both men and women establish different

relationships with society as if each belongs to a different environment and culture, then the result of this is consequently reflected in their language.

Every time when a speaker (a caller) stops at the end of a tone unit, he/she uses signals such as mmm,uh-uh . Reid (2005) indicates that the signals, listed above such as uh-uh, yeah, mmm, function as direct feedbacks to the current speakers, showing that their messages are being received. There are many terms that express this function, such as response token, response cues, minimal responses and so on.

Finegan (2004) argues that men's discourse contrasts from women' discourse by the way which they talk, as well as how they articulate words and which words they utilize when talking. Finegan trusts that some specific words are connected more with women than with men, and accordingly, this may "sound" female. For example, descriptive words, for example, exquisite, sweetheart and adorable may convey female affiliations. Another issue talked about by this commentator is that women have a tendency to act like the higher financial gatherings to a more noteworthy degree than men do.

Coates (2004) states that women and men do have an inclination for various conversational styles. women in most western social orders, at any rate, favor a community oriented discourse style, supporting different speakers and utilizing dialect in a way that underlines their solidarity with the other individual. Men, conversely, utilize various conversational systems that can be portrayed as an aggressive style, focusing on their own independence and accentuating the progressive connections that they go into with other individuals. In the same field, Coates points out that women's use of minimal responses, hedges, and questions. He claims that it is absolutely that to signal their active attention, to respect the face needs of all participants and to keep the conversation going on. These so-called powerless forms can be used as a powerful sign

of mutual support and solidarity. By contrast, men want to dominate the discussion and they use interruptions as a way of getting the floor. They prefer more adversarial style, pursuing their own agenda without considering other participants. Their gossip shows more competitive features; they want to dominate the talk and compete for grabbing the floor. Conversations with long monologues give them privileged access to the floor. The topics men discuss tend to focus on things, activities, information, and facts, rather than personal experiences and feelings.

Gilligan & Attanucci (1988) present the distinguishes voices or distinct models of expressions between men and women. He claims that women often conceptualize moral dilemmas in terms of social relationships. In contrast, men one more oriented to moral standards or principles, with less reference to social relationships.

Tanubhun (1992) suggests four levels for recognizing the reality. They are body, sense, intellectual and spiritual. He explains many ideas about the nature of men and women. One is that men avoid give up their body and thought to recognize the reality, while women can move between the four levels easily. Another is that men express their feelings by actions, while women regard their sense in the relationships in which they look for others in order to share the same sense, and listen to them. Furthermore, when women talk to men about some problems, men search for solutions, and women think that men seek to evaluate. This difference relates to the nature of men's rationality which causes their actions.

Tannen (1992) indicates that men and women talk differently, not for the essential or innate reason, but simply because they are differently socialized. If they understand each other, they can avoid the miscommunication between them and the breakdown of their relationships. Tannen goes on debating that women, in general, converse for the sake of communication, to connect with another person, and to feel closer. Whereas,

men converse as only a mean of conveying information, and so tend to be direct, often hurt their female partner.

Tannen (1990) also remarked that although men and women speak the same language, they do not talk in the same context, topics, and goals. In Tannen's opinion, the communication between male and female is a cross-cultural communication. Life is a sequence of conversations, and then each person can use and understand the words in his language to communicate with others.

In addition, Tannen actually determines to face the problem about males as the norm. Anyone should believe in the differences between men's and women's speech styles. In this respect, she holds. She also asserts that women and men have different descriptions for their speech styles. Women have a style as rapport-talk. While men have a report-talk. In conversation, women use language for intimacy. For that reason, they believe that talk is the glue that holds relationships together. In other words, conversations for women are only negotiations for the sake of the closeness in which people try to seek and give confirmation and support and to reach what is the so-called consensus. Tannen maintains that the differences in speech styles of men and women are various. On the one hand, women talk too much, they deal with conversation as a private activity to build relation in order to achieve symmetry. On the other hand, men get more air time, they deal with conversation as a public activity to avoid failure.

There are two remarkable views dealing with gender effect on language. The first view claims that men and women speak different languages due to the fact that they are members of different cultures (Maltz and Borker 1982;Tannen 1990). However, the other view claims that men and women behave differently ,because this approach places men as the ones who control and prevail conversations. Women then become the ones who are subordinate. Furthermore, Maltz and Borker (1982) and Tannen (1990) display

the "difference" approach which is based on the theory of cultural differences. Central to this approach is the claim that men and women come from two different subcultures. The differences of these two subcultures lead to the differences in the communicative competence of men and women. Actually, this approach does not revolve around the imbalance of power distribution of men and women, but more on differences in internal norms of men and women at the time of interaction.

Furthermore, Maltz and Borker (1982) and Tannen (1990) assert that men and women have different cultural assumptions about talk and friendly conversation. They claim that females talk to establish and maintain relationships of closeness; while male perceive talk as a tool for conveying information and getting things accomplished. For them, adults own different rules for running a friendly conversation when starting to react socially and publicly with each other.

According to Graddol & Swann (1989)

" people's taking turns at speaking is in fact, an achievement that involves great skills. As the gap between two speaking turns is often very short, the listeners should be aware of the appropriateness that the current speaker is likely to finish speaking and a new turn can legitimately begin, therefore rapid and smooth transitions can be achieved. That is to say, listeners should predict transition-relevance places – points where a sequence is grammatically complete, and at which it might be reasonable for a turn to end" (p.77).

However, information passed on by words can't be translated the same by the recipient as the addresser expected on the grounds that the series of words delivered can have more than one significance. One talking turn may contain a few move pertinence places; audience members may cut in the surge of the present speaker in the wrong position. So some inadvertent or deliberate irregularities will happen in unconstrained discussion. It is extremely basic that speakers don't keep to the each one in turn run the show. Actually, a discussion with no concurrent discourse showing information agreement and involvement is not a very spontaneous lively or personal conversation.

Fishman (1983) indicates that topics have very survival rates. This relies on who they are introduced by, women or men. Thus the success rate of topics, initiated by men, is much greater than that by women. Women have little tendencies to detail the topics expressed by men. While in the case men are being handled, they tend to adopt no cooperative strategies to undermine the current speaker and enhance their dominance by using uncooperative feedback signals such as delayed minimal responses or even silence. Men simply change topics if they don't have an interest in them. Unlike men, women do not have the intention to dominate even when they are well-informed of the topic and can be called as an expert of the field under discussion.

Dele Spender (1980) presents the issue of the pitch of male voice when speaking. She analyzes many theories by raising many questions in order to suggest that females use a higher pitch, and boys try to enter manhood by lowering their voices, especially in adolescence. That gender and language were joint in scholarly writings before the second wave of the Women's Movement had begun in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Haas (1979) examines male and female spoken language differences, plus stereotypes and evidence in the following scopes related to language (Topic, Content, and Use). In this regard, he states

"women's speech is said to contain more euphemisms, politeness forms, apology, laughter, crying, and unfinished sentences. They are reputed to talk more about home and family and to be more emotional and positively evaluative" (p.623).

Furthermore, women's speech is stereotyped as nonassertive, tentative, and supportive. Men, in contrast, are reputed to use more slang, profanity, and obscenity and to talk more about sports, money, and business. They are reputed to make more hostile judgments and to use language to lecture, argue, debate, assert, and command.

Many studies assert that males and females use particular communicative strategies differently. Many researches committed the stereotype that males tend to adopt competitive while, females adopt the cooperation communicative strategies.

Coates quote Cheshire & Trudgill's claim (Coates, 2004):

It seems clear that, other things being equal, women and men do have a preference for different conversational style.

Women---in most western societies at least--- prefer collaborative speech style, supporting other speakers and using language in a way that emphasizes their solidarity with the other person. Men, on the other hand, use a number of conversational strategies that can be described as a competitive style, stressing their own individuality and emphasizing the hierarchical relationships that they enter into with other people. (p.126)

## **2.2. Review of Empirical Literature:**

Many researchers addressed conversational topics analysis between males and females from a sociolinguistic scope. These studies focused on many sociolinguistic aspects such as (minimal responses, using taboo words and swearing). Following are some of the empirical studies that investigated this topic:

Al-rousan (2016) explored the differences between using compliment responses with regard to gender among Jordanian university students. The researcher collected (611) compliment responses from (36) participants by using the note-taking method during the second semester of 2013/2014. The instruments he used to analyze the compliment responses depended on Herbert's (1990) taxonomy of compliment response strategies. The study revealed that the agreement strategies were used more frequently than the other strategies by each gender within the sample. The study also concluded that female students used agreement strategies more frequently than the male students, even that all students whether males or females favored using agreement strategies more than non-agreement and other interpretation strategies. Finally, the study found out that females responded to compliments offered by females through using the agreement strategies more than compliment offered by the males.

Agustin (2015) investigated some kinds of conversational topics selected by men and women in mixed-sex interactions. He also explored the kinds that men become more talkative than women through the conversation and vice versa in *Legally Blonde's* movie script written by Lutz and Smith (2000). In addition, he explained that the reasons besides that. The researcher used the analysis method to examine gender differences in the amount of talk in the *Legally Blonde's* movie script. Therefore, he depended on the theories proposed by Tannen (1993) and Talbot (1998). On the other

side, he depended on the theories proposed by Moore (1922), Landis and Burt (1924), Kramer (1974), Tannen (1993) and Aries (1996) to examine gender differences in the topic selections. The instruments he used analyzed (11) dialogues in mixed-sex interactions which contain (7) kinds of different conversational topics for each gender. Women select to discuss conversational topics such as job, share activities, legal matter, talk about themselves and other women, life's troubles, and personal feelings. While, men discuss job, legal matter and share activities.

The study revealed that theory of report investigated the main reason that why men are more talkative than women. Therefore, the researcher found out that men use language to share information or message in order to maintain their status in a hierarchical social order. In addition, the theory of rapport investigate the main reason why women are more talkative than men. Therefore, the researcher found out that women use language to develop social links, create connection, intimacy, and closeness with others.

Ghilzai, (2015) investigated the differences between genders related to turn-taking phenomenon. They also provided the empirical evidence regarding gender difference stereotypes in order to show the extent of accuracy for these stereotypes and assumptions. The instruments he used analyzed three types of conversational models in turn-taking: the male to male conversation, the female to female conversation and in cross-sex conversation, and further compared the difference in radio, TV and casual conversational models. The study revealed that women have more turns in conversation than men do. The researcher explained that the reason for that is the interpersonal sensitivity for women rather than lack of assertiveness. Therefore, women's turn-taking rates are more than men.

Nicolau and Sukanto (2015) identified the swear utterances of males and females through detecting the swear words commonly used by teenagers. They argue the idea that swear words express anger, pain, excitement, frustration, or surprise. Furthermore, children who may not really understand the meaning of a swear word usually imitate it. They also investigated whether bilingual males or females students of Grade 12, at Binus International School, Simprug, Jakarta use swear words more than each other. The instruments he used were constructed of multiple choice and open-ended questionnaire. The study revealed that male and female use swear words frequently and they become a part of their language repertoire. Students use both Indonesian and English swear words through their conversations in order to reduce stress and express intense emotions. The study concluded that both genders found that the swear words which used in their first language have more impact in their emotional resonance, so they prefer to use it rather than ones in their second language. It also concluded that the male participants use more swear words that are associated with sexuality than the females.

Reid (2014) investigated if there are any gender differences based on the communicative competence of speakers with respect to their use of minimal responses. The instrument he used is collected the data at the Simpson Army Barracks in November 1991. Then, he gave a questionnaire to the young soldiers aged between (17) and (25) years. Each person was given a questionnaire related to their personal history to check homogeneity between the groups. The study found out that female usage of minimal responses is very high. He also found out that in same sex pairs Women use more minimal responses generally, while both sexes use more of the agreement type as opposed to the facilitative or cooperative type of minimal response.

However, Aidinlou and Dolati (2013) examined the gender that is considered more used of turn-taking than another by comparing two genders. The researchers recorded the conversation about education quality in public and private school among (5) male teachers in (15) minutes break and then compared them with those female's one about the same topic. The study revealed that females take turns more than males in conversations with their own gender.

Cameron & Coates (2012) investigated who is more talkative, women or men. He also investigated if women break the 'rules' of turn-taking less than men, women use more standard forms than men; and if women's speech is less direct/assertive than men's. The researcher chose the sample which consisted of four participants the first one is the male Native American who is married to a second participant who is the Brazilian woman. The second couple consisted of the third and fourth participants who are the Brazilian man is married to the Female Australian. Their age ranges from (24) to (47) years old. Then, the researcher recorded utilizing a Starvation MP4 Personal Media Center 2 conversations between them during one night when friends got together to celebrate the birthday of their friend Sara on October 4th, 2007 .The study concluded the following:

Women talked roughly 20 percent more than men. Some factors can influence this difference in the number of words and not necessarily gender. Turn-taking was roughly distributed in the conversation and followed Sacks at al (1974) model of description, which followed a natural flow of interruption, silence, and overlaps as a naturally occurring conversation. The language was used by both men and women in a very informal way on account of the relaxed atmosphere created in the social setting in question - a birthday party. Both men and women used informal forms almost equally

and therefore there was not a correlation with gender. There was not a discrepancy difference between directness/assertiveness speeches in relation to gender.

Dai and Ning (2010) examined the differences in language use between male and female related to vocabulary, syntax and so forth, in addition investigating the causes of these differences. The study revealed that males use taboo word and slang more than women in their daily speeches within the same level of education. In addition, men use more vernacular words in their speech than women. The study found out also that women use a particular style is less powerful and. On the other hand, male bosses use fewer words when giving orders and tend to be more direct. The study also concluded that women use indirect request pattern besides that they are inevitably hurt due to the fact that their husbands talk more to strangers than do to them. Finally, the study found out that gender roles refers to the behaviors and desires to act in certain ways that are viewed as masculine or feminine by a particular culture. It has to be clear that language plays a key role in the construction and socialization of gender roles.

Fast and Funde (2010) explored how male and female use minimal responses in mixed-gender conversations from a particular family perspective in two American TV-series. The researcher selected two TV-series in order to find out how male and female speakers in mixed-gender conversations use minimal responses. One is *Growing Pains* (1985), and the other is *Boy Meets World* (1993). The reason besides the selection of these two TV-series that they have almost the same members of the family: parents, two sons and one daughter. In addition, the TV-series have basically almost the same lengths for every episode.

The study found out that women speak more and use more minimal responses than men to show their active listenership and agreement to the addressee in mixed-

gender conversations. By contrast, men use more minimal responses to interrupt the current speaker in order to be dominant in conversation.

Sollid (2009) examined the similarities and differences between the language of women and men, male and female native speakers of English, based on their usage of swear words. The study also examined whether Swedish men and women differ in how they would use different English swear words. The methodology of the study depended on a questionnaire among fifty people. Through carrying out a corpus based study in the British National Corpus, and using an informant test in the investigation about the attitude to swear words among Swedish learners of English. The study concluded that men and women speak differently in social interactions. One major difference is that women speak in a more indirect manner whereas men speak in a more direct manner. Women also use Standard English to a higher extent than men in most situations. Finally, the studies found out that women use substantially fewer swear words than men in general. However, the differences in the use of aggressive swear words are quite small. Finally, men use swear words that are more offensive than women do.

Fangm (2008) examined the differences between genders based on minimal responses upon the Cartoon Show the Simpsons. The methodology of the study is the process of analyzing (3) scripts of the cartoon show. The study found out that there were differences in the communicative competence between male and female speakers, especially the selected characters from the cartoon show, in terms of their use of minimal responses. The focus was on the frequency, type and function of male and female usage of minimal responses.

Cieri et, al. (2007) investigated factors that affect speech overlaps in conversation, using large corpora of conversational telephone speech. The methodology of the study depended on analyzing two types of speech overlaps: one side takes over the turn before

the other side finishes (turn-taking type); one side speaks in the middle of the other side's turn (back channel type). The study concluded that Japanese conversations have more short turn-taking type of overlap segments than the other languages. In general, females make more speech overlaps of both types than males; and both males and females make more overlaps when talking to females than talking to males. People make fewer overlaps when talking with strangers than talking with acquaintances, and the frequency of speech overlaps is significantly affected by conversation topics.

Karlsson (2007) investigated the differences between males and females way of using language. The sample of the study was conducted on (80) students at the age of (14) and (17) years old. The study consisted of a written dialog where certain attributes are implemented in order to test different theories presented in this study. The study concluded that minimal responses "... (mhm)... (right)" uttered by the female character in the dialogue was not connected to typical female language among females. Females use more polite language. Females use the intensifiers 'such' more than males. The result showed a total of (52,5%) of females compared to the result among males: (27,5%), regard swearing such as the following words quite horrible" and "Oh, my goodness!". A total of (27,5%) connected "quite horrible" to female language while (57,5%) thought likewise about "Oh, my goodness!".

Renee & Hamilton (2004) discussed Deborah Tannen's idea which was included in her popular book on gender differences in communication. The researcher conducted a study entitled *You Need to Understand My Gender Role: An Empirical Test of Tannen's Model of Gender and Communication*. The instrument the researcher used was a questionnaire administrated to (192) predominately European American University students revealed stronger support for a complex model than for the basic model.

The researchers explain that Deborah Tannen proposed that women and men express many messages and interpret them along different dimensions (control and intimacy). Therefore, the study revealed the difficulties that appeared in the interpretation causes intersex communication difficult. In this study, the researcher contrasted Tannen's model with a more complex model that was dealt with gender role as a factor which influences the interpretation of messages.

Broadbridge (2003) examined and discussed gender differences in language using a conversation recorded by the writer. In order to analyze those recording, considering comparisons that could be made. In order to investigate gender and speech, a conversation was recorded so that this could be transcribed and analyzed to provide data from which these issues could be discussed. The conversation involved two men and two women, all of whom work for the same long-established English Language School in Tokyo. The recording took place with the full knowledge of all participants and took place in the familiar surroundings of the teacher's room during working hours. The study found that both men interrupted the most, and both women were interrupted the most; a woman used the most active listening devices, and a man used the least; a man spoke the most, and a woman spoke the least; both women used more hedges which signify tentative speech, and both men used more vulgar terms. These basic facts show that while there are many factors which could have and did influence this research, such as nationality, the length of relationship, seniority in the company.

Fishman (1983) was concerned with studying the power relationship between men and women in their own homes. Her data was taken from twelve and a half hours of transcribed conversation between three white, professionally-oriented, heterosexual couples in their own homes. All were aged between (25) and (35). The study found out that males and females use minimal responses in different ways. While men used them

merely to fill a turn, showing a decided lack of encouragement and displaying a lack of interest, women used them mostly to do “support work”, indicating attention, participation, and interest. It is her belief that women do all the interactional work in a conversation by inserting minimal responses ‘throughout streams of talk rather than at the end.

Montenegro (1982) conducted an exploratory study of Filipino University students language dealing with linguistic features characterizing male and female language in Filipino, analysis of conversational topic preference, topics not considered in good taste, taboo words, euphemisms, cathartic expressions and cuss words and the analysis of male and female perception of each other's language and their own. The study revealed that the opposite sex tends to be male and female's favourite topics in conversation although females tend to prefer gossips too. A significant difference in the use of cathartic expressions was found. While (53%) of the males use curse words, women on the other hand, tend to be less explicit, more repressed in their use of cathartic expressions. When it comes to taboo words and euphemisms, Montenegro also found out that men and women's taboo words are centred around the excretory processes, sexual organs and sexual acts where euphemisms are used. Overall, the study confirmed some different casing male and female language and even in the way both sex groups perceive their languages.

Simkins & Rinck, (1982) aimed to detect different terminology that men and women employ when discussing male genitalia, female genitalia, and the act of copulation. In formal interpersonal contexts, participants preferred to use formal terms (i.e., penis, vagina, sex). In less formal situations, respondents reported using slang or colloquial terms. The researcher selected a group of couples, took into

consideration (mixed company, friends and lovers). The study revealed that males tend to use slang (i.e. use pussy to refer to female genitalia; use "fucking" or "screwing" to refer to sexual intercourse) while females tend to use euphemism (i.e. making love to refer to sexual intercourse). Still another focus of studies on gender differences is the use of taboo words.

Apparently, all the above mentioned studies have dealt with the differences between males and females in many aspects and none has put them in a comparative study within all categories which the researcher selected. Therefore, this study will provide a comparison between both males and females by concentrating on the categories that males are more talkative and more frequent than female, and vice versa. By holding this comparison, the researcher will draw an unprecedented attention to these categories and to fill the gap between genders within the presented results.

## **Chapter Three**

### **Methods and Procedures**

#### **3-0 Introduction:**

This chapter presents the research methodology adopted in this study and gives information about the sample and the instrument. It also describes the validity and reliability of the instrument. Finally, it describes data collection procedures and gives information about the research design and statistical analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Methodology:**

This research applies mixed research methods by combining quantitative and qualitative research. Quantitative research serves the analysis of data in the form of the numbers and to account the amount of talk in the form of words spoken by particular characters in Legally Blonde's movie scripts. While, the qualitative method is applied to analyze the conversational topics.

#### **3.2 Sample of the Study:**

The study sample was derived from Legally Blonde's movie script written by Lutz and Smith (2000): The movie includes (21) characters. (Ten) of them are females, while the rest (11) are males and the movie script <http://www.dailyscript.com/scripts/legallyblonde-shooting.pdf>,

The study sample consisted of all movie scripts which include (47) scenes, and consist of (22677) word. The researcher chose all scenes for all categories such as (minimal responses, swear ,and taboo words ) and their units. These scenes were analyzed and examined to identify in which conversations males and females speak more.

### 3.3 Instrument of the Study:

The researcher used a checklist divided into the following categories (minimal responses, taboo words, and swear words) and their units. Each category has two columns, specified for male or female. The researcher revised the scenes and when found any of these categories, she filled them according to the gender, and so on.

Some examples of all categories and their units by male and female characters were derived from the movie script as shown in Table (No.1):

**Table No.1**  
**Examples of the Three Categories and their unites by Males/Females in Legally Blonde's movie script.**

Units of Three Categories:	Male's Talk	Female's Talk
<b>A. Minimal Responses:</b>		
<b>1.Uh</b>	Uh -- sure. S o -- uh -- how was your first class? I -- uh --	Uh, yes -- of course. Uh... I wasn't aware that we had an Assignment. Uh -- family. Okay -- Ms. Windham, when you uh arrived
<b>2. Huh</b>	-	Huh? I see Huh. Imagine that.
<b>3. Yeah</b>	Uh, yeah, because the bitch shot him. We all , yeah, but --	I waited until I got to my room, but yeah, Yeah, they tend- to do that.Yeah, luckily
<b>4. Oh</b>	That's because men are big, fat retards Who don't -- Oh, my God... Oh, God. "Oh, darling.	Oh, my God! Oh! Warner?! Oh my God, Oh, God, was this like an RSVP thing? Oh, my God! I completely forgot to tell you! "Oh, look! There's something on the Floor
<b>5. Yes</b>	Yes. Yes! Okay? Yes	Hell, yes. We've got finals to study for. In Jamaica Yes, he is. Yes, you are Yes, Your Honor. For a butt-head? Yes

<b>6.Okay</b>	I 'm okay – Yes! Okay? Yes! Okay. Welcome to law school	No. Sometimes I say "Okay" instead of "Fine". Okay, if Brooke didn't kill the guy, who did? Okay, how would it work? That's okay --
<b>7.No</b>	Hell No! No. Sometimes	No -- your boobs are fine --Her tears start. No -- the thing after that No -- a law student No, silly. I go here.
<b>B. Taboo Words:</b>		
<b>8.Bitch</b>	Keep that bitch away from me	Because the bitch shot him. Funny how a woman can turn into a bitch just by saying "no" I ' m a bitch. Uh, yeah, because the bitch shot him.
<b>9.Fuck</b>	Fuck sisterhood. This is a murder trial, Don't fuck with a Delta Gamma. Fuck off..	-
<b>10.Bastard</b>	-	What're you waiting for? Steal the bastard back. If she were a true blonde, she would've left the cheating bastard
<b>11.Damn</b>	Damn. Thought I'd get everyone on that one.	Could I be anymore goddamn spastic? Damn. We can't see her for an hour?
<b>C. Swear Words:</b>		
<b>12. God</b>	God, that felt great! Well, thank God one of you has a brain. That's because men are big, fat retards who don't -- Oh, my God	Oh, God. What if Josh doesn't think I ' m serious enough? Oh my God, I completely forgot you were going here! Oh, God, was this like an RSVP thing? Oh, my God! I completely forgot to tell you!
<b>13.Jesus</b>	Jesus what the fuck	Jesus. Talk about a Rock. You must be better in bed than you look
<b>14.Hell</b>	then there sure as hell isn't any hope for the rest of us. looking sexy as hell What the hell do you want? We're eating dinner.	ho the hell does he think he is? looking like hell What the hell. was that?
<b>15.Blessed</b>	-	I ' m not pretty -- I ' m genetically blessed

### **3.4 Study Data and Resources:**

The researcher depended on two main resources for collecting data shown below:

**Primary Resources :** the researcher has chosen a checklist in order to classify and identify gender differences in conversation in Legally Blonde's movie script in the following categories (minimal responses, using taboo words , and swearing).

**Secondary Resources :** Which relate to library research and written resources such as books, journals, articles, newspapers, magazines, and records of the meeting, letters, the internet, and diaries.

### **3.5 Validity and Reliability of the Study:**

#### **3.5.1 Validity of the Instrument:**

To attain the validity of the instrument the researcher asked a panel of expert (Appendix No. 1) to judge the suitability of the checklist. The judges, reface. The content validity considered after receiving the feedback regarding content validity for each unit of the checklist.

#### **3.5.2 Reliability of the Instrument:**

The reliability of the checklist was ensured by applying Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR). The researcher provided a checklist for two M.A students of English Language at MEU University in order to count and fill in the checklist with the numbers of all categories after watching Legally Blonde's movie. After counting the number of the units , the (IRR) was measured according to the following equation:

$$(IRR) = 1 - (Agreement\ Frequencies / Agreement\ F + Disagreement\ F)$$

After applying this formula, the researcher found out that the result was less than (1.00) which is a reliable result.

### **3.6 Data Analysis:**

The classification of the data was based on:

1. The data was classified based on conversational topics used by males and females. Then the data was analyzed by using the theory of gender differences in the topic-selection by Tannen (1993), Aries (1996), Moore (1992), Landis and Burr (1924), and Kramer (1974). The data were presented in one table which containing the analysis of three analysis categories (minimal responses, taboo words, and swear words) with their units. In addition, the table contains the frequency and the percentage, of each unit and the total frequencies and percentages for the whole categories for both males and females.

2. The number of words is analyzed by using the theory of gender differences in the amount of talk by Tannen (1993) and Talbot (1998) to show that males or females sometimes become more talkative in particular occasions specials in mixed-sex interactions.

### **3.7 Procedures of the study:**

The researcher used the following procedures:

1. Selecting the dialogs in particular conversational topics, and identifying the utterances spoken by males and females.

2. Calculating the number of words produced by males and females when discussing particular conversational topics.

3. Familiarizing readers with the theoretical literature related to the topic.

4. Discussing some empirical studies that have been conducted in the domain of differences between males and females by using certain conversational topics during the conversations limited to the topic.
5. Specifying the sample of the study.
6. Conducting validity and reliability tests for the checklists.
7. Drawing the findings with reference to the tables.
8. Discussing the findings with reference to the previous studies mentioned in the literature review.
9. Writing recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

## **Chapter Four**

### **Results of the Study**

#### **4.0 Introduction:**

In order to answer the research questions set forth in this study, the data collected from the movie script was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The present chapter presents the analysis of categories and their units. This is necessary to find out the most frequently used categories by both males and females.

#### **4.1 Data Analysis:**

The researcher classified data and scenes from Legally Blonde's movie script according to the following categories (minimal responses, taboo words, and swear words) and their units. Each category has two columns, each of which is specified for males and females. The researcher revised the scenes and when found out any of these categories, she filled them according to the gender, and so on. As presented in the following table:

\* Results related to Question One: What kinds of conversational topics are used by male characters in which they become more talkative and more frequent than female characters in Legally Blonde's movie script?

To answer this question, all movie scripts which include (47) scenes, and consist of (22677) words, have been analyzed to identify the differences between all male characters in Legally Blonde's movie script in (minimal responses, taboo words, and swear) , as shown in Table (No.2) below

**Table No.2**  
**Frequencies and Percentages of the Three Categories of Words by Males in Legally Blonde's Movie**

Categories	Males		Females	
	Frequency	Percentage %	Frequency	Percentage %
<b>A.Minimal Responses:</b>				
1. Uh	3	27.2		
2.Huh	0	0		
3.Oh	3	14.2		
4.Yeah	2	40		
5.Yes	3	19		
6.No	2	10		
7.Okay	3	21		
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17.5 %</b>		
<b>B.Taboo Words:</b>				
8.Bitch	5	38.5		
9.Fuck	6	100		
10.Bastard	0	0		
11.Damn	7	58.3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>52.9%</b>		
<b>C.Swear Words</b>				
12.God	4	26.7		
13.Jesus	1	20		
14.Hell	9	69.3		
15.Blessed	0	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>41.2%</b>		

Table (No.2) shows that the first category, minimal responses, differs between males themselves, it was high in some units' analysis and low in some others, For example, the usage of *uh* in all movie script was 3 times for males with a percentage of (27.2 %), while the usage of *huh* was null, they avoid use it at all. Males prefer using other words such as *oh* which came with a percentage of (14.2 %) and *yes* with a percentage of (19%). Other words used by males is *Okay* which came with a percentage of (21%) and *yes* which came with a percentage of (19%) and *no* with a percentage of (10%), and *yeah* which was used 2 times with a percentage of (40%). The previous analysis for the males results of minimal responses indicates that the overall total in all movie script was 16 times with a percentage of (17.5 %).

The analysis of taboo category according to males, as shown in the Table (No.2). We can see that taboo words differ between males themselves, It was high in some units analysis and low in some others. For example, the usage of *bitch* in all movie script was 5 times for males with a percentage of (38.5 %), while the usage of *bastard* was null, they avoid use it at all. They prefer using other words such as *fuck* which was used 6 times and came with a percentage of (100 %). Another word used by males is *Damn* which was used (7) times and came with a percentage of (58.3 %). The previous analysis for the male results of taboo words indicates that the overall total of taboo words by males in all movie script was (18) times with a percentage of (52.9 %).

The last category to be analyzed is the used swear words. As shown in Table (No.2) we can see that swear words also differ between males, it was high in some units analysis and low in some others. For example, the usage of *God* in all movie script was 4 times for males with a percentage of (26.7 %), while the usage of *Jesus* was one time with a percentage of (20%). They prefer using other words such as *hell* which was used (9) times and came with a percentage of (69.3 %). The previous analysis for the male results of swear words indicates that the overall total of swear words used by males in all movie script was (14) times with a percentage of (41.2 %).

\* Results related to Question Two: What kinds of conversational topics are used by female characters in which they become more talkative and more frequent than male characters in *Legally Blonde's* movie script?

To answer this question, all movie scripts have been analyzed (47) scenes, and consist of (22677) words, have been analyzed to identify the differences between all

female characters in Legally Blonde's movie script in (minimal responses, taboo words, and swear), as shown in Table (No.3) below:

**Table No.3**  
Frequencies and Percentages of the Three Categories of Words by Females in Legally Blonde's movie script

Categories	Males		Females	
	Frequency	Percentage %	Frequency	Percentage %
<b>A.Minimal Responses:</b>				
1. Uh			8	72.8
2.Huh			2	100
3.Oh			18	85.8
4.Yeah			3	60
5.Yes			13	81
6.No			20	90
7.Okay			11	79
<b>Total</b>			75	82.5 %
<b>B.Taboo Words:</b>				
8.Bitch			8	61.5
9.Fuck			0	0
10.Bastard			3	100
11.Damn			5	41.7
<b>Total</b>			16	47.1%
<b>C.Swear Words</b>				
12.God			11	73.3
13.Jesus			4	80
14.Hell			4	30.7
15.Blessed			1	100
<b>Total</b>			20	58.8%

Table ( No.3) shows that the first category, minimal responses, differs between females. It was high in some units analysis and low in some others. For example, the usage of *uh* in all movie script was (8) times for males with a percentage of (72.8 %). While the usage of *huh* was (2) times with a percentage of (100%). They prefer using other words such as *oh* which was used (18) times and came with a percentage of (85.5 %). Another word used by females is *Okay* which was used (11) times and came with a percentage of (79%). *Yes* which was used (13) times with a percentage of (81%) , *no*

which was used (20) times with a percentage of (90%), and *yeah* which was used (3) times with a percentage of (60%). The previous table also indicates that the overall total of minimal responses by females in all movie script was (75) times with a percentage of (82.5 %).

The analysis of taboo category according to female, as shown in the Table (No.3). Taboo words differ between females. It was high in some units and low in some others. For example, the usage of *bitch* in all movie script was (8) times for males with a percentage of (61.5 %), while the usage of *fuck* was null, they didn't use it at all. They prefer using other words such as *damn* which was used (5) times and came with a percentage of (41.7 %). Other words used by males is *bastred* which was used (3) times with a percentage of (100 %). The previous table also indicates that the overall total of taboo words used by males in all the movie script was (16) times with a percentage of (47.1 %).

The last category which was analyzed is swear words. Table (No.3) shows that swear words differ between females. It was high in some units and low in some others. For example, the usage of *God* in all movie script was (11) times for males with a percentage of (73.3 %), while the usage of *Jesus* was (4) time with a percentage of (80%). They also prefer using other words such as *hell* which was used (4) times with a percentage of (30.7 %), *blessed* which was used one time with a percentage of (100%). The table also indicates that the overall total of swear words used by females in the movie script was (20) times with a percentage of (58.8%).

## **Chapter Five**

### **Discussions, Conclusions, and Recommendations**

This chapter presents a brief summary and a short discussion of the findings of the two research questions. It also attempts to explain and interpret the results in light of the related literature. The chapter concludes with some recommendations and suggestions for future research.

#### **5-1 Discussion of the Study Results:**

Based on the statistical analysis, the researcher discussed between the differences of the percentages between males and females in different categories. Therefore, the researcher took into consideration the answers to the two questions of the study during discussing these results. Table (No.4) explains the differences of frequencies and percentages in all categories and their units by males and females in Legally Blonde's movie script.

**Table No. 4**  
**Frequencies and Percentages of the Three Categories of Words by Males/Females in Legally Blonde's movie script.**

Categories	Males		Females	
	Frequency	Percentage %	Frequency	Percentage %
<b>A.Minimal Responses:</b>				
1. Uh	3	27.2	8	72.8
2.Huh	0	0	2	100
3.Oh	3	14.2	18	85.8
4.Yeah	2	40	3	60
5.Yes	3	19	13	81
6.No	2	10	20	90
7.Okay	3	21	11	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17.5 %</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82.5 %</b>
<b>B.Taboo Words:</b>				
1.Bitch	5	38.5	8	61.5
2.Fuck	6	100	0	0
3.Bastard	0	0	3	100
4.Damn	7	58.3	5	41.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>52.9%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>47.1%</b>
<b>C.Swear Words</b>				
1.God	4	26.7	11	73.3
2.Jesus	1	20	4	80
3.Hell	9	69.3	4	30.7
4.Blessed	0	0	1	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>58.8%</b>

### 5-1-1 Discussion Related to Minimal Responses:

Table No. (4) shows that females use minimal responses more than males. For example, females tend to use some units such as (uh, huh, yes, no, okay, oh and yeah) more than males. The results indicate that the overall percentage of minimal responses was higher for females, and it was (82.5 %) while males percentage was (17.5 %).

Al-rousan et, al. (2016) study agrees with this study. The similarity can be showed through the results which concluded as the following: He found out that females use minimal and compliment responses more than males do. Moreover, female student

use agreement strategies more frequently than the male students do. Even that all students whether males or females favored using agreement strategies more than non-agreement and other interpretation strategies. Finally, his study revealed that females responded to compliments offered by female, through using the agreement strategies more than compliment offered by the males.

This study is also similar to Reid (2014) who found out that female friends usage of minimal responses is very high. That obviously appeared in same sex pairs Women use more minimal responses generally, while both sexes use more of the agreement type as opposed to the facilitative or cooperative type of minimal response.

Similarly, Karlsson (2007) found out the same results of this study in which he revealed that these items of minimal responses "mhm and right" uttered by the female character in the dialog were not connected to typical female language among females. Females use more polite language. The result showed a total of 52,5% among females compared to the result among males: 27,5%. According to his research, the researcher considers minimal responses as a polite language and female use it more than male.

Furthermore, Fishman (1983) is also found out the same results that male and female use minimal responses in different ways. While male used them merely to fill a turn, showing a decided lack of encouragement and displaying a lack of interest, female used them mostly to do "support work", indicating attention, participation and interest. It is her belief that women do all the interactional work in a conversation by inserting minimal responses 'throughout streams of talk rather than at the end'.

Fangm (2008) in contrast, disagreed with this study and that can be shown by its results which males in the Cartoon Show the Simpsons use minimal responses more than females.

### **5-1-2 Discussion related to taboo words:**

Table (No.4) shows that males use taboo words more than females do. For example males tend to use some words such as (fuck, damn) more than females who prefer using (bitch, bastard). The results also showed that the total of taboo words as derived from the movie script were said by males rather than females. The overall percentage was higher for males, and it was (52.9 %) while for females it was (47.1%).

According to the general understanding of Simkins and Rinck study(1982). Which focuses on the idea that men use taboo-words which are supposed to be more frequently used among males than females. This study adapts the same understanding. It concluded that regardless of the interpersonal context (i.e. mixed company, friends and lovers) both genders prefer the formal terminologies (i.e. penis, vagina and sexual intercourse) although when discussing with same-sex friends, males tend to use slang (i.e. use pussy to refer to female use fucking or screwing to refer to sexual intercourse) while females tend to use euphemism (i.e. making love to refer to sexual intercourse).

This study agrees with the findings of Dai and Ning (2010) who found out that males use taboo words and slangs more than women do in their daily speeches within the same level of education. Furthermore, men use more vernacular words in their speech more than women . While women use a particular style is less powerful and indirect she found out herself of higher status. On the other hand, male bosses use fewer words when giving orders and tend to be more direct.

In addition, Montenegro (1982) agrees with this study, that can be shown through the results that (53%) of the Philippines males were predisposed to the use of cuss words, women, on the other hand, tend to be less explicit, more repressed in their use of cathartic expressions. For the use of taboo words and euphemisms, Montenegro (1982)

found out that men and women's taboo words are centered around the excretory processes, sexual organs and sexual acts where euphemisms are used.

#### **5-1-3 Discussion Related to Swear Words:**

By referring again to the Table (No.4) the researcher found out that swear words were used by females rather than males. For example, females tend to use some words such as (God, Jesus, and Blessed) more than males who prefer using (Hell) more than other words. The results also indicated that the total of swear words that female used as derived from the movie script was more than ones which male used. The overall percentage was higher for females, and it was (58.8 %) while for males it was (41.2 %).

The study agrees with Nicolau and Sukamto (2015) who found that males and females use swear words inevitably and they becomes a part of their language repertoire. Students use both Indonesian and English swear words through their conversations in order to reduce stress and express intense emotions. The study concluded that females use swear words more than males and both genders found that the swear words which are used in their L1 have more impact in their emotional resonance so they prefer to use it rather than ones in their L2.

Gauthier (2010) explores likeness results with this study which revealed that women as people one must avoid swearing with by politeness, and men as people who swear a lot around a beer when they watch a football match.

In contrast, Sollid (2009) study disagreed with this study. That can be found through the results of the study. It found that women use substantially fewer swear words than men in general. However, the differences in the use of aggressive swear words are quite small. Finally, men use swear words that are more offensive than women do.

## **5-2 Conclusions:**

It is believed that males and females are linguistically different from each other. They use different communicative competencies in daily conversations. This study tried to prove that there is indeed a difference between males and females in the conversations where minimal responses, taboo and swear words are concerned. When the analysis based on the data collected were done, the researcher revealed that the results from this study may be quite limited, but it might at least indicate how male and female speakers perform differently in the use of minimal responses, taboo and swear words in different situations.

### **This study is justified, as the following:**

- According to the results of this study, the researcher found out that females use minimal responses more than males do within all categories and their units. Because the researcher pays more attention to the context where conversation occurs, minimal responses can be identified properly according to the nature of topics, the topic selection in addition to the speaker and addressee. Therefore, after the researcher had watched the movie, she noticed that there are some reasons behind minimal responses results within this study. Since the female and male characters are totally different from making the decision, female characters have a stronger personality than male characters. Therefore, the researcher found out that females appeared as the good listenership, agreement and support the males by using polite language. Male characters, in contrast use minimal responses to fill a turn, showing a decided lack of encouragement and displaying a lack of interest.
- For the second categories which the researcher found out that females use swear words more than males do. Because the researcher pays more attention to the context where conversation occurs, swear words can be identified properly

according to the nature of topics, the topic selection in addition to the speaker and addressee. Therefore, after the researcher had watched the movie , she noticed that there are some reasons behind swear words results within this study. Females tend to express the emotional responses to certain motives, have an instinctive shrinking from coarse and gross expressions and a preference for refined and indirect expression. Male characters, in contrast emphasize how great they feel something is, express their feelings for that object, situation, person and emotional reaction to others. The dialogue and the plot served female to use swear words more than male.

- At the end, the researcher found out that males use taboo words more than females do within all their items. Because the researcher pay more attention to the context where conversation occurs, taboo words can be identified properly according to the nature of topics, the topic selection in addition to the speaker and addressee. Therefore, after the researcher watched the movie , she noticed that there are some reasons behind the use of taboo words results within this study. Male's reaction represented with a short and strong shock of passionate language which is provoked by disappointment or anger. Furthermore, males use the taboo words to show their annoyed from females .They also seek to use vulgar words in a rough manner for drawing attention to their words. Female characters, in contrast tend to use what are described as polished and more refined words than male characters and also tend be less explicit, more repressed in their use of taboo expressions.

As a conclusion, the following charts explain the differences of percentages and average between males and females in all categories were selected as shown in chart (No.1):

**Chart (No.1)**  
Percentages of the Three Categories by Males/Females in Legally Blonde's movie script.

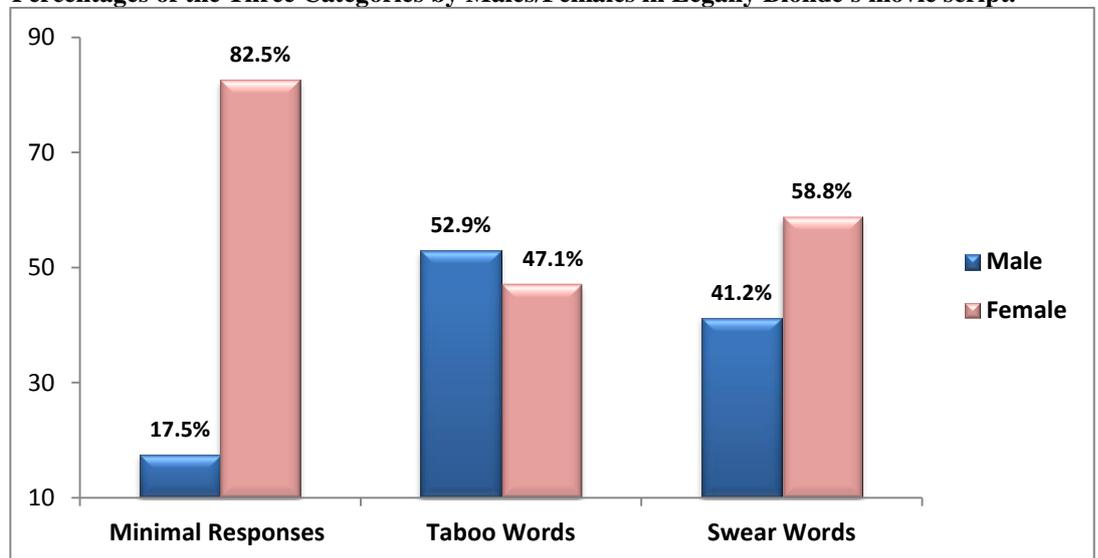
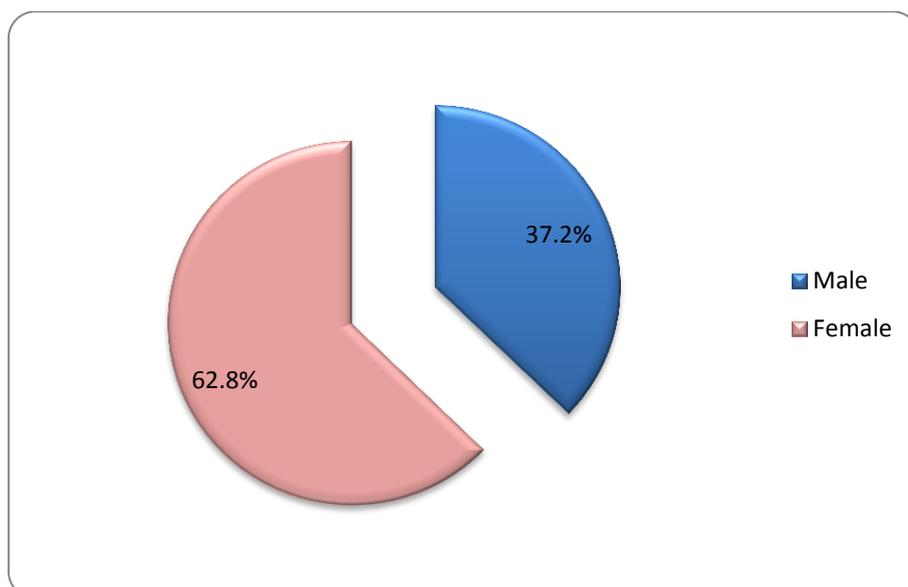


Chart (No.2), shows that females are more talkative and more frequent than males within all categories.

**Chart (No.2)**  
Average of all percentages related to the Three Categories by Males/Females in Legally Blonde's Movie



### **5.3 Recommendations:**

On the basis of the results of this study, the researcher suggests the following recommendations:

- Conducting the same investigation into gender differences in conversational topics in Arabic movies or series, to discover the Arab genders differences.
- Investigating gender differences in conversational topics in other fields or occasions such as social interactions, friendship, peers, love, and other related situations.
- Conducting a comparative study between Arab males and females and foreign males and females, to discover and compare them together and identify who are more talkative Arab or foreign females from one side and Arab and foreign males from the other side.

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## **Appendix (No.1)**

### **The Validation Letter**

Dear Professors:

My name is Hiba Abu Al Rub. I am a graduate student at Middle East University for Graduate Studies. My supervisor; Dr. Norma Al-Zayed, has recommended your name to serve as a member of the panel of jurors for the test instrument I am using for my M.A thesis entitled:

**Conversational Topics Analysis between Male and Female in Legally Blonde's Movie: A Sociolinguistics Study**

Please find the attached checklist which is supposed to answer the following three research questions:

Q1- What kinds of conversational topics are used by male characters in which they become more talkative and frequent than female characters in Legally Blonde's Movie scripts?

Q2- What kinds of conversational topics are used by female characters in which they become more talkative and frequent than male characters in Legally Blonde's Movie scripts?

Kindly review the checklist hoping to provide me with your comments, notes and recommendations on the adequacy of the content and its suitability to measure what is intended to be measured. Once again, thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hiba Abu Al Rub

## Panel of Experts

<b>Name</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Specialization</b>
Dr. Fatima Ja'far	Amman Arab University	Methods in Teaching English
Dr.Majed Abdellatif	MEU University	Linguistics
Dr.Mohammad Hanaqta	MEU University	Translation
Dr. Nadia Tariq	MEU University	Literature
Dr.Suliman Al-Abbas	Arab Open University	Translation and Linguistics

## Appendix (No.2)

### Legally Blonde's Movie Scripts

#### Scene 1

Elle : I love you, too! I'll see you to night. "Elle and Warner forever". Aww... In delta gamma house – living room – day- same time.

Serena : Jeremy, enough! I am not going to formal with you.

Margot : Can someone please tell rick that he is not the only sigma chi with a big penis?

Elle : You guys are so sweet! But I'm not positive it's gonna happen tonight —

Serena : Helloo...He just had lunch with his grandmother. You know he got "the rock".

Margot : Why else would she have flown in from Newport? It's not like she'd Fed Ex a Six carat diamond.

Elle : You think?

Serena : I can't believe you're getting engaged! .

Elle : C'mon you have to help me pick out the Perfect outfit.

#### Scene 2

Elle : Amy, what's wron Amy : I don't really — know anyone.

Elle : That's because you spend too much time in the library. Come with me. I'll meet you outside. Brandon, jason, grant —this is amy. Why don't you tell her about the time you guys went golfing naked?

Brandon : It was classic. Jason hit with wood all day .

Grant : And we never ran out of balls

#### Scene 3

Elle : Too demure?

Margot : I think you should go with red. It's the color of confidence.

Elle : Well, I don't want to look like I know what's coming . . .

Serena : I don't understand why you're completely disregarding your signature color.

Elle : He's proposing! I can't look like I would on any date. This is the date. The night I'll always remember. I want to look special. Bridal . . . But not like I suspect anything.

Saleswoman: There's nothing I love more than a dumb blonde with daddy's

Serena : I can't wait to see you wearing the rock!

Elle : What if — you know — it's not the night?

Margot: Why else would he be taking you to the Ivy? You've been dating for a year —it's not like he's trying to impress you.

Serena : Elle, you've heard the man pass gas in his sleep.

Saleswoman : Did you see this one? We just got it in yesterday.

Elle : Is this a low-viscosity rayon?

Saleswoman : Uh, yes — of course.

Elle : With half-loop top-stitching on the hem?

Saleswoman : Absolutely. It's one of a kind.

Elle : It's impossible to use a half-loop topstitch on low-viscosity rayon. It would snag the fabric. And you didn't just get this in, because I remember it from the June Vogue a year ago, so if you're trying to sell it to me at full price, you picked the wrong girl.

Margot : Nice try.

Elle : Girls, this is it. In a few hours, I'll be the future Mrs. Warner Huntington III.

Amy : He's here!

Warner : You're beautiful.

Elle : So are you!

Warner : You ready?

Elle : I am so ready. Here's to ~ us.

## Scene 4

Warner : The reason I wanted to come here tonight was to discuss our future.

Elle : I'm fully amenable to that discussion.

Warner : I mean, we're having a lot of fun now —But things are gonna be different when I'm at Harvard Law School is a completely different world. I need to be serious.

Elle : Of course.

Warner : My family expects a lot from me. And I expect a lot from you. I plan on running for office someday.

Elle : And I fully support that.

Warner : But the thing is, if I'm gonna be a senator by the time

I'm thirty —I can't keep dicking around.

Elle : I completely agree.

Warner : That's why I think it's time for us to—I think we should break up.

Elle : What?

Warner : I'm sorry, Elle, I just —

Elle : You're breaking up with me?! I thought you were proposing.

Warner : Proposing?! Elle, if I'm going to be a politician, I need to marry a Jackie, not a — Marilyn.

Elle : You're breaking up with me because I'm too -- blonde?

Warner : That's not entirely —

Elle : Then what? My boobs are too big?

Warner : Elle — no. Your boobs are fine —

Elle : So when you said you'd always love me, you were just "dicking around"?

Warner : I do love you, Elle. I just can't marry you. You have no idea the pressure I'm under. My family has five generations of senators. My brother is in the top three at Yale law. He just got engaged to a Vanderbilt, for Christ's sakes.

Warner : It's not like I have a choice, sweetheart. C'mon. Let me take you home.

Elle : No.

Warner : Elle — it's twenty miles back to campus. Elle, believe me, I never expected to be doing this, but I think it's the right thing to do.

Elle : How can it be the right thing if we're not together?

Warner : I have to think about my future. And what people expect from me.

Elle : So you're breaking up with me because you're afraid your family won't like me?

Everybody likes me!

Warner : East coast people are different.

Elle : Just because I'm not a Vanderbilt, all of a sudden I'm white trash? I grew up in Bel air, Warner! Across the street from Aaron spelling! I think most people would agree that's way better than a Vanderbilt

Warner : I told you, Elle. I need someone —serious.

Elle : I'm seriously in love with you — isn't that enough?

Warner: I'm sorry.

## Scene 5

Margot : Why are you back so soon?

Serena : Did he forget the ring?

Margot : Elle?  
 Serena: Where's the rock?  
 Elle : We're not engaged. It' s over!  
 Serena and Margot: What?!  
 Elle : He broke up with me!  
 Serena : Is it a kappa?  
 Margot : It's not a theta —  
 Elle : No — it's just — not me. I'm cancelling the mixer. We'll  
 blacklist Sigma chi. Thank you, Serena, but I don't think. It'll do any good  
 Serena : What happened?  
 Elle : I don't know! Everything was normal at first and then he said  
 he needed someone more — serious!  
 Margot : Serious?! Who the hell does he think he is? You're the most  
 popular month on the USC calendar!  
 Serena: Oh, he is so over on this campus.  
 Elle: I just don't understand what went wrong. —  
 Margot: Maybe it's the grandmother. Have you ever met her?  
 Elle : Last month on his birthday. And she liked me! She said I  
 looked like Britney Spears. Why would you say that to someone you didn't  
 like?  
 Serena : How could this happen?  
 Elle : I don't know! I don't know anything anymore! (wiping a tear  
 ) I just need to be by myself.  
 Serena : Are you sure?  
 Margot : We still love you. Sisters forever!  
 Elle : Thank you. I love you, too.  
 Margot : Oh, god. What if josh doesn't think I'm serious enough?  
 Serena : Helloo... You let him have anal sex with you .  
 Margot : You're right. Phew!  
 Amy : Elle?  
 Another sister : Didn't you hear?  
 Elle : I just love him so much! I loved him the first moment I saw  
 him. He's beautiful and smart and someone I totally respect. And I did  
 everything I could to make him love me, but it wasn't enough. Now what am I  
 supposed to do? I planned my whole future around him. My life was going to be all  
 about Warner. Now what's it going to be about?

## Scene 6

Tv soap studio (on tv): "oh, darling. I'll love you forever

Elle : Bullshit!

Margot : Honey, stop! You have to leave this room — it's been a week.

Elle : So?

Serena : What's the thing that always makes us feel better, no matter what?

Margot : Cunnilingus?

Serena : No — the thing after that. It was awful. We all thought she'd be the first to walk down the aisle and now she's totally adrift.

Elle :

Oh, my god! Do you know who this is?

Old lady : No.

Elle : It's warner's older brother!

Old lady : Who?

Elle : He just got engaged to this — this very unfortunate looking girl "Third year Yale Law student Putnam Bowes Huntington III and his fiance Layne Walker Vanderbilt, first year Yale Law." This is the type-of girl Warner wants to marry. This is what I need to become to be serious.

Old lady : But ugly?

Elle : No -- a law student.

Serena : Elle? She'll never get him back with those cuticles.

## Scene 7

Advisor : Harvard law school?

Elle : That's right.

Advisor : But it's a top three school —

Elle : I have a 4.0

Advisor : Yes, but your major is fashion Merchandising. Harvard won't be impressed that you aced "history of Lycra". What are your backups?

Elle : I don't need backups. Harvard is the school I'm going to.

Advisor : Well, then. You'll need excellent recommendations from your professors, a heck of an admissions essay and at least a one- seventy-five on your LASTS.

Elle : I once had to judge a theta chi tighty whitey contest. Trust me— I can handle anything.

Margot : What are you doing?!

Elle : Reading about the LASTS.

Serena : My cousin had them. Apparently you get a really bad rash on your —

Elle : The LASTS are an exam. Girls— I ' m going to Harvard!

Serena : What, like on va-kay?

Margot : Let's all go! Road trip!

Serena : Wait — Cecil has a condo in Tahoe. Let's go there!

Elle : No — I'm going to law school at Harvard.

Margot : Why?!

Serena : I mean, I know you're upset and all, but can't you just take a sedative?

Elle : Once warner sees me as a serious law student, he'll want me back. It's a completely brilliant plan!

Margot : But isn't it kind of hard to get into law school?

Elle : I have the highest GPA in delta gamma!

Margot : Here. You're gonna need this.

Elle : Your scrunchie?

Margot: My lucky scrunchie. It helped me pass Spanish.

Serena : You passed Spanish because you gave Professor Montoya a hand-job after the final.

Margot : Yeah, luckily.

## Scene 8

(Elle introduces herself to the camera)

Elle : My name is Elle Woods and for my admissions essay, I'd like to tell all of you at Harvard why I'm going to make an amazing lawyer.As president of my sorority, I'm skilled at commanding the attention of a room and discussing important issue. It has come to my attention that the maintenance staff is switching our toilet paper from char min to generic. All those opposed to chafing, please say —aye|| . I'm able to recall hundreds of important details at the drop of a hat.

Margot : Elle, do you know what happened on "days of our lives" yesterday?

Elle: Why, yes, Margot, I do. Once again, we joined hope in the search for her identity. As you know, she's been brainwashed by the evil Stefano —and the laws and bi-laws of civil obedience are crucial to my life. No shoving on the skate path! City Ordinance 22g! I feel confident using legal

jargon in daily life I object! I've seen every episode of "the practice" and I'm even on speaking terms with Dylan McDermott.

Serena : There he is!

Margot : Pull up next to him!

Elle : Dylan! We love you!

Elle : I'm totally focused and goal-oriented. Plus I'm able to sway people with my very convincing arguments. Calvin Klein's spring line is

atrocious. Don't you agree?

Serena : Absolutely!

Amy : It's here!

Elle : One seventy five. One seventy five. And that's why you should vote for me. Elle Woods. Future lawyer. For the class of 2003.

## Scene 9

Admissions guy #1: That was certainly a very —imaginative essay.

Admissions guy #2: She does have a 4.0 from USC and she got a one-seventy-nine on her LASTS. Dean of admissions: a fashion major?

Admissions guy #3: Well, we've never had one before...Aren't we always looking for diversity?

Admissions guy #1: Her list of extracurricular is impressive.

Dean of admissions: She was in a Ricky Martin video — Admissions guy #2: Clearly, she's interested in music ...

Dean of admissions: She also designed a line of faux fur panties for her sorority's charity project –

Admissions guy #: I think it's obvious that she's a very well-rounded individual.

Dean of admissions: Elle woods — welcome to Harvard.

## Scene 10

Daniel : Law school?

Elle : It's a perfectly respectable place...

Daniel: Sweetheart, you don't need law school. Law school is for people who are boring and ugly and serious. And you, but you are none of those things.

Sapphire : You were first runner-up in the Miss Hawaiian tropic contest.

Why throw all that away?

Elle : Because this is what I want. I've worked hard for it. Don't you understand that this is important to me? Going to harvard is the only way I can get the love of my life back!

Sapphire : Can't you just suck his wiener?

## Scene 11

Elle : We're here! This way, guys!

Arrogant Aaron : Whose knob did she honk to get in here?

Fuzzy 21 : Class schedule, map, book list.

Elle : Has Warner Huntington checked in yet?  
 Fuzzy 21 : Uh, no. Maybe you should try the lido Deck.  
 Elle : Wait — my social events schedule is missing.  
 Fuzzy 21 : Your what?  
 Elle : You know — mixers, formals, beach trips  
 Fuzzy 21 : There's a pizza welcome lunch in twenty minutes. Does that count?  
 Elle : I guess it'll have to . . .  
 Fuzzy 21 : What the hell. Was that?  
 Bald 21 : Malibu barbie lives.

## Scene 12

Burned out 21 : Okay. Welcome to law school. This is the part where we go around in a circle and everyone says a little bit about themselves. Let's start with you.  
 David : I have a master in Russian literature, a Ph.d in biochemistry, and for the last eighteen months, I've been de-worming orphans in Somalia.  
 Burned out 21: Awesome. How about you, Enid?  
 Enid : Ph.d from Berkeley in women's studies— Emphasis in the history of combat. And last year, I led the march for lesbians against drunk driving.  
 Burned out 21: Killer.  
 Intense Ivan : I've got an mba from Wharton, worked on Wall Street for four years, mused in three ididarods and I've figured out how to crash the stock market in Sri Lanka if any of you want to get together later.  
 Burned out 21 : Sweet. What about you?  
 Elle : I'm a Gemini. I have a bachelor degree from USC, where I was sigma chi sweetheart and president of Delta Gamma, and last year I was homecoming queen. Oh! Two weeks ago, I saw Cameron Diaz at Fred Segal — and talked her out of buying a truly heinous angora sweater! Whoever said that orange is the new pink is Seriously disturbed

## Scene 13

Elle : Wish me luck, underdog. It's my first class as a serious law student. I totally look the part!  
 Arrogant Aaron: H e l l o t h e r e . . . . .  
 Warner : Elle?!

Elle : Warner?! Oh my god, I completely forgot you were going here!

Warner : What're you talking about? You're not here to see me?

Elle : No, silly. I go here.

Warner : You go where?

Elle : Harvard. Law school.

Warner : You got into Harvard law?

Elle : What, like it's that hard? Oops! Time for class. Meet me after? On the benches?

Warner : Uh — sure.

Arrogant Aaron: If you're looking for the best seat, I hear the front row is the place to be.

Elle : Thanks

## Scene 14

Prof. Stromwell: A legal education means you will learn to speak in a new language. You will be taught to achieve insight into the world around you, and to sharply question what you know. The seat you've picked is yours for the next nine months of your life. Enjoy it. And those of you in the front row, Beware.

"The law is reason free from passion." Does anyone know who spoke those

immortal words? Yes?

David : Aristotle.

Prof. Stromwell: Are you sure?

David : Yes?

Prof. Stromwell: Would you be willing to stake your life on it?

David : I think so.

Prof. Stromwell: How about — his life?

David : I don't know.

Prof. Stromwell : Well, I recommend knowing before speaking.. The law leaves much room for interpretation — but very little for self-doubt. And you were right. It was Aristotle. I assume you've all read pages 1- 48 and are now well-versed in subject matter Jurisdiction. Who can tell us about Gordon v. Steele? Ivan greenstein?

Ivan : Gordon sued her doctors for malpractice.

Prof. Stromwell : And what did the dispute entail? Let's call on someone in the hot zone. Elle woods?

Elle : Uh... I wasn't aware that we had an assignment.

Prof. Stromwell : Sarah Knottingham? Do you think it's acceptable that Ms. Woods is unprepared?

Sarah: No, I don't.

Prof. Stromwell : Would you support my decision to ask her to leave and return to class only when she is prepared?

Sarah : Absolutely.

Prof. Stromwell: Now, Ms. Knottingham, did diversity jurisdiction exist in this case?

## Scene 15

Emmett : Are you okay?

Elle: Do they just — put you on the spot like that? Like, all the time?

Emmett : The professors? Yeah, they tend to do that. Socratic method.

Elle : And if you don't know the answer, they just kick you out?

Emmett : You have Stromwell.

Elle : Did she do that to you, too?

Emmett : No, but she made me cry once. Not in class — I waited until I got to my room, But yeah, she can pretty much shrivel your balls — or you know, your whatever.

Elle : N e a t .

Emmett : Don't worry. It gets better. Who else do you have?

Elle : Donovan, Royalton and Levinson.

Emmett : Speak up in Donovan's class. He likes people with an opinion. Sit in the back for Royalton. He tends to spit when he talks about products liability. And make sure you read the footnotes in Levinson's class. That's where all her exam questions come from.

Elle : Wow. I'm glad I met you.

Emmett : Oh, and getting one of Stromwell's daily quotes right is almost as important as acing the mid-term. But you didn't hear it from me.

Elle : Are you a third-year?

Warner : Hey.

Elle : Hi !

Emmett : Good luck.

Elle : Thanks again for your help!

## Scene 16

Warner : So — uh — how was your first class?

Elle : Fine. Except for this horrible girl who made me look bad in front of my civ pro Professor. But no biggie. You're here now. How was your summer?

Warner : Good. Good.

Elle : Do anything exciting?

Warner : Urn, hey, have you met Sarah?

Sarah : Hi. Sarah Knottingham.

Elle : You know her?

Warner : She's —

Sarah : — I'm his fiancée.

Elle : I'm sorry, I just hallucinated.

Warner : Sarah was my girlfriend at prep school. We got back together over the summer at my grandmother's birthday party.

Sarah : Warner told me all about you. You're famous at our club. But he didn't tell me you'd be here.

Warner : I didn't know.

Elle : Excuse me.

Sarah : I thought you said she was pretty.

## Scene 17

Paulette : Bad day?

Elle : You can't even imagine.

Paulette : Spill.

Elle : I worked really hard to get into law school — I blew off spring break and Greek week to study for the LASTS, I completely neglected my homecoming queen duties, I hired a coppola to direct my admissions video — all so I could get my boyfriend Warner back and now he's engaged to this awful girl Sarah so it was all for nothing! I wish I'd never even come to Harvard.

Paulette : After you went to all that trouble?

Elle : Well, what am I supposed to do? He's engaged! She's got the family six-carat on her bony, unpolished finger.

Paulette : You're asking the wrong girl. I'm with my guy eight years and then one day it's " I met someone else. Move out."

Elle : What'd you do?

Paulette : Cried a lot and gained twenty pounds. Dewey kept the trailer and my precious baby rufus. I got jackcrap. I didn't even get to go to his birthday Party.

Elle : No!

Paulette : What could I do? He's a man who followed his pecker to greener pastures. I'm a middle-aged high-school dropout with stretch marks and a fat ass. Happens everyday. At least to women like me.

Elle : That's terrible!

Paulette : So, what's this sarah got that you don't? Three tits?

Elle : She's from connecticut. She belongs to his stupid country club.

Paulette : Is she as pretty as you?

Elle : I ' m not pretty — I'm genetically blessed.

Paulette : Is he?

Elle : She could use some mascara and some serious highlights, but she's not completely unfortunate- looking.

Ups guy (o.s.) : Hello, ladies. See ya later .

Paulette : Could I be anymore goddamn spastic? So you're sure, this Warner guy is "the one "?

Elle : Definitely! I love him !

Paulette : If a girl like you can't hold on to her man -- then there sure as hell isn't any hope for the rest of us. What're you waiting for? Steal the bastard back.

Elle : Warner?

## Scene 18

Prof. Donovan: I should warn you that in addition to competing against each other for the top grade in this class, you'll also be competing for one of my firm's highly coveted four internship spots next year where you will get to assist on actual cases. Let the bloodbath begin. Now, let's commence with our usual torture —Ms. Wood s —

Sarah : This should be amusing.

Prof. Donovan: Would you rather have a client who committed a crime malum in se or malum prohibitum?

Elle : Neither.

Prof. Donovan : Why not?

Elle : I'd rather have a client who's innocent.

Prof. Donovan: Dare to dream, ms. Woods. Ms. Knottingham? Which would you prefer?

Sarah : Malum prohibitum. Because the client would've committed a regulatory infraction as opposed to a dangerous crime.

Prof. Donovan: Yes? Ms. Woods?

Elle : I changed my mind. I'd pick the dangerous one. I'm not afraid of a challenge.

## Scene 19

Elle : I'm here to join your study group. And look! I brought sustenance!

Warner : Elle, what're you doing here?

Elle : Who's first?

Sarah : Our group is full.

Elle : Oh, god, was this like an rsvp thing?

Claire : No, it's like a smart people thing. And like Sarah said, we're full.

Warner : Come on ~ we can make room for one more.

Sarah : We've already assigned the outlines, and everyone has started theirs',

Claire : Besides, you wouldn't let the fat guy join.

Warner : He tried to watch me take a shower!

Sarah : The answer is no.

Elle : Then I guess I'll leave you alone.

Enid : Maybe there's a sorority you could join instead.

Elle : You know, if you'd come to a rush party, I would've at least been nice to you.

Enid : Before you voted against me and called me a dyke behind my back?

Elle : I don't use that word. Only mean people use that word. You must've heard it from Sarah.

## Scene 20

Margot : It's Elle! Guess what I'm doing right this second?

Elle : Power yoga?

Margot : Picking out my wedding dress!  
 Elle : What?!  
     Margot : Josh proposed!  
 Elle : No way  
 Serena : You have the rock yet?  
 Elle : Almost.  
 Serena : Well, hurry up so you can come home! We miss you!  
 Elle : I miss you guys! The people here are so vile! Hardly anyone even talks to me unless it's to say something that's no nice. Law school sucks!  
 Serena : Oh, my god! I completely forgot to tell you!  
 Elle : What?  
 Serena : I got bangs!  
 Elle : Really —  
 Margot : Keep June first open — you're one of my bridesmaids. And give Warner our love.  
 Elle : I will.

## Scene 21

Sarah : It's not just any Halloween party. It's a "come as your favorite defendant" party.  
 Claire : That's genius.  
 Elle : No way! Someone at this school is actually having a party?  
 Sarah : No.  
     Claire : You must've heard us wrong.  
     Sarah : Sorry. Looks like you'll be staying home tonight. Alone.  
     Elle : I can't believe this. Not only I don't have Warner, but I'm unpopular!  
 But I wasn't invited. You really think I should?  
 Enid : The English language is all about subliminal domination. Take the word "semester". It's a perfect example of this school's discriminatory preference of semen to ovaries. That's why I'm petitioning to have next term be referred to as winter ovester. Hey, Elle— I've been meaning to ask you— are those real?  
 Elle : Enid, please — silicone is so 90's. Thanks for inviting me, girls. This party is super fun.  
     Sarah : You're supposed to be dressed as a famous defendant.  
     Elle : I am. Didn't you hear about the playboy bunny who slit her ex-boyfriend's new fiancée's throat with a broken wine glass? It was tragic.  
 Elle : Hey, o.j  
 Warner : Wow. You're a walking felony.  
 Elle : Thank you. Having fun?

Warner : Now I am.

## Scene 22

Elle : I feel like we've barely spent any time together since we got here.

Warner : That's because I spend all my time with case studies and hypos.

Elle : Tell me about it. I can't imagine doing all this and Donovan's internship next year.

Warner : Elle, c'mon, there's no way you'll get the grades to qualify for one of those spots. You're not smart enough. I didn't mean —

Elle : Am I on glue, or did I not get into the same law school you did, Warner?

Warner : Well, yeah, but —

Elle : But what? We took the same LSAT, we take the same classes —

Warner : I just don't want to see you get your hopes up. You know how you get.

Elle : I'll never be good enough for you, will I?

## Scene 23

Enid : I give her two more weeks.

David : Two and a half?

Sarah : If she spreads her legs, maybe —

Arrogant Aaron: Only if I'm feeling generous.

Elle : What is this?

Claire : We're betting on how much longer you're going to last.

Elle : What?

Sarah : Look around, Elle. Do you actually think you belong here?

Elle : Why wouldn't I?

Enid : Because the rest of us provide some worthwhile value to society?

Arrogant Aaron: Hold on, now — every society needs a bimbo. Who are we supposed to sleep with after we get rich?

Elle : You know what? All of you can just kiss my ass. You're about to see just how valuable Elle Woods can be. Don't ask.

Emmett : Wasn't gonna.

## Scene 24

Prof. Donovan : And the purpose of "Diminished Capacity" is ?  
 Elle : To negate mens rea?  
 Prof. Stromwell : So you've filed a claim. Now what? Ms. Woods?  
 Elle : Don't you also need to have evidence?  
 Prof. Stromwell : Meaning?  
 Elle : Meaning you need — reasonable belief that your claim would have, like, evidentiary support?  
 Prof. Stromwell : And what kind of evidentiary support does this case require? Let's ask Mr. Harriman, who clearly believes that I might be hungry.  
 Warner : According to *Swinney v. Neubert*, Swinney, who was also a private sperm donor, was allowed visitation rights as long as he came to terms with the hours set forth by the parents. So, if we're sticking to past precedent, Mr. Latimer wasn't stalking— he was clearly within his rights to ask for visitation.  
 Prof. Donovan: But swinney was a one-time sperm donor , and in our case, the defendant was a habitual sperm donor, who also happens to be harassing the parents in his quest for visitation.  
 Warner : But, without this man's sperm —the child in question would not exist.  
 Prof. Donovan : Now you're thinking like a lawyer. Ms. Woods?  
 Sarah : The idiot speaks.  
 Elle : Although Mr. Huntington makes an excellent point, I have to wonder if the defendant kept a thorough record of each sperm emission made throughout his life?  
 Prof. Donovan : Why do you ask?  
 Elle = : Well, unless the defendant attempted to contact every single one-night- stand to determine if a child resulted in those unions — then he has no parental claim whatsoever over this child. Why this sperm? Why now? For that matter, all masturbatory emissions where his sperm was clearly not seeking an egg could be termed reckless abandonment.  
 Prof. Donovan: I believe you've just won your case.

## Scene 25

Prof. Donovan : You did well today  
 Elle : I did?  
 Prof. Donovan : You're applying for my internship, aren't you?  
 Elle : I don ' t know —  
 Prof. Donovan : You should. Do you have a resume?

Elle [ : I do.

Prof. Donovan : It's pink.

Elle : And engraved... Gives it that extra little something, doesn't it?

See you tomorrow!

Emmett : I brought you the Windham notes.

Prof. Donovan : You think she just woke up one morning and said, "I think I'll go to law school today!"?

Emmett : Aside from that lapse in judgement —She's got potential.

## Scene 26

Paulette : You showed up Warner in class? You're supposed to be showing up Sarah

Elle : I couldn't help it! It was the most fun I've had since I've been in law school. Not only was I good enough for Warner —I was better than him.

He has to see serious I am now. Even Donovan was impressed, and he's a total hard-ass. You ready?

Paulette : No.

Elle : Yes, you are. Go — you can do this.

Dewey

Paulette : I just —

Dewey : You just thought you'd come over and show me what I'm definitely not missing? What the hell happened to you? You get a job at a donut shop?

Paulette : That's not what —

Dewey : How many times you gonna show up here, begging me to take you back?

Elle : Dewey Newcomb?

Dewey : Who's as kin'

Elle: I 'm Elle Woods. Ms. Bonafante's attorney. Under state law, you and Ms. Bonafante had a common law marriage which entitles her to the benefits of property law and an equitable division of assets.

Dewey : Come again?

Elle : Due to the fact that you retained the residence, Ms.

Bonafante is entitled to full ownership of the canine property in question and we will be enforcing said ownership immediately.

Dewey : Huh?

Elle : Tell him, Paulette.

Paulette : I'm taking the dog dumbass. C'mere, baby, mommy's here!

Elle : We did it!

Paulette : God, that felt great!

Elle : Look at him. He's still scratching his head. Paulette : Which must be a nice vacation for his balls. And now mommy's got somebody to eat dinner with again. You don't care what mommy's butt looks like, do you?

## Scene 27

Prof. Stromwell : "an image and a good hook can get you into a room, but something has to keep you in that room." Mr. Greenstein?

Intense Ivan : Judge Sandra day O'connor?

Prof. Stromwell : C l o s e . . . Ms. Woods?

Elle : Madonna?

Prof. Stromwell : Damn. Thought I'd get everyone on that one.

Elle : What's going on?

David : Donovan's firm is defending a major murder case and his caseload is so heavy. He's taking on first year interns.

Elle : He chose them already?

Sarah : We got it!

Enid : The competition must not have been that stiff.

Arrogant Aaron : Why? I got a spot?

Enid : Hey! Watch your hands, Mr.Grabass.

Arrogant Aaron : That only leaves one for —

Elle : Me?! Remember the time after winter formal? When we spent four incredible hours in the hot tub...? This is way better than that. Excuse me. I have some shopping to do.

## Scene 28

Warner : You look — nice.

Elle : Thank you.

Donovan : There's your office, there's the bathroom, there's the coffee machine. There's Gerard, Dick and Bobby. They're the other associates on the case. Ask them all your stupid questions, save the smart ones for me.

Prof. Donovan: We're defending Brooke Windham, whose very wealthy husband was found shot to death in their beacon hill mansion.

Sarah : Gold digger?

Prof. Donovan : You'd think so, since the stiff was sixty, but she was rich

on her own. Some kind of fitness empire. You can buy her exercise tapes on infomercials.

Elle : Wait a minute — are we talking about Brooke Daniels?

Prof. Donovan : Maiden name — Daniels. You know her?

Elle : She was a delta gamma! Not in my pledge class or anything — she graduated, five years ahead of me. But i used to take her class at the la sports club. She's amazing!

Prof. Donovan : Amazing how?

Elle : She could make you drop three pounds in one class. She's completely gifted!

Prof. Donovan : Well, in all likelihood, she's completely guilty as well. She was seen standing over her husband's dead body.

Warnerm: By who?

Sarah : Whom?

Prof. Donovan : His twenty-seven year old daughter and the pool boy.

Elle : Maybe she found him like that.

Prof. Donovan : That's the story she'll be telling the jury. We just have to prove it.

Emmett : Sorry I'm late.

Prof. Donovan : This is Emmett Kerrigan, another associate . Top three in his class and former editor of Harvard law review. You've probably seen him lurking around campus doing my research

Emmett : Or napping on the quad.

Warner : What about the murder weapon?

Prof. Donovan : The gun is missing. The coroner said he'd been dead thirty minutes dead when the cops arrived — giving Brooke plenty of time to stash it.

Elle: There's no way Brooke could've done this -- exercise gives you endorphins, endorphins make you happy — happy people don't kill their husbands!

Prof. Donovan : You don't really believe she's innocent?

Elle : Of course, I do!

Emmett : Then we may actually have a case.

## Scene 29

Prof. Donovan : What alibi?

Brooke : I can't tell you.

Prof. Donovan : You understand you're on trial for murder?

Brooke: I didn't do it! I walked in, saw my husband lying on the floor,

bent down to check his heart, screamed my head off and Chutney and Enrique ran inside.

Prof. Donovan : Where they saw you standing over the body covered in his blood.

Brooke : Why would I kill my husband?

Prof. Donovan : Insurance? A love affair? Pure unadulterated hatred? Believe me, the day will come up with plenty of reasons.

Brooke : I loved him !

Prof. Donovan : He was thirty-four years older than you. That doesn't sound so good to a jury.

Brooke : Then show them a picture of his cock. They might put a few things together.

Prof. Donovan : Brooke, I believe you. But a jury is gonna want an alibi.

Brooke : I can't give you that. And if you put me on the stand, I'll lie.

Donovan : Were you with another man?

Brooke : Go to hell.

Donovan : I'll take that as a no.

Brooke : Are we done for today?

Donovan : I believe we are.

Brooke : Hey — I know you.

Elle: I'm a delta gamma and I'm a huge fan of yours!

Brooke: You took my class in la. You had the best high kick I've ever seen. Are you one of my lawyers?

Elle : Sort of.

Brooke : Well, thank god one of you has a brain.

## Scene 30

Elle : I feel so bad for her. I mean, she's in jail! And she's innocent. But I'm the only one who believes her. Donovan totally thinks she's guilty.

Paulette : That's because men are big, fat retards who don't — oh, my god.

Ups guy : Afternoon, ladies.

Paulette : It's him!

Elle : It's who?

Ups guy : I've got a package.

Elle : He's got a package.

Ups guy : How ya doin' today?

Paulette : Fine?

Ups guy : Take it easy.

Elle : So, this is the only interaction you two have ever had?

Paulette : No. Sometimes I say "okay" instead of "fine".

Elle : Have you ever considered asking him if he'd like a cold beverage? Or perhaps a neck massage?

Paulette : What's the point? Look at me.

Elle : I am. And I'm looking at a beautiful, fabulous, sexy woman.

Paulette : Good one.

Elle : Trust me. You've got the equipment, you just need to read the manual. I'm going to show you a little maneuver my mother taught me when i was in junior High. In my experience, it has a 98% success rate in getting a man's attention and when used appropriately—an 83% rate of return on a dinner invitation. It's called the "bend & snap". ( a c t i n g ) oh, look! There's something on the floor that i need to pick up!" bend... And snap! Now you try.

Paulette : Bend...and snap!

Elle : Good. Now this time, put a little arch in your back and maybe get your footing more solid. Perfect! Hair client like this? Good. But cock that knee. Another client am I doing it right? More snap, less bend. C'mon — everyone try! Now everyone together. Everyone bend. And snap!

Maurice : Oh, my god! The bend & snap! Works every time.

## Scene 31

Chutney : I got out of the shower, walked downstairs, saw her standing over my father, and called the police.

Prof. Donovan : Did she have a weapon in her hand?

Chutney : No.

Prof. Donovan : Was there any reason for you to believe she had discarded a weapon?

Chutney : Uh, yeah, because the bitch shot him.

Donovan : Was there any evidence that Mrs. Windham shot him?

Chutney : His dead body with a bullet in it.

Prof. Donovan : What did you see when you entered the house?

Enrique : I saw Mrs. Windham standing over the body of Mr. Windham.

Prof. Donovan : Was she carrying a weapon?

Enrique : No, she was crying her eyes out.

Prof. Donovan : So she was distraught that her husband was dead?

Enrique : Oh, yes. Mrs. Windham is the most sweet, wonderful woman I know. I have loved her since the day she hired me. She could never do something this awful. I know this because we are very close.

Gerard : She's screwing the pool boy.

Elle : There is no way a delta gamma would sleep with a man in a shiny shirt. Warner, back me up here.

Sarah : I hate to agree ~ but I don't see the two of them actually — doing it.

Enid : Women like that will screw anything.

Elle : So, because she's beautiful and has a good body, she's easy?

What book of feminist theory did you read, Enid?

Emmett : Okay, if Brooke didn't kill the guy, who did?

Elle : My money's on the angry daughter or the Ex-wife.

Prof. Donovan : Chutney has a trust fund. She didn't need the insurance payoff or the inheritance.

Bobby : What about her mother?

Prof. Donovan : Covered. She was in aspen at the time. Ten people saw her downing cosmopolitans at the Caribou club.

Elle : All I know is— it's not Brooke.

Prof. Donovan : That's touching, Elle, but we need an alibi.

## Scene 32

Elle : I'm here to see Brooke Windham.

Guard : Licensed attorney or family member?

Elle : Uh — family.

Guard : Relation?

Elle : I'm her sister.

Guard : Name?

Elle : Delta. Gamma. Are you okay? You look so sad...and so orange.

Brooke : I'm glad it's you and not Donovan.

Elle : He means well. He's really brilliant.

Brooke : He better be, for what i ' m paying him.

Elle : I brought you some necessities. Pink sheets. Aromatherapy candles. Loofah and the bible.

Brooke : You're an angel.

Elle : But I have to tell you the real reason I'm here. Professor Donovan says we really, really need your alibi.

Brooke : Elle, I can't. You don't understand.

Elle : Who could better understand than me?

Brooke : It's so shameful...

Elle : Whatever it is — it could save you.

Brooke : That's just it — it would ruin me!

Elle : How?

Brooke : I have made my fortune on my ability to teach women how to perfect their bodies with the Brooke's butt buster workout.

Elle : I know! You helped me go from a six to a four !

Brooke : On the day of Heyworth's murder, I was —getting liposuction.

Elle : No!

Brooke : I'm a fraud! But it's not like normal people can have this ass! If my fans knew, I'd lose everything. I've already lost my husband. I rather be in jail then lose my reputation!

Elle : Your secret is safe with me.

### Scene 33

Prof. Donovan: We've got two interviews tomorrow that Dick and Bobby are gonna handle, and the Ex-wife in an hour. Sarah, can you grab me some coffee? And according to this communique from the prison, our client apparently had a visit from her sister? A miss delta gamma —Anyone you know?

Elle : I went to get her alibi.

Prof. Donovan: Did you get it?

Elle : Yes. But I can't tell you what it is.

Prof. Donovan: Why the hell not?

Elle : I promised her I'd keep it secret. I can't break the bonds of sisterhood!

Prof. Donovan : Fuck sisterhood. This is a murder trial, not some scandal at the sorority house. I want the alibi.

Elle : I can't give it to you. All I can tell you is that she's innocent.

Assistant : Mr. Donovan? Mrs. Windham Vandermark is on line two.

Prof. Donovan : Someone reason with her while I take this Bobby. Are you crazy? Tell him the alibi.

Elle : No!

Dick : We're gonna lose the case if you don't.

Elle : Then we're not very good lawyers.

Warner : If you tell him, you'll probably make Summer associate. Who cares about Brooke? Think about yourself.

Elle : I gave her my word, Warner.

Prof. Donovan : The ex-wife seems to be unconcerned with the fact that her interview is today. She's at a spa in the Berkshires.

Gerard : A spa? Isn't that like, your mother-ship?

Elle : I can go if you want.

Enid : Why you?

Gerard : Have you ever been to a spa?

Enid: And subscribe to the doctrine of self-hatred imposed upon

Prof. Donovan : Go with her.

## Scene 34

Elle : Explain to me why you're so anti- brooke.

Emmett : Uh, for starters, she won't give us an Alibi —

Elle : Aside from that.

Emmett : She's completely untrustworthy.

Elle : Why?

Emmett : She married an old man, she's made a living on telling women

they're too fat, she hawks her crap on the home shopping network...

Elle : A) he's an old man with a really big penis. B) she never told me I was fat. And c) victoria principal sells on that Network.

Emmett : And d) Brooke is obviously hiding something.

Elle : But maybe it's not what you think.

Emmett : But maybe it is—

Elle : You're kind of being a butt-head right. Now.

Emmett : How do you figure?

Elle : Because people aren't always what they seem to be and you refuse to see that. Have a little faith. You might be surprised.

Emmett : I can't believe you called me a butt-head. No one's called me a butt-head since ninth grade.

Elle : Maybe not to your face...We have two o'clock massages.

Kerrigan and Woods.

Desk clerk : Go on back.

Elle : Oh, and my friend Katherine Windham Vandermark is here somewhere and I'm supposed to meet her. For a Pilates class. Do you have her schedule?

Desk clerk : She's in the mud room until four.

Emmett : Damn. We can't see her for an hour?

Elle : No, she can't move for an hour. Mrs. Windham Vandermark?

Emmett : We're here from Austen, Platt, Jaret & Donovan —

Mrs. Windham Vandermark: So, you found me.

I am covered in very expensive Egyptian Mud hardly naked.

Elle : I'll cover her — parts.

Mrs. Windham Vandermark: So, I hear the tart from California shot

Emmett : Well, that's what we're trying to prove. Didn't happen. Do you have any reason to believe it did? Mrs. Windham Vandermark I never met the woman, but from what my daughter tells me, she's quite the cun—

Elle : She's not!

Emmett : Did your daughter ever say anything to you about Brooke and Heyworth's relationship?

Mrs. Windham Vandermark: Aside from the fact that he found her on an infomercial? She said they humped like gorillas. Chutney could hear them all the way in the pool house.

Emmett : I'm sure that was very awkward for Chutney. Much as it is for me, hearing you tell about it.

Mrs. Windham Vandermark: But I guess it wasn't enough for Brooke.

Emmett : Why do you say that?

Mrs. Windham Vandermark: Haven't you seen the cabana boy?

Elle : Y e s . . . .

Mrs. Windham Vandermark: Like I said, I've never met Brooke, but I have seen her from a distance. When I'd come over to pick up the alimony check that

Heyworth forgot to mail every month, she'd be out by the pool, with Mr. Hot Pants hovering over her with some pink drink.

Emmett : Hovering?

Mrs. Windham Vandermark: I didn't stick around long enough to watch him stick his swizzle stick in her mouth, but I'd bet my next check that .

That's where he was about to put it.

Emmett : How can you still believe she's innocent?

Elle: You're going to trust the word of a woman who named her child after a condiment? She's lying.

Emmett : And you know this for a fact?

## Scene 35

Elle : Did you see the icky black color of her hair?

Emmett : So?

Elle : I never trust a woman who's not blonde. Except for my friend Serena, but that's only because she's a blonde at heart. That's the whole reason I'm starting the Blonde legal defense fund.

Emmett : Then what?

Elle : Blondes are discriminated against Worldwide! Brooke's a blonde, and people are saying she's sleeping with the cheesy pool boy and

shooting her husband. If she was a mousy brunette, it would be, "oh, the poor widow."

Emmett : You're serious?

Elle : You should see the way I'm treated in Class! I'm a complete source of mockery. This is why the blonde legal defense fund is needed.

Emmett : Okay, how would it work?

Elle : It would be a full-service law firm, by and for blondes, providing positive Blonde role models and community outreach in high blonde areas. I mean, think about it — name one blonde intellectual role model.

Emmett : — I can't.

Elle : That is a direct result of anti-blonde discrimination!

Emmett : Wait — Hilary Clinton.

Elle : If she were a true blonde, she would've left the cheating bastard. Blondes don't let their husbands get fellated by brunettes and live to tell about it.

Emmett : In that case, maybe Heyworth got —Fellated —by a brunette and Brooke caught him.

Elle : Exactly how much gorilla sex do you think a sixty-year -old man can take?

Emmett : That's not really a topic that keeps me up at night — but maybe it should.

Elle : Speaking of that — I bought you some seaweed cream while we were at the spa.

Emmett : What the hell is that for?

Elle : The bags under your eyes. You're an attractive man, but you need to take better care of yourself.

Emmett : I don't -- Do that stuff.

Elle : Well, you should —If you look good, you feel good and if you feel good, you project joy into the world.

Emmett : Projecting joy is not my job.

Elle : Fine. Sorry I brought it up

Emmett : You really think I'm attractive?

Elle : For a butt-head? Yes.

## Scene 36

David : So — I called your room last night.

Freshman girl : I heard.

David : I was thinking maybe we could go out sometime.

Freshman girl : Uh, no . . . You're a dork .

David : I ' m in law school —

Freshman girl : Look — I'm not going out with you. I can't believe you'd even ask. Girls like me don't go out with losers like you.

Elle : Why didn't you call me?

David : What?

Elle : We spend a beautiful night together and then i never hear from you again?

David: I — uh — I'm sorry?

Elle : For what? Breaking my heart or ruining sex for me with any other man?

David : Uh — both?

Elle : Forget it. I've already spent too many hours crying over you.

Fresh man girl: So, urn, when did you wanna go out?

Another girl : I ' m free on Friday.

## Scene 37

Bailiff (o.s.) : The first district court is now in session. The honorable judge William r. Ptak presiding.

Da joyce rafferty : And what was the defendant doing?

Mrs. Windham vandermark: Sitting next to the pool topless, while the Latin boy handed her a drink.

Da joyce rafferty: And where was she exactly?

Chutney : Standing over my father's dead body.

Da joyce rafferty: Mr. Salvatore, can you tell us what this is?

Enrique : My uniform. Da joyce rafferty. This is the uniform that Mrs.

Windham asked you to wear while cleaning her pool?

Enrique : Y e s .

Da joyce rafferty: And are you or are you not, having an affair with Brooke Windham?

Enrique : Define affair.

Da joyce rafferty: Have you inserted your genitalia into hers?

Prof. Donovan : Objection —

Da joyce rafferty: Have you and Mrs. Windham had sexual relations?

Enrique : Yes! Okay? Yes!

Brooke : I'm not having an affair with Enrique —You know a delta gamma would never sleep with a man who wears a thong! I just liked watching him bend over to clean the filter —

Elle : I believe you! Don't worry.

## Scene 38

Elle : Come in.

Sarah : You done with that yet?

Elle : Take it. I've read it twenty times.

Sarah : I believe her, too. I don't think she's having an affair with Enrique.

Elle : Too bad you and i are the only ones.

Sarah : I'm still can't believe you didn't tell Donovan the alibi.

Elle : It's not my alibi to tell —

Sarah : I know. I thought that was very — Classy of you.

Elle : Really? Thanks.

Sarah : Have you ever noticed that Donovan never asks warner to bring him coffee? He's asked me at least a dozen times.

Elle : Men are helpless. You know that.

Sarah : Warner can't even do his own laundry.

Elle : I know. He has it sent out.

Sarah : Did you know he got wait-listed when he-applied? His father had to make a call.

Elle : You're kidding!

Margot and Serena: Surprise!

Elle : Oh, my god! What're you doing here?!

Serena : We're on our way to the bridal show in New york so we thought we'd rescue you from law school for the night.

Margot : We have a limo downstairs and lots more of these.

Elle : You guys — i can't. We're in the middle of a trial.

Serena : Where's warner?

Sarah : At the office ~

Margot : Oh, how sweet! You made friends with a nerdy girl.

Elle : Margot!

Serena : Bring her, too. C'mon. You can wear one of Elle's outfits.

Sarah : That's okay —

Margot : Speaking of which, can you please put on some party clothes?

You look like someone rolled you in something sticky and dragged you through a k-mart.

Elle : I can't believe you guys are actually here — but this case is important. I'll make it up to you after finals, okay? I promise. I really want to do a good job.

Serena : Okay. . . Call us if you change your mind.

Margot : Here. Jesus. Talk about a rock. You must be better in bed than you look.

Lle

Margot and Serena: Sister forever.

Elle : Sorry about that.

Sarah : We'll drink it after we win.

## Scene 39

Ups guy (o.s.): I've got a big one for you. Can you sign? Got it?

Paulette : Oh my god!

Elle : You broke his nose?!

Ups guy : I'm okay —

Paulette : I think he noticed me, Elle —But only because I maimed him!

Elle : I'll be over right after the trial, okay? We're about to cross-examine Enrique. And don't worry! My friend Serena barfed on a guy during "the Blair witch project" and end up dating him for three months.

## Scene 40

Enrique : Don't stomp your little Prada sandals at me, miss thing.

Elle : He's gay! Enrique is gay!

Emmett : What?!

Elle : Warner, what kind of shoes do I have on?

Warner : Pink ones.

Elle : See?

Prof. Donovan : What are you talking about?

Elle : He's gay — he isn't Brooke's lover! He's making it up.

Whoever killed Heyworth is paying him off.

Emmett : Back up. How do you know he's gay?

Elle : Gay men know designers.

Straightmen : Don't.

Brooke : What's going on?

Elle : Enrique's gay. I'm sure of it .

Brooke : He did leave a Cher tape in the pool House once.

Donovan : While I appreciate your masterful legal theory, I have a murder trial to attend.

Elle : Thanks for the backup.

Warner : How was I supposed to know what kind of shoes you had on?

Donovan : Mr. Salvatore, do you have any proof that you and Mrs. Windham were having an affair?

Enrique : Just the love in my heart.

Donovan : If that's all the proof that he has, your honor, I think I'm done here.

Emmett : I have a couple of questions, your honor? Give me two minutes. Did you ever take Mrs. Windham on a date?

Enrique : Yes.

Emmett : Where?

Enrique : A restaurant in Oakland. Where no one would recognize us.

Emmett : And how long have you been sleeping with Mrs. Windham?

Enrique : Three months.

Emmett : And what is your boyfriend's name?

Enrique : Chuck. I'm sorry, I misunderstood. Chuck is just a friend.

Chuck : If I'm just your friend, why have we been doing the slippy-slap every night for the past six months?

Donovan : Good work today, Ms. Woods.

Elle : Thank you!

## Scene 41

Paulette : And after they set his nose, he came back for his truck and I offered to drive for him since he was still on pain-killers and we spent the whole afternoon together! He was unconscious for part of it, but it was really fun!

Elle : I'm so happy for you!

Paulette : How'd it go at the trial?

Elle : Great. Donovan actually said the words "good work, Ms. Woods". He takes me seriously! Can you believe it?

Paulette : Of course I can believe it. You're going to make a great lawyer. Elle, you've changed my life. You are the kindest, most wonderful angel. Without you, I wouldn't have Rufus or a dinner date. Now go and share your goodness with the world while I stay here and have my hoo-hoo waxed.

## Scene 42

Sarah : Donovan asked to see you before you leave.

Elle : Really?

Sarah : He's already got his coffee — maybe he needs a donut .

Donovan : Come on in. Sit down.

Elle : Is everything okay?

Donovan : You followed your intuition today and you were right on target. I should have listened.

Elle : Thank you.

Donovan : About the alibi —

Elle : I'm sorry, but —

Donovan : I'm impressed that you took the initiative to go there and get

it. That's what makes a good lawyer. And on top of that, you gained the client's trust and kept it. That's what makes a great lawyer. You're smart, Elle. Smarter than most of the guys I have on my payroll.

Elle : Wow. That means so much to me to hear you say that.

Donovan : I think it's time discuss your career path. Have you thought about where you might be a summer associate?

Elle : Not really. I know how competitive it all is-

Donovan : You know what competition is really about, don't you? It's about ferocity. Carnage. Balancing human intelligence with animal diligence. Knowing exactly what you want and how far you'll go to get it. How far will

Elle go?

Elle : You're hitting on me?

Donovan : You're a beautiful girl, Elle.

Elle : So everything you just said —?

Donovan : I ' m a man who knows what I want.

Elle : And I ' m a law student who's finally realized her professor is a pathetic asshole.

Donovan : Too bad. I thought you were a law student who wanted to be a lawyer.

Sarah : You almost had me fooled.

Elle : What?

Sarah : May be you should sleep with the judge too. Then we can win the case.

## Scene 43

Emmett : He y —

Elle : I ' m quitting

Emmett : Whoa -- why?

Elle : Law school was a mistake. Getting this internship was a mistake.

Emmett : What're you talking about? You earned it-

Elle : I didn't earn anything. I got this internship because Donovan liked the way I looked. Which he made clear tonight. When he tried to feel me up.

Emmett : So now you're —?

Elle : Going back to LA. Maybe I can fulfill my destiny as a useless bimbo and join the Swedish bikini team. No more navy blue suits. No more panty-hose. No more trying to be something I ' m not.

Emmett : What if you're trying to be something you are? The hell with

Donovan. Stay.

Elle : Thanks for not treating me the way everyone else here does. Call me if you're ever in California.

## Scene 44

Paulette : You can't go home!

Elle : What's the point of staying? All people see when they look at me is blonde hair and big boobs. No one's ever going to take me seriously. The people at law school don't, Warner doesn't — I don't even think my parents take me seriously. They wanted me to grow up and become a Victoria's secret model who marries a Rock star. Now, for the first time, it seemed like someone expected me to do something better with my life than wear underwear for living. But I was kidding myself — Donovan didn't see me as a lawyer. He saw me as a piece of ass. Just like everyone else. It turns out, I am a joke. The hell with law school. I just came to say good bye.

Prof. Stromwell : If you let one stupid prick ruin your life, you're not the girl I thought you were

## Scene 45

(Donovan speaks on tv)

Donovan : Enrique Salvatore has been discredited as a witness.

Reporter #2 : Did you go in there knowing how you were going to discredit Mr.Salvatore?

Donovan : Absolutely. It's a little thing I like to call strategy.

## Scene 46

Brooke : Is he always such an ass?

Emmett : He's the top defense attorney in the state. Of course he's an ass.

Brooke : But is he an ass that's gonna win my case?

Emmett : He's an ass that's gonna try.

Brooke : He thinks I'm guilty, doesn't he?

Emmett : That's not what's important.

Brooke : To me it is. He doesn't trust me. Why should I trust him?

Emmett : You're right. Why should you?

Donovan : Keep that bitch away from me.

Emmett : She's our client.

Donovan : Not Brooke. Elle.

Emmett : Funny how a woman can turn into a bitch just by saying "no".

Donovan : What're you so happy about? You're on trial for murder.

Brooke : Get up.

Donovan : What?

Brooke : You're fired. I have new representation.

Donovan : Who?

Elle : Excuse you. You're in my way.

Donovan : She's a law student. She can't defend you

David : Massachusetts supreme judicial court rule 3 :

Elle : See?

Judge Counselors: Approach the bench

Donovan : You're not going up there.

Elle : Yes, I am.

Brooke: I don't think you heard me. You're fired. She's my lawyer.

Judge Counselors: Now. All of you.

Elle: Elle woods, your honor. Rule 3:03 of the Supreme judicial court states that a law student may appear on behalf of a defendant in criminal proceedings.

Da joyce rafferty: I have no problem with this.

Donovan : I do. I'm not allowing it.

Elle : But you agreed last night. In the office? When we were discussing my "career"?

Judge : The ruling also states that you need a licensed attorney to supervise you. Mr.Donovan?

Donovan : That, I won't agree to.

Emmett : I'm supervising, your honor.

Judge : Well, then, Ms. Woods. Proceed.

Serena : Go, Elle!

Donovan : Enjoy prison.

Judge : Mrs. Windham, you do realize what you're doing?

Brooke : Absolutely.

Margot : Don't fuck with a delta gamma.

Sarah : Kick some butt.

Judge : Ms. Woods, call your first witness.

Elle : I'd like to recall chutney Windham as a Defense witness.

Judge : Ms. Woods, begin your questioning.

Elle : First, your honor, I'd like to point out that not only is there no proof in this case, but there's a complete lack of mens Rea , which by definition tells us that there is no crime without a vicious will.

Judge : I am aware of the meaning of mens rea. What I am unaware of is why you're giving me a vocabulary lesson instead of questioning your witness.

Elle: Okay -- Ms. Windham, when you uh arrived back at the house? Was your father there?

Chutney : Not that I saw. But like I said, I went straight upstairs to take a shower.

Elle : And when you came downstairs, what happened?

Chutney : I saw Brooke standing over his body, drenched in his blood.

Elle : But Mrs. Windham didn't have a gun?

Chutney : No, she'd stashed it by then .

Emmett : Move to strike that from the record, your honor. Speculation.

J u d g e : Stricken.

Elle : Did you hear a shot fired?

Chutney : No. I was in the shower.

Elle : So at some point in the — twenty minutes? — You were in the shower, your father was shot?

Chutney: I guess.

Elle : Your father was shot while you were in the shower?

Gerard : Where's she going with this?

Emmett : Have a little faith.

Elle : But you didn't hear the shot, because you were in the shower.

Chutney : Yes. I was washing my hair.

Elle : Miss Windham, can you tell us what you'd been doing earlier in the day?

Chutney : I got up, went to Starbucks, went to the gym, got a perm, and came home.

Elle : Where you got in the shower.

Chutney : Yes.

Judge : I believe the witness has made it clear that she was in the shower.

Elle : Yes, your honor. Had you ever gotten a perm before, Miss Windham?

Chutney : Yes .

Elle : How many, would you say?

Chutney : Two a year since I was twelve. You do the math.

Elle : You know, a girl in my sorority, Tracy Marcinko, got a perm once. Eventhough we all told her not to ~ curls really weren't the right look for her — She didn't have your bone structure. But, thankfully, that same day, she entered the pikap wet t-shirt contest where she was completely hosed down from head to toe.

Da joyce rafferty: Objection. Why is this relevant?

Elle : I have a point. I promise.

Judge : Then make it.

Elle : Chutney, why is it that Tracy Marcinko's Curls were ruined when she got hosed down?

Chutney : Because they got wet.

Elle : That's right. Because isn't the first cardinal rule of perm maintenance that you are forbidden to wet your hair for at least twenty-four hours after getting a perm at the risk of deactivating the ammonium thiglycolate?

Chutney : Y e s —

Elle : And wouldn't someone who's had — thirty Perms? — throughout her lifetime, be well aware of this rule? And if you, in fact, were not washing your hair, as I suspect you were not, since your curls are still intact, wouldn't you have heard the gunshot? And if you in fact, heard the gunshot, then Brooke Windham wouldn't have had time to hide the gun before you got downstairs which would mean that you would've had to have found Mrs.

Windham with a gun in her hand to make your story sound plausible. Isn't that right?

Chutney : She's younger than I am. Did she tell you that? How would you feel if your father married someone younger than you?

Elle : You, however, had time to hide the gun, didn't you, chutney? After you shot your Father?

Chutney : I didn't mean to shoot him — I meant to shoot you!

Brooke : I knew it!

Elle : Oh, my god!

Emmett : Oh, my god!

Reporter : Elle, how did you know chutney was lying?

Brooke : Because she is brilliant.

Elle : The rules of hair care are simple and finite. Any cosmo girl would've known.

Daniel (o .s.) : What the --

Sapphire : Oh, my god! What happened to her tan?

Serena : I wish we could stay longer, but I have a game.

Elle : I can't believe you're a Laker girl!

Margot : Hello! You're like, a lawyer.

Elle : Not yet.

Enid : Eventhough you knew your shit today —You're still a product of the patriarchy and a creation of the male-dominated media. And so are your friends. Although — you're kinda hot. Call me.

Elle : Don't worry. She's harmless. I'll see you guys soon! Thanks for coming!

## Scene 47

Warner : You were amazing today.

Elle : Thank you.

Warner

Elle : Really?

Warner : I want to be with you, Elle. Forever.

Elle : I want to be with you, too, Warner. In court. On opposing sides.

Warner : Are you serious?

Elle : Huh. Imagine that. Looks like I am.

Sarah : Elle, wait up — I'm a bitch.

Elle : Yes , you are.

Sarah : And Donovan's a-scumbag for coming onto you.

Elle : Yes, he is.

Sarah : So — can we drink that champagne when I get back from the pawnshop?

Elle : You're pawning the rock?!

Sarah : Hell, yes. We've got finals to study for in Jamaica.

Emmett : Up for a celebration dinner?

Elle : Are you asking me on a date?

Emmett : As long as you realize I'm not just some man-toy you can show off like a trophy.

Elle

Emmett : So Friday at eight?

Elle : Perfect

Emmett : Someone missed you.

Elle : Is he the only one?

Emmett : What do you think? Look s like you're pretty popular.

Nervous girl. Do you have to be blonde to sign up?

Elle : Only blonde at heart. Right?

The end