

# CALL GIRLS

## SCRIPT EXTRACT

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## **Scene 8 - The Afternoon Slump: Climax**

*The scene starts in silence.*

**Ella:** Come on Alexis, you can't just ignore me.

**Alexis:** I'm not ignoring you. We're fine.

**Ella:** I know you're upset

**Alexis:** I have no idea what you're talking about.

**Ella:** You're obviously not-

**Alexis:** I'm sure you've got a lot to do to get ready to leave. Would hate to take up this precious last week when you've got more important things to be worrying about.

**Ella:** Fine. Alright well when you want to talk, I'm here.

*Silence. Alexis starts to play with something.*

Ella: Hey can you stop that

Alexis: What?

Ella: That

Alexis: Oh sorry, I would hate to bother you.

Ella: Okay (*exhales*)

*Ella turns backs to her work. Alexis really wants her attention and to make her pay.*

*Alexis starts playing DS and turns up the volume of the pokemon battle.*

*Ella is trying not to be bothered. Alexis turns it up and moves closer to her.*

Ella: Sorry can you -

Alexis: what?

Ella: Maybe just just turn down the volum-

Alexis: Oh this is also annoying you? Fine. *Snaps the DS shut.*

Ella: Thanks

*Ella starts tidying her desk.*

*Alexis starts nonchalantly ruining her tidying, kicking the wastebin, etc.*

Ella: Hey. Come on.

Alexis: What?

Ella: It doesn't have to be like this.

Alexis: Be like what?

Ella: You know.

*Ella sits.*

Alexis: *whispering* Department of Roads This is Alexis,

Alexis: I would speak up, but I've just been told by my coworkers that I'm annoying, so I'm just trying to keep my volume down.

Ella: Department of Roads this is Ella

Alexis: You know how it is, trying to be respectful. Even when they don't respect me.

Ella: How can I assist you today?

Alexis: Oh, you were hoping to follow up with Ella about a call? Yeah, unfortunately she is no longer with the organisation.

Ella: Absolutely, can I just say you sound really mature.

Alexis: Yeah, she actually betrayed the trust of her coworkers

Ella: I bet your friends really appreciate your clarity and communication skills.

Alexis: None of us expected her to be so inconsiderate.

Ella: Oh no problem, I wish more people were as open and emotionally intelligent as you.

Alexis: Not fired, no. First she went all Judas on us and then-

Ella: I'll grab that address when you're ready

Alexis: She died.

Ella: *Mutes customer*. Alexis you can't just tell people I'm dead.

Alexis: Yes, it would have been sad. If she hadn't ruined her relationships before it happened.

Ella: Whatever.

Alexis: How? She actually fell into a sinkhole. Died alone. At the bottom of a big, dark, deep, depressing, lonely -

Ella: Alexis.

Alexis: *motioning to headset* I'm on the phone! (can be weaved in earlier too) cold, sad, smelly, wet, dirty. Hole.

Ella: You can't do that! *Unmutes* Sure, just getting that up on my system now. *Mutes*.

Alexis: *mutes* Why don't you just go? No point hanging around. There's nothing left for you here. *Unmutes* Yes. Tragic. Anyway you mentioned a damaged sign?

Ella: Can I just pop you on a quick hold. Thanks. *mutes*. Come on, Alexis, you know that you mean the world to me.

Alexis: Mmmm mmhmmm *mutes*. "I mean the world to you" Really? You must have a pretty poor regard for the world then. (need alternate jokes)

Ella: Hey!

Alexis: *Unmutes*. My pleasure. Thanks for talking with me, it's been nice to make a new friend. I'll just pop that in a little jobberino and we'll get that fixed up quick smart for you.

*Hang up.*

Ella: Alexis talk to me.

Alexis: Nothing to talk about. I've moved on.

Ella: *Unmutes*. Thanks for waiting, that's all sorted for you now. Have a good day. How long is this going to go on for?

ALEXIS: It's finished.

Thanks for calling the department of roads, This is Alexis. Yes. Like the car. You want to speak to someone who's knowledgeable about the article in today's paper. Well... we do have a staff member here who just knows everything. Mhm. Her name is Ella. Has all the

answers. She will be able to tell you exactly what to do. Mmhmm. Alright popping you through, have a great day.

*Ella chooses to ignore Alexis and not entertain her games. She begins stress cleaning.*

ELLA: Department of Roads this is Ella, how can I help? Yes, I did see the article. Here, bear with me while I see who can help with this one. I believe Penny is- Yes, I'm Ella. What? Who told you I could - oh. I am so deeply sorry, there must be a miscommunication, she has been having issues with that lately. Even though she has a Cert I in developing interpersonal skills. It's actually Penny who's dealing with those today, I'll umm, put you through to her now. Hold the line Mr Peterson.

Alexis: Thought you knew everything, Ella. Don't you know Penny's phone isn't - Oh Don't you dare. *Alexis' phone rings.* I'm not picking that up.

Ella: Pick up the phone Alexis.

Alexis: I'm not picking up the phone

Ella: Pick up the phone

Alexis: Fine *picks up the phone, and hangs up.*

Ella: You are really something you know that.

*New call comes in.*

Ella: Department of roads this is... Alexis

Alexis: *gasps.* You wouldn't dare

Ella: Sure. *mutes* Don't tell me what I would or wouldn't do. *Unmutes.*

Oh, unfortunately I can't help you with that one, because I simply don't want to. Yep that's how I roll, I like sugar-free drinks and treating people like dirt.

Alexis: Okay no. Too far. And lame.

Ella: Oh please, write a complaint. I'd be thrilled, I actually collect them to wipe my ass with after shitting in the bin. Have a good day. Please hold the line for a quick survey.

Alexis

I DID NOT SHIT IN THE BIN!

Ella:

*Miming* I'm on the phone

Alexis

Department of Roads this is Ella

Ella

Go ahead, makes no difference to me, I'm not the one being promoted.

Alexis

Oh, Mr. Peterson. No it wasn't, I mean, yes it was me you were speaking to.

Look, I just hung up on you. I think I know what's best for people who aren't me and I abandon the people who need me. I'm a liar and I care too much what other people think and I'm a BAD VEGAN!

Ella

*Miming.* Put down the phone.

Alexis

And since I'm quitting, I don't care that I'm about to hang up on you again. Have a horrible day.

(to Ella) HA!

Ella

That's it. Unavailable. Now. *The two girls meet in the middle.*

First of all, I'm plant based. Second of all, I'm not abandoning you, and you know that. You just don't-

Alexis: You think and have always thought that you are better than me.

Ella: You are cle-

Alexis: You look down on me and look down on this job and not only that, you're jealous that I got offered a promotion over you.

Ella: You think I'm jealous?

Alexis: Clearly

Ella: That's insane.

Alexis: Oh and now I'm insane?!

Ella: I said *that's* insane. I'm not jealous, the only reason they offered you the job is because there's nobody left.

Alexis: Well doesn't change that I'm up for a \$30,000 promotion and you're going to try and make a career out of riding dolphins!

Ella: You're pathetic. At least I'm going somewhere. It's also coral research. For your concern.

Alexis: Well good luck starting over. I'll be here, making something of myself for once!

Ella: Who is even talking to me right now? You fucking hate this place.

Alexis: **I am the backbone of this organisation.**

Ella: You are repulsed by this organisation! We spend 90% of our day making fun of this place! You think a team leader role is gonna make you happier? That 30 grand is the answer? You'd actually be happier if you worked less!

Alexis: I need more things, ELLA! Nice things! And how would you know how happy I am or what's gonna make me happy! You think I'm mad because you're leaving me now but you've been leaving me for years. You never make time for me on your stupid little google calendar. Our friendship is *never* your priority and you think I'm just always going to be here for you. Well guess what, I have to be there for myself. Because I've learned that you're not going to be.

Ella: Finished?

Alexis: And you need to stop talking to my Mum so much. I'm a grown woman! It's WEIRD.

Ella: Done?

Alexis: And you're a control freak and it's really unattractive. Okay I think that's it.

Ella: Right. I have been trying to tell you for weeks, but I was scared of how you were going to react. Seems like I had a reason to be! I have also been trying to tell you all day, but you've been so caught up in your own drama that you haven't even noticed. I love you and this friendship is really important to me, but I realised if I stay here I'm just going to get sucked into the vortex of this career path. I don't want that. And I know you don't either, but for whatever reason you're too scared to try. And it hurts me to see you giving up on yourself, because I know you can do so much more than this. And I understand, it's scary! I'm scared too. But here's the difference: I'm going to try.

Alexis: You finished?

Ella: Yes, that's what I wanted to say.

Alexis: Great. Sorry, there's this big vortex that is sucking me in and I've got to get back.

*Alexis Exits*

Ella: Shit the queue.

Ella: Department of roads. This is Ella.

*Lights down.*

**3:00pm-4:00pm - Scene 9 - Make Up Sex: The Snack Bowl (Stylistic)**

*Ella is waiting for a call to come through. Looking at the time. Fidgeting around, picks up DS, shuts it. Expecting Alexis to be coming through the door. She grabs her mug and stands up, exiting.*

*Lighting shift. The two girls enter either door. Parallel - come back out doing their own things.*

Alexis: Hey ma - yeah I'm just took another break.

Ella: Hey. No Mum's fine. I actually wanted to talk to you.

Alexis: Haha yeah, sorry for not responding. Kinda for months.

Ella: Yes Bronte, you! If you're not too busy?

Alexis: Can I ask you something? Honestly?

Ella: Can I ask you something? Honestly?

Alexis: Am I, like,

Ella: Do you think I'm

Alexis: Giving up on myself?

Ella: Controlling?

Alexis: It's just been on my mind

Ella: Because I've been thinking about it and

Both: No reason.

Ella: Well, sorry I haven't been prioritising you guys enough.

Alexis: Please be brutally honest.

Ella: You just make it seem so easy.

Alexis: Okay, ouch!