

THE MORNING SHOW Episode Guide

Episodes 001-030

Last episode aired Thursday November 09, 2023





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Season One

In the Dark Night of the Soul It's Always 3:30 in the Morning

Season 1
Episode Number: 1
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Friday November 1, 2019
Writer: Kerry Ehrin, Jay Carson
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoefeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Brett Butler (Sandy Jackson), Tom Irwin (Fred), Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Embeth Davidtz (Paige Kessler), Oona Roche (Lizzy), Ian Gomez (Greg), Victoria Tate (Rena), Augustus Prew (Sean), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Amber Friendly (Layla), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Eli Bildner (Joel), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), David Magidoff (Nicky), Adina Porter (Sarah), Fred Melamed (Mitch's Agent), Hank Northrop (Unruly Protestor), Andrew Leeds (Alan), John Marshall Jones (Noah), Allan Graf (Joe), Jake Broder (Nate), J.D. Hinton (Bob Stephens), Nancy Stone (Jenna Macantire), Briana Henry (Alyssa), Deborah Geffner (Kassie Spitzer Crisis Specialist), Paul Witten (Austin), Jacqueline Mazarella (Trisha Marino), Nanrisa Lee (Local Reporter 1), Roman Mitichyan (Sam), Jamal Antar (Paparazzi), Jorga Caye (Protestor), Ken Holmes (Businessman), Jeni Jones (Guest Star), Helene McCardle (Senator), Costa Nicholas (Doorman)
Summary: America's favorite morning news show is thrown into crisis when it becomes the news.



The episode opens with a series of emergency phone calls waking our main characters between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. First, executive producer of The Morning Show —ahem, the morning show within The Morning Show, that is — Chip Black gets a call, and then he phones his co-anchors Mitch Kessler and Alex Levy to share the news: Kessler is being fired from The Morning Show ahead of a New York Times article exposing UBA's internal investigation into multiple sexual misconduct accusations filed against him.

This sends Alex reeling, and let's be clear: Aniston is made for this role. There are few actors that could balance the fury of being put in this position by a league of selfish men, while simultaneously showcasing the dynamic onscreen charisma that would have made Alex a beloved morning show anchor for the last 15

years. Aniston lives and breathes it — she also yells it. Alex is pissed. Not only did she have no idea there was an internal investigation going on, and not only is her job in jeopardy given that half of her chemistry-based duo just got fired, but now she has to go on air and explain it to the nation with the perfect combination of condemnation and mourning...

Staring down the barrel of the camera, sitting at a desk built for two, Alex tells the viewing nation her partner of 15 years has been fired for sexual misconduct: "First and foremost, I want to offer our sympathy and support to the women; we are devastated that this happened on our watch, and our hearts are with you." Alex continues, saying that Mitch was a part of their Morning Show family, but there are consequences in life: "And while I will miss the Mitch I thought I knew with all of my heart, I'm proud to work at a network, and live in a country, that upholds consequences."

And just as the monologue has done exactly what it's supposed to do — create an emotional response with sweeping rhetoric that doesn't technically have a lot to say — the scene cuts straight to another reporter in West Virginia played by Reese Witherspoon, rolling her eyes as she watches: "What a load."

The righteous anger that has welled up in Alex over in New York City seems to always be right at the surface for Bradley Jackson, a reporter at the conservative-leaning South East News Network who's known for being unyielding, screaming, "I am f—ing agreeable" when her producer suggests she could possibly be a little more agreeable. They're on their way to report from a coal mine protest, and Bradley hopes they can use the interviews to talk about the benefits of carbon capture, which she insists isn't her own personal agenda; it's simply the truth.

But things end up a little more personal when Bradley gets a call that her mom has taken her brother out of rehab early just before they go live. Then some little jerk who's counter-protesting the protest knocks her cameraman down and calls her a "fake news bitch"...

Cue Bradley taking the kid by the collar, and demanding that he name five facts about the coal he loves so much or she'll get him arrested for assault. As he frantically tries to say that coal is cheap and creates jobs, Bradley buzzes, "AH, wrong," and revs her engines for a talkin' to.

"Do you know how many jobs have been lost in the last ten years? Thousands!" Bradley screams right in his face. "Thousands of f—ing families knocked on their asses, and it's just a big wheel that goes round — liberals add sanctions, conservatives remove those sanctions, and they just keep fighting because all they wanna do is hear themselves talk, and they all wanna be right, and they all wanna win, and that's all they f—ing care about, and there's a human cost, and it's exhaustiiiiiiiiing!"

"I didn't rape anybody," Mitch screams at his team of agents and managers in his palatial estate somewhere outside New York City after the news of his firing has spread. "I didn't jizz into a plant in front of anybody! If I f—ed a couple of PAs and assistants, big f—ing deal — they liked it!" And finally: "Since the dawn of time, men have used their power to attract women and now let's bust Mitch Kessler's head over it!"

These certainly sound like things someone like Mitch Kessler might say in private... and now we've gotten to hear someone like him say them, I guess? It is quite gratifying to hear Mitch's wife come in and tell him matter-of-factly that she hasn't liked him for a while now, so this seems like a good time to divorce him. And Carrell is a perfect choice to portray this particularly detrimental combination of charm, narcissism, and power. But if that's really a point of view that needs to be highlighted remains to be seen. I definitely know I won't be able to stand more than two episodes of Mitch whining, "It's not my fauuuuult, they were consensual affaaaaairs."

Much more interesting is Alex's complicated feelings of anger at Mitch, while also mourning the loss of what they had together... which was basically the job security of being America's mom and dad. But now America's dad is a sexual predator, and America's mom has to deal with the fallout. Namely, the new president of UBA's News division, Cory Ellison, showing up at The Morning Show and assuring Chip that he'll be there every step of the way as they clean up this mess.

Cory came over to news from the entertainment division and he has some very specific thoughts about how to make his new home more entertaining. "It's kind of funny, how the entire world of broadcast could just fall off a cliff in the next few years — like, boom, lights out — unless we reinvent it," Cory smarms to Chip over a dinner where Alex's absence is palpable. Chip has assured Alex he'll keep her informed about who the network is going after to replace Mitch, but when Chip makes it clear that he'd like the reboot the whole damn thing and bring in a new

titillating duo, Chip just nods right along. "Alex is like Mitch's widow now," Cory tells Chip. "And no one wants to watch a widow get f—ed."

But soon, Cory looks intrigued by a different, perhaps equally entertaining direction: less titillation, more confrontation. See, someone filmed Bradley's blow up at the coal protest, and it's gone mega-viral. The Morning Show's booker Hannah flies all the way to West Virginia to tell Bradley that her words have spoken to America, and they want her on the show the next day.

When Alex comes to the next morning after stumbling around the studio drunk the night before, she watches Bradley's video from the protest and sneers, "Yeah, there's no way she didn't know she was being filmed." There's something about Bradley's outburst that seems to particularly gnaw at Alex, but her producer advises her to just get through the day and do a "pleasant little interview that will make America happy." So...

Alex gets onstage with Bradley, rolls the clip, and then asks, "Why exactly were you so exhausted?" Bradley holds strong and tries to relate to Alex, saying that sometimes as reporters they just want to educate people so they can stop spinning around in circles. "Parties have created a good side and a bad side for their own purposes," Bradley says. "And once you villainize someone, there is nothing left to do but go to war with them." Alex points out that Bradley works at a conservative news outlet, so what side does she personally fall on.

"The human side," Bradley replies. Alex says it doesn't really work like that; decisions have to be made eventually. Bradley says that all she's ever wanted to do is deliver the news to America because the truth matters to her. So Alex lobs her biggest hit yet, calling out the reporter's sacred creed to never let the story become about them, and suggesting that some cynical people out there might think Bradley's viral video was set up. "To what end?" Bradley asks, genuinely confused.

"You're here," Alex says pointedly as Chip looks on in horror. But Cory...

Cory smiles. It may not be the sexual tension he was thinking of, but there's something happening on this stage. My greatest dream is that Alex and Bradley eventually work through whatever that something is, and turn Cory's skeezy smile upside down. And there may just be hope yet, because Bradley's got bite, yes, but she has a barometer for who's on the receiving end. She tells Alex that she knows there are non-cynical people out there who believe the news can change "because the people who deliver the news, who show themselves as honest and decent and trustworthy, have in quite a few cases, proven themselves to be untruthful." Suck it, Mitch.

Bradley thinks people want more transparency in their journalism: "I think they want to trust that the person who is telling them the truth about the world is an honest person... like you."

A Seat at the Table

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Friday November 01, 2019
Story: Kerry Ehrin, Jay Carson
Teleplay: Kerry Ehrin
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoenfeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Brett Butler (Sandy Jackson), Tom Irwin (Fred), Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie), Mindy Kaling (Audra), Oona Roche (Lizzy), Ian Gomez (Greg), Victoria Tate (Rena), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Augustus Prew (Sean), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Kate Vernon (Geneva), Adina Porter (Sarah), Philip Anthony-Rodriguez (Gabriel), Christian Zuber (Fred's Assistant), Rozzi Crane (Vocalist), Ahna O'Reilly (Ashley Brown), Natalia Warner (Cecily), Zuri Hall (E! Reporter), Elizabeth Greer (Lisa Paushter), Julie Goldman (TMS Desk Security Guard), Ellen Gerstein (Woman), Hank Cheyne (Disgraced Director), Jordan Seigel (Musician), Benjamin Shepherd (Musician), Greg Webster (Musician), Jamal Antar (Paparazzi), Ken Holmes (Businessman)
Summary: Alex engages in contract negotiations as she prepares to accept an award. Bradley is courted for a new opportunity.



Head booker Hannah gets wind that The Morning Show's ratings rival, Your Day America, has booked one of Mitch Kessler's victims to tell her story, so she shows up at the woman's hotel room to try and convince her to come on The Morning Show instead. Clearly, it would look bad for The Morning Show to have the victim of their former anchor go on a rival show to tell her story, but that wouldn't be a very convincing argument for the woman, Ashley, who just wants a safe space to tell her story, now would it?

So when Ashley immediately says no to going back to the place where she was allegedly assaulted, Hannah gives her a more compelling reason: "This is television, not a woman's study seminar at Vassar... How you tell the story is the whole f—ing ballgame, and if you do it on YDA, you'll be the angry person." The thing is: Hannah is both correct and trying to intimidate this woman into coming on The Morning Show. Or is it possible she really could have Ashley's best interest at heart?

Hannah tells Ashley that going on the enemy show will make it look like she's scorned and bitter, just trying to get back at The Morning Show by aligning with their enemy. She'll look

weak and manipulated by YDA: "Trotted out like a piece of meat and discarded when you're not needed anymore." Finally, Hannah plays the bravery card, telling Ashley that if she's going to blow the whistle on Mitch Kessler for being a predator, she has to have the guts to do it in his own house. "It won't mean anything otherwise," Hannah pleads, nearly in tears. "Come on The Morning Show. Come back to the killing floor. Show everyone you have the nerve, but especially — show him."

Weirdly, Cory is the only person who seems to openly talk about the show's wrongdoing in the matter of Mitch's misconduct. I say "weirdly" because Cory seems like a hella creep, so that is a surprising perspective from him. I am obsessed with the off-putting cadence and inappropriately timed smiles Billy Crudup is constantly deploying as Cory, but those aren't the only things suggesting the guy is a creep — it's also the jazz singer crooning "Creep" as the episode opens on the meeting he set up with Bradley at the end of the premiere. The camera pans over the crowded club, finding Cory and doing a nice, long push in on him as the woman, sings, "I'm a creeeeep." And as Bradley walks in, looking nervous: "What the hell am I doing here? I don't belong here."

Bradley is an outsider, see, and the writers will make sure you know that by basically making her deliver Jughead's "I'm a weirdo" speech from Riverdale. Bradley explains to Cory that she hasn't had a big break because "I don't think like other people, I say whatever I mean, I don't play games, I don't fit the mold." It is very embarrassing to listen to! It's made a little less cliché by the show having the self-awareness to have Cory laugh at this explanation and respond, "Oh, right — a weirdo."

But still: Bradley is someone who waxes poetic about her own uniqueness a lot. She does at least back up some of her big talk about "ideas — things that matter" when Cory sends her for an interview with Chip to be a correspondent because he wants to reinvent The Morning Show by hiring "smart people with fresh perspectives." Bradley comes equipped with ideas for stories she thinks she would be a good fit, even though Chip tells her that correspondents don't generally write their own stories.

Bradley's story ideas — a mom-and-pop shop who want to be bought by big business, a memorial to the immigrants who died in the Triangle fire of 1911 — could make for interesting segments, but Mitch is barely listening to her because he thinks this is a waste of time in their current crisis. "I don't know how to say this without being rude," he eventually snaps, "but your stories aren't right for us, and it's not even ostensibly what you're here to discuss, so... "

Oh, Bradley does not like that. She's sure her stories are good, and she thinks the Morning Show is bad, so she screams as much at the executive producer. He attempts to get away from her threatening to call security, until she's down the hall and says, "You know what, people like you are the reason broadcast news is what it is — thanks for your time, Charlie-Chip, whatever your f—ing name is!"

But as Bradley storms out of the building, she also seems to realize that she just yelled her way out of any chance at becoming one of the people who could create the change she seems to think broadcast news needs. Of course, it's unlikely the meeting ever would have gone all that well because Chip's brain is about to start leaking out of his ears if he gets anymore stressed.

Earlier that morning, 90 seconds before she was supposed to go on air, Alex got a call from her agent Sarah saying that UBA is still refusing to agree to her contract renegotiation, specifically the clause that says Alex gets to approve any new co-anchor hire. It's the one thing Alex won't budge on, telling Sarah, "I just need to be able to control the narrative so that I'm not written out of it." So when she hears UBA isn't interested in letting her do that, she storms off stage, finds Chip, and tells him that she's not going on until he promises to help get her co-anchor approval.

The woman takes her earpiece out — she means it.

Staring wide-eyed at his watch, Chip tells her that pulling a stunt like this won't make the network promise her anything: "It's just gonna make them think that you're f—ing losing it." Alex counters that sometimes you have to lose it to get people to take you seriously as someone announces they're 30 seconds to air. Alex crosses her arms.

Chips huffs that he's trying to protect her, but she's putting him in an impossible situation. "I don't want you to protect me!" Alex scoffs. "I'd like you to respect me." Chip rolls his eyes, asking if she got that off some card, but in the end it's pretty on point. Chip does seem to want the best for his anchors, but only if what's best also falls in line with The Morning Show's preordained mold. He finally promises Alex cohost approval, and she hurries to her seat with five seconds to air, but we never see him do anything to back up that promise. Chip tells a younger anchor,

Daniel, that he's in a prime position to get the co-anchor job, but he needs to — hold onto your hats — be more like Mitch, and stop being so serious all the time.

And finally, Chip shows up to Mitch's house and tells him he has to stop calling reporters to try and tell "his side of the story." Ah yes, Mitch, the (allegedly) prolific sexual predator, who can be heard all over New York City complaining about his morality clause and how he's being burned at the stake, and who hilariously asks Chip how long he's supposed to sit around while he "takes [his] punishment like a man." Is that what he's doing??

Alex's estranged husband has reminded her that they'll be attending "the event" together, which turns out to be the award ceremony. Alex is receiving the honor, and she can't skip because then everyone would know that she's actually very afraid of what's going to happen to her in the wake of Mitch. And fear can make you do a lot of crazy things — especially when you get to your table and realize that Cory has invited Bradley Jackson to attend your event, and has inexplicably arranged for her to be seated right next to you at your table.

Bradley looks stricken when she realizes why Cory invited her to the event — well, she doesn't really realize why, but she gets that it's not good. But Alex knows why: Cory is declaring war. And what better battleground than the women's bathroom?

After excusing herself for a breather, Alex first runs into her rival anchor on Your Day America, Audra, who's all fake sympathy for "everything" that's going on. "Why, Audra?" Alex laughs. "I didn't f— anyone!"

In the premiere, Cory said something about Alex coming alive in the midst of a controversy; he meant it as an insult to her being otherwise complacent, but he's right. Alex is living in that bathroom, which seems to be a magnet for her enemies. As Audra exits, Bradley enters, terrified when she spots Alex. She tells Alex that she doesn't know why she's there, but she feels really stupid about being jerked around by the men of the Morning Show all day.

"He sat you at my table to f— with me," Alex informs Bradley matter-of-factly. Then she asks Bradley, if she was so uncomfortable, why didn't she just leave? "I don't have the right to tell the head of a network to f— off," Bradley says sadly. "I'm a nobody; I'm not you."

Correct — Alex has leverage in this world, but there's no man out there who's going to turn over some of their power so that she can have it instead. That much is clear when she exits the hell bathroom to discover her own personal devil, Cory, just outside.

Alex tells Cory she's ready to cut through all the middle men — she's telling him right there that she's not closing on her contract without cohost approval. He says that's too bad because she's not getting it. Then he tells her they bought this award for her.

Alex has just stared Bradley in the eyes, a woman paralyzed into submission by her own lack of power, and realized that is not her own position. Alex has a platform, she has leverage, and if no one is going to give her the power she thinks she deserves in the form of co-anchor approval, she's going to have to take it.

Alex marches up to the podium to accept her award, she dedicates it to the women UBA failed to protect, and she announces a new era for The Morning Show, and for women. "So I would like to take this moment to announce my new Morning Show cohost," Alex says, sweeping her arm out toward the crowd: "Bradley Jackson."

Chaos Is the New Cocaine

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Friday November 01, 2019
Writer: Erica Lipetz
Director: David Frankel
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoenfeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred), Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie), Martin Short (The Director), Joe Tippett (Hal), Oona Roche (Lizzy), Ian Gomez (Greg), Victoria Tate (Rena), Augustus Prew (Sean), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Kate Vernon (Geneva), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Amber Friendly (Layla), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Eli Bildner (Joel), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), David Magidoff (Nicky), Adina Porter (Sarah), Fred Melamed (Mitch's Agent), Philip Anthony-Rodriguez (Gabriel), Roman Mitichyan (Sam), Joe Pacheco (Bart), Hannah Marshall (Veronique), Pramode Kumar (Cab Driver), Markus Flanagan (Gerard), Mark Harelik (Richard), Ken Holmes (Businessman)
Summary: In a weekend of turmoil, TMS scrambles to prepare for its new future.



The episode opens in media res, moments after Alex has announced Bradley as her new co-host while accepting a journalism award. She glides off stage to the dream tune of Betsy Brye's "Sleep Walk," looking smug as punch, only to have the camera flip around and show the much less pleased faces of the rest of the UBA crew. Fred is furious, Chip is horrified, and the other Morning Show anchors who were hoping to take Mitch's old chair are staring daggers at its alleged new occupant...

Bradley, for her part, looks like she's about to hurl.

Alex descends from her perch, whisks Bradley out of her seat, and directs her to smile for the camera. Before Bradley can say anything damning, Cory — seemingly the only person not completely thrown by this news — steps in front of the press and tells them, no, Bradley isn't an obvious choice, but they'll all see what makes her so special when she takes over the co-anchor job on Monday.

Which gives Bradley two days to learn how to be an anchor on the most-watched broadcast news program in the nation. That is... if she's willing to take the job. Right as the vultures are descending on her for a statement, Mia Jordan, one of the Morning Show producers, kindly escorts Bradley out of the melee and into a taxi to take her to the studio. But Bradley doesn't want to go to the studio; she wants to go to LaGuardia. Let's not forget: Bradley lives in West Virginia, and Cory has waylaid her in New York for days — just long enough to potentially score her one of the most coveted jobs in news.

But Bradley doesn't see it as a score. She tells Mia that none of this makes sense and she's clearly being set up as a fall guy, and she's not interested. And yet! Bradley winds up at the studio, where Mia tells her that if she's at all interested in the role, she needs to let them come to her. Them, presumably meaning the network, represented by Fred, who is losing his mind over "that unhinged woman" telling a room full of reporters they were hiring "that nobody." Cory informs Fred that those terms are a bit dismissive in that oh-so-Cory way where you can't tell if he's being surprisingly decent or extra awful.

Especially once he goes on to tell Fred that Alex has done them a favor; she thinks she's won, but really, she's just named her replacement and made it easier to fire her. Plus they're on the tale-end of the Mitch-related ratings boost: "People are just getting too used to their favorite cuddly men turning into monsters, but watching a beloved woman's breakdown... that's timeless American entertainment." Then Cory strolls into Chip's office full of frantic producers, and after hearing that Hannah has booked one of Mitch's accusers for Bradley's first day on the job, smugly tells them: "We're creating a safe space here, a feminine space ... where women make the rules and give voice to the silenced." And then he quips that he has to scoot off to "the public spanking" of one of those very women.

But, oh — there will be no public spanking, at least not of Alex. In a room full of male executives, the camera pushes slowly down the table, narrowing in on Alex's face as she listens to Fred tell her how good this network has been to her, and how they never thought they'd be so disrespected in return, and how they have every right to fire her.

Alex takes a slow sip of water, she places her glass down firmly, narrows her gaze on Fred, and asks, "Are you done?"

"The part you guys never seem to realize is that you don't have the power anymore," Alex says with carefully maintained rage. "This news division is held up by my show, and the only thing keeping us afloat is me, because guess what — America loves me." Alex doesn't need to justify herself to this room, but she does need to educate them about how things are going to go from now on: "You all are so convinced that you're the rightful owner of all the power that it doesn't even occur to you that someone else could be in the driver's seat."

Clearly, Alex is claiming the driver's seat and her power along with it. What's unclear behind all the bravado and close-ups of Jennifer Aniston's perfectly clenched jaw is whether Alex deserves that power; whether she knows what to do with it. As Mia informs her later when it's hinted that Mia may have had a relationship with Mitch that Alex felt was inappropriate, but never stepped in to say anything about... Alex has always had power. The clarifying point is whether she's chosen to use it well.

Alex stumbles upon Bradley wandering the set, and it's the first time they've connected since Alex upended her life. Alex is surprised to hear that Bradley isn't committed to taking the job yet: "I'm not a perky person!" But Alex doesn't want Bradley to be like her, she doesn't want to sit next to her replacement; she wants a partner. She tells Bradley to enjoy the ride and get used to waking up at 3:30 a.m.

So The Morning Show team uses Saturday and Sunday to get Bradley ready for air. There's wardrobe, hair, and crafting who Bradley will be when sitting next to Alex. There's bonding with Cory (Cory-imposed, of course) where he requests that she lean into her whole... single, childless, pantsuit nation thing. That's the kind of woman his mother was, and she never saw herself represented on morning news. On The Morning Show, sometimes these moments are so well-acted that it's not until a few scenes later when you think, Is the representation of serious business ladies really that important on... morning news?

But to Cory, it is. He says The Morning Show has the market on housewives cornered, but if they want to win the ratings war, they have to get the women who don't see themselves represented in "ice queen Alex."

Presumably, Bradley has an opportunity to do that in a way Mitch did not. That's Mitch who spends this episode pitching the idea of making some sort of fair and balanced documentary about the Me Too movement. "I can feel when the world needs me to articulate something, to help them understand," Mitch exclaims to his (former agent), no doubt in the world that he is the voice America needs on this matter. But when he has the same conversation with a now publicly disgraced film director played by Martin Short, and definitely not based on Woody Allen, Mitch loses a touch of that self-assuredness that he is the most correct person to have ever graced the earth.

This director might be publicly disgraced, but in private he's still perfectly happy to complain about "lazy lays" coming after him once they're old and irrelevant, and praise being legally protected by statutes of limitations. But instead of realizing he frequently sounds exactly like this terrible man, Mitch just drills in on the differentiation between "the first wave of guys" like the director, and the second wave of guys like himself. The director asks Mitch the difference: "Well, you're actually a predator... and people are going to want you to own up to that."

Back at The Morning Show offices, Mia has been named Bradley's producer. She wanders around Bradley's new dressing room — Mitch's old dressing room — looking at Bradley's things, and then takes a moment with one hand-me-down from the Mitch days: the Matt Lauer-inspired button under his desk that shuts the door and locks out the public world with just one touch.

Perhaps it's that button and all the things it's seen that gets Mia to push for Bradley doing the interview with Mitch's accuser instead of Alex. And after telling Alex that as Mitch's former partner, she'll never be able to get anything honest out of the interview and then she'll get crucified for it, Alex actually concedes to push the interview to Friday so Bradley can do it.

And then she leaves to head home and plan a new segment for Monday... at the exact time she's supposed to be doing the one and only screen test with her new co-anchor before going live the next day. Finally, Bradley has had it. She storms off set, finds Alex getting into her car, and demands to know why Alex has barely acknowledged her all weekend. Alex says she didn't know Bradley needed her hand held, reiterating that she wants her to be a partner. And in Bradley's best, most believable moment yet, she says dejectedly: "Well sometimes partners hold hands."

Alex confesses that she has no clue what she's doing. She picked Bradley on impulse during that awards speech, and now she's just running on instinct. "But I do think I like you," she tells Bradley, getting back into her car. "Just go sign your contract."

The next morning, Bradley's alarm goes off at 3:30 a.m. At the studio, Alex takes her hand before they go live together for the first time ever, and whispers some patented partner encouragement: "Don't f— it up."

That Woman

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Friday November 08, 2019
Writer: Adam Milch
Director: Lynn Shelton
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoenfeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred), Brett Butler (Sandy Jackson), Kelly Clarkson (Kelly Clarkson), Joe Tippett (Hal), Ian Gomez (Greg), Victoria Tate (Rena), Augustus Prew (Sean), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Amber Friendly (Layla), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Eli Bildner (Joel), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), David Magidoff (Nicky), Christian Zuber (Fred's Assistant), Natalia Warner (Cecily), Ahna O'Reilly (Ashley), Roman Mitichyan (Sam), Harley Graham (Young Bradley), Zakary Risinger (Young Hal), Kelly Sullivan (Vicki Manderly), Clayton Farris (Segment Producer), Jack Armstrong (Beau), Shelley Robertson (Janet), Joe Pacheco (Bart), Alexandra Fatovich (Michelle), John Patrick Jordan (Tom), Nikhil Pai (Research Expert), Jaco Caraco (Guitarist), Jason Halbert (Pianist), Andre Johnson (Stage Manager)
Summary: TMS experiences severe growing pains as it embarks on a new era.



Bradley's first day as co-anchor opens with Alex sitting alone at the desk, faux-wondering where on earth that Bradley could be. Cue Clarkson's "Stronger," as Bradley strides out from stage left, swapping her real nerves for charming "dreams really do come true" nerves.

Bradley has a new polished lob, and she's smiling more than we've seen her smile in the last three episodes combined, and bantering back and forth with Alex as Cory watches on in horror from a treadmill, lamenting the "bland bulls—" that is exactly the opposite of why he hired Bradley. The answer to his prayers comes

when Alex informs Bradley that they have a little "surprise" for her in the form of video-conferencing her mother in. While this is obviously not an actual surprise to Bradley, the content of what her mother says has been rewritten at the last minute and does wind up catching her off guard.

Bradley holds her strained grin as her mom waxes poetic about how she always expected big things for her daughter; Bradley has a flashback to her teen years of her mother yelling, "You better get your s— together, girl, or you're gonna end up sucking d—s under the promenade." It's a rough memory, and Bradley can't shake it. After they roll a montage of Bradley's shining,

smiling adolescent face that her mother allegedly made, the camera cuts back to Alex, who coos, "What an amazing place you grew up in, Bradley."

Bradley agrees, pauses, and then says, "But you know, it wasn't all as perfect as that made it seem." As Alex's eyeballs turn into stop signs, Bradley goes fully off script, explaining that she doesn't want young women thinking that their lives have to be perfect in order to be successful. Her life was hard and she did a lot of stupid things: She got suspended multiple times, she cost her track team a championship because she was caught with alcohol...

"Heck, I had an abortion when I was 15 years old."

And it's really the "heck" that gets me — tonally, Bradley is still in *The Morning Show* headspace, but mentally, she simply cannot control her need to be honest. Meanwhile, Chip is losing his mind, calling Yanko out of the makeup chair so they can throw to weather as Bradley realizes what she's done and starts babbling about how if this is her chance to introduce herself to America, she wants to be as transparent as she can be. When the cameras go off, though, it seems clear Bradley didn't tell the world that she had an abortion when she was in 15 in the name of transparency. "Did you f— up just now, or was that intentional?" Alex hisses after they've gone to commercial, and Bradley says she doesn't even know.

The next morning, Alex is waiting in Bradley's car to go to the studio. Bradley asks if this is the part where Alex has her whacked. "Worse," Alex says. "I'm taking you back down to the studio, you're gonna get back on that horse, and you're gonna do the show like yesterday never happened." In a moment of vulnerability, Alex tells Bradley that she needs this to work. America may not know that Alex impulsively picked Bradley as her co-anchor, but everyone on the inside does. "Chip, Cory, Frank, those motherf—ers!" Alex exclaims. "I am not going to let them walk away thinking they were right — I would die first."

So Bradley apologizes on air for speaking so causally about such a serious issue, and she keeps waking up every morning at 3:30 to run this race, and the one shining light is the interview with Mitch's accuser Ashley on Friday. Frank wants to pull Bradley off it after her screwup, but Alex goes to bat for her, saying that Bradley will bring authenticity to the interview, which is what they need. But when Cory gleefully adds that "in one day, Bradley Jackson rebranded morning news as personal, unexpected, exciting," Alex looks like she wants to say, Well, I wouldn't go that far.

But she doesn't say that. She says, "Well, that's why I picked her!" And oh, for the first time all series, you can actually smell Alex's desperation. The more she tries to take control of this Bradley situation, the further from her it slips.

But Cory is right: For every person who was appalled by what Bradley said her first morning on air, there's another one who was inspired by it. We see Bradley and Alex watching a news story in their respective beds that shows teen girls all over Mississippi staging walkouts because their governor is trying to enact old legislation that bans abortions after six weeks following Bradley's *Morning Show* comment. The girls carried huge signs reading "WE'RE WITH BRADLEY," and marched for over six hours — the amount of time it would take to drive a proper clinic if the legislation passes.

As the anchor explains that the girls heard Bradley's story and thought, "That could be me, and I want to make my own choice about my future like she did," Alex and Bradley both watch with the same sad smile on their face. I appreciate these glimpses that show Alex doesn't necessarily quantify Bradley solely as her competition. She sees value in Bradley's mission as a journalist — unfortunately, it is very often going to be in conflict with the armor Alex has built around herself as a beloved *Morning Show* anchor.

In order to protect herself, Alex needs to protect a show and a network that have little to no interest in her well-being. But Bradley has no such loyalties — her loyalty is to the truth.

And once again, watching that play out in the way Bradley handles her upcoming interview with Ashley is wildly more fulfilling than Bradley telling us she's "on the side of humanity" in the premiere. But here, in episode 4, we see that because of Bradley's now nationally known commitment to telling the truth, even Kelly Clarkson is a fan. "You're a truth-teller, Bradley Jackson," Clarkson says when she pulls Bradley on stage while performing "Heat" on *The Morning Show*. And getting praised by Kelly Clarkson because she spoke her truth...

That Bradley can do — but there's no reverse button. If Bradley is going to be herself on *The Morning Show*, she can't just be herself part-time. Cory certainly wouldn't want her to be, cooing that she's "Kelly Clarkson's truth-teller" when he comes into her dressing room as she's preparing

for the Ashely interview. He looks around the room, wondering what kind of awful things went on in there when it was Mitch's. "And between us," he whispers, about as transparent with his intentions as Bradley's beloved journalism, "I also wonder who knew." It's just so interesting how two people can have the same goal with completely different motivations. (Cue Alex in the dressing room across the hall, assuring Mitch that she's happy for Bradley's bonding moment with Kelly Clarkson. "I made her, right?" Alex says. "I'm Dr. Frankenstein, she's my monster." And either that is some dark foreshadowing... or Alex super has not read that book.)

Mitch doesn't show up in this episode, but his presence is felt everywhere. A woman named Vicky has arrived to conduct interviews for the internal investigation into "the culture at The Morning Show that allowed Mitch Kessler's inappropriate behavior to go unchecked." In those interviews we find out what was hinted at last week: Bradley's producer Mia had an ongoing affair with Mitch that she says she eventually broke off, and there were no repercussions. She insists though that when she reported it to HR, she had no intention of Mitch getting fired: "I just couldn't stand watching Mitch report on #MeToo anymore with that empathetic dad-next-door smile — that had to end."

Vicky, of course, reports her findings directly back to Frank because this is not an internal investigation to create internal change; it's an internal investigation to prove that Mitch's bad behavior happened in a vacuum, and to gauge who internally poses a threat to UBA. But that person, Frank, is probably the only employee not being interviewed...

Because she never worked with Mitch. The time has finally come for Bradley's interview with Ashley, and she goes into the sit-down with a roadmap that has been planned, crafted, and vetted within an inch of its life. But have you met Bradley? She's Kelly Clarkson's truth-teller — that is not a role that involves protecting anyone or anything but (Kelly Clarkson's) truth.

In an interview that we watch unfold from beginning to end, Ashley shares her story. When she worked at The Morning Show, it was her job to mic the talent, and Mitch liked to tease her when she would slide the mic down his shirt. She liked the attention from the start of the show at first, until one big production meeting in 2009; Ashley says Mitch made sure to be seated by her, and in the middle of the meeting she felt a hand on her thigh under the table, squeezing her in a sexual way. She was shocked, but also excited, and mostly confused. Ashley tells Bradley she didn't do anything about it at the time because they were surrounded by people and she didn't have time to think... but it opened a door. "That flirty thing we had, it increased... a lot."

Ashley says that things never crossed the line with Mitch, but she became so overwhelmed by wondering what he would say or do next, and consumed by whether she should give into him — and what would happen if she didn't — that eventually, she felt like the only solution was to quit. She never told anyone, and she never reported it to HR.

Watching the interview from his office, Frank sighs in relief. Yeah, hold onto that feeling, buddy.

Bradley asks if Ashley didn't report Mitch's behavior because she felt like it might get back to him. Everyone in the studio tenses up, including Ashley — because that question wasn't vetted. Bradley clarifies, asking if there was "something about the culture at this network, at this show, that made it feel... impossible to complain." And that's a pretty leading journalistic question, Bradley, but whatever, I guess, because she certainly must be onto something if Alex, gasping NO from the control room, is anything to go by.

Bradley assures Ashley that she doesn't need to say anything she's not comfortable with, but she's asking because the truth matters: "Sometimes it's the only weapon that we have against the powerful men who are trying to shut us up." Alex hisses into the mic for Bradley to stop it right now, but Bradley takes her earpiece out, and suddenly Alex is seeming quite in line with those men she was calling motherf—ers earlier...

Except Cory, of course, who looks like he's watching a cage match and prohibits Mia from cutting Bradley off. Through tears, Ashley admits that she and Mitch did cross the line: "He would call me into his office, we would start kissing, and I would give him oral sex." Ashley says Mitch didn't force her, but she also didn't "know how to not go through with it." She never told anyone, but everyone knew.

In his office, Fred is now singing a new tune, and that tune is, "F—!"

Ashley says she could feel people looking at her differently, losing respect for her, and eventually she saw herself as they did: "This slut sleeping with Mitch to help her career." He branded

her, and he stole her confidence, and she was drowning. "And there was no one to throw me a lifeline," Ashley says. "I was all alone... surrounded by people."

As Bradley thanks Ashley for speaking her truth, Cory looks thrilled, Hannah the booker looks concerningly nauseated, and Alex looks like she's about to burst every blood vessel in her face. She's waiting for Bradley when she walks offstage to whisper angrily in her ear: "I brought you in, I bet on you, I dragged you up out of nowhere... You just put the show and everyone who works here at risk."

Oh, Alex... I don't think Bradley's the one who did that.

Plus, Bradley told Alex on the very night that she dragged her up out of nowhere that if she was looking for someone to be beholden to her, she'd come to the wrong gal. Bradley reels back, looking Alex in the eye, and whispers, "Did you know... about Mitch? About what was going on in is dressing room?"

Alex sputters out a "How dare you?" but Bradley is already walking off the Morning Show stage the exact same way she came in: What doesn't kill you makes you stronger / Stand a little taller / Doesn't mean I'm lonely when I'm alone...

No One's Gonna Harm You, Not While I'm Around

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Friday November 15, 2019
Writer: Torrey Speer
Director: David Frankel
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoefeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred), Mindy Kaling (Audra), Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie), David Morse (Mr. Jackson), Ian Gomez (Greg), Victoria Tate (Rena), Augustus Prew (Sean), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Kate Vernon (Geneva), Amber Friendly (Layla), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Eli Bildner (Joel), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), David Magidoff (Nicky), Joe Pacheco (Bart), Philip Anthony-Rodriguez (Gabriel), Markus Flanagan (Gerard), Mark Harelik (Richard), Robert Cicchini (Robert), Carolyn Zeller (Jane), Michelle Kim (Hostess), Andre Boyer (Host), Julian Morris (Andrew), Cory Tucker (Guy at Table), Chris V. Pipkin (Waiter), David Jahn (Desk Clerk), Cheyenne Jackson (Cheyenne Jackson), Christopher Wallinger (Security Guard Russ), Noreen O'Neill (Barista), T.J. Alvarado (Barista), Christian Jacob (Pianist), Ken Holmes (Businessman)
Summary: A looming article threatens to upend the TMS power structure.



The episode picks up just after Bradley's interview as the whole Morning Show gang cheerfully signs off for the weekend while "Stronger" plays them out, and they lauuuuugh and daaaance...

Until the moment the cameras go off, when Alex whips around to Bradley and hisses, "Don't you ever question my integrity in my own house again." You know how to tell someone has a lot of integrity? When they're super-defensive about how much integrity they have.

Everyone is especially on edge given the forthcoming Times piece about Mitch — seemingly no one more so than Mitch,

who shows up at The Morning Show offices. Chip immediately sees images of a sawed-off shotgun dancing in his head, but Mitch just wants to chat... to the entire staff, who he corners in the writer's room as they're wrapping up the day. "I know you're terrified to say anything, so I'll do the talking," he tells them, going on to apologize for them getting hit by a bus, even though he also says that doesn't mean he's admitting to being the one driving the bus. Then he gets to the point: The Times piece is coming out, and he knows it's not going to be good, so he's asking them to "call the Times, go on record, give them quotes."

"You've worked with me... we are colleagues, and friends," Mitch says. "And I'm asking you all, as friends, to speak out on my behalf."

The silence is deafening. Alex has shown up by now, and she looks mortified; Chip tells Mitch he has to leave. "I know that there are some of you that want to do it!" Mitch exclaims to a room full of people who look like they would rather eat their computers with a knife and fork than spend one more second in this room, let alone speak up on Mitch's behalf. Especially once he starts screaming at them: "This is my life! Who here will speak up for me?!" He looks over at Alex, who rushes off without saying anything.

Finally, Mitch gives it up, tells the crew, "I really do love you guys, and it's been an honor working with you," and lets security lead him away. But not before one Bradley Jackson corners him in the elevator. "Who else knew what was going on?" she asks with no other greeting. "What do you think?" Mitch says dryly.

See, ever since her interview with Ashley, Bradley has been doing a bit of internal investigative journalism. She wants to know what was going on at The Morning Show before she got there, and who she can trust. But when Bradley is being interviewed, Mia advises her (in code) that she needs to lock that down. When Maggie Brenner shows up at her new fancy hotel home, Bradley does her Bradley thing, all, I have no idea why The Morning Show chose me, you can't get too worried about things, we're all gonna die eventually, I'm a weirdo who does what I want. But when Alex's name comes up, the eye-shutters go down, and the smile gets plastered on.

Maggie wonders if Bradley has asked as many probing questions about The Morning Show culture to Alex as she asked Ashley in their interview. Bradley stutters that they've only just started working together, and she thinks they're off to a good start: "I'm hopeful that we'll prove to be a very powerful team."

Indeed, everyone has their defenses up and their game face on. Chip has a secret meeting with the New York Times editor in charge of the Mitch story, in which he asks how exposed the network is in the article, knowing he would be the fall guy as the executive producer of The Morning Show. The editor says he can't tell him, and Chip whispers, "Really, after what I gave you?" The editor says he doesn't remember what Chip gave him — wasn't that the whole point?

And we're left to wonder exactly what dirt Chip exposed on his own versus exactly which dirt he's worried about getting out. There's plenty of dirt-leveraging to go around, as that very New York Times editor gets on the phone with UBA's legal team — while Frank and Cory listen in and text their demands, of course — to see if Fred wants to give a quote for the article. Fred won't give a quote without knowing the context, so finally the head reporter tells the lawyers the nitty gritty: Four sources of quotes, three are women who have worked on the show, one is a male who currently works on the show, and between them, they report Mitch's misconduct taking place in his dressing room, his car, in hotels, at a gas station bathroom while on location, in Rome during the papal conclave, and on numerous occasions at his Hampton home and on his yacht.

Not great! And the ringer: one particularly damning quote from Fred's former assistant, who says that the network had a habit of protecting its stars, and that it was "common knowledge" what Mitch was doing. Cory suggests they leverage telling the Times about Mitch's outburst at the office that morning in exchange for dropping the assistant's quote, but it's a no-go.

While all this is going on, Alex is throwing a party, because that's the best way for her to seem totally fine, and totally not culpable for anything, and totally in charge of the situation. It's very important for Alex to be in charge, and this Bradley situation clearly has not given her that feeling the way she thought it would. At her party, Bradley is all anyone can talk about, and Alex is desperate for Maggie to arrive so she can put her own spin on whatever Bradley may have told her in their interview.

Once Maggie arrives, Alex wastes no time suggesting that it was a challenging first week for Bradley, but of course, "She was quite shell-shocked when I told her she had to go on air Monday." Oh, that's right — Alex can't say she went rogue and guerrilla-hired Bradley as her co-anchor, but she can suggest that she made the decision to rush her on air. Because Alex knows what the show needs: "A fresh start, a feminist slant, and Bradley came on like a superstar... I mean, for someone who has zero anchor experience, she did great." Oh, Alex. How transparent can you be? By time Alex is suggesting that she coached Bradley through asking the difficult questions in the Ashley interview, Maggie's smirk has crept up to her ears.

"Oh, come on, Alex," Maggie snorts. "I have tremendous respect for you, but I am not going to write some feminist puff piece about a woman who turned a blind eye to the sexual misconduct

of her cohost." It appears that no one is buying what Alex has been trying to sell. Except Cory... maybe. It's hard to say what Cory is thinking ever, but he pulls Alex aside at her party to say that he wants her to hear it from him: "You were right... That Bradley stunt was genius, and I want us to find a way to work together." But this time, Alex is the one not buying it.

So Cory does what any completely insane, unpredictable person would do. He buys the thousand-dollar opportunity to sing show tunes for charity, and then announces that Alex will be joining him on stage. And then, I kid you not, Billy Crudup and Jennifer Anniston duet on perhaps the most confusing rendition of "Not While I'm Around," from *Sweeney Todd*, ever. To quote Yanko, who I love, when Daniel asks him what the f— is going on: "I don't know, but it's weird... and fascinating... and I'm super into it." And that also seems to be the way that Cory and Alex experience crooning to each other about not letting any harm come to the other while they're around. They look confused, but also like they kind of... mean it?

At the end of the song, Alex is so overwhelmed by emotion she has to rush off stage, and Cory looks unsure of what just happened for maybe the first time in the history of this show.

And the wheels are basically falling off all over town. Bradley was invited by some of the younger staff to celebrate Claire's birthday, and once everyone is sufficiently drunk, the conversation turns to Mitch. When Claire gets rather brazen with her suggestion that the old guard probably enabled his creepy behavior, Mia snaps: "What the f— do you know about this show, what it's been, what I've seen, what I've gone through?" Which... fair. But then things get a little more personal when Mia grits out that it's not all black and white, and "this s— is complicated, people are complicated, Mitch was complicated."

Hannah looks particularly salty about what seems to be a semi-defense of Mitch, but Mia quickly recovers from and apologizes to Claire, excusing herself to go home. And then...

The article drops. It seems that Chip's guilt-tripping of his editor pal must have worked, and the Times dropped the "everyone knew what was going on" quote for the Mitch-crashing-the-office story and a nice long quote from Fred about Mitch never working again. But Mitch doesn't know that yet — he's sitting in his car with Alex, who rushed off stage with Cory and right to Mitch because, as she told her husband, she needed to see her friend. Things quickly turn from friendly to charged, though, as Alex and Mitch banter back and forth with that oft-touted chemistry of theirs.

Mitch pulls the car over and turns off the music, and says, "You miss me, admit it." Alex won't say it, but she will giggle, and Mitch says they should finally give it a try. He's getting a divorce, she's separated, for the first time ever, they could actually date. "I'm sure it's every little girl's dream to settle down with a sexual predator," Alex says, which is hilarious, and yet when Mitch leans in for the kiss, she leans right back. I do not like it! Thankfully that's the moment they get the notification that the Times article has gone live.

And Alex is faced with the full reality of Mitch, not just her friend. She looks sick. Alex says she needs to go home, and Mitch whines, "Come on, Alex, you knew all about this stuff." And there it is: Alex knew. She clarifies that she knew in theory, "But this just... Reading this just felt really different."

Lucky for Alex, Bradley currently has her investigative radar dialed all the way down. While she's out with the girls, Bradley gets a phone call from her estranged father that throws her for a complete loop. In some ways, it's kind of a nice conversation, and when Bradley's father says he called her up after 15 years because he really just wanted to tell her how proud of her he is, she looks happy. But in the end, she tells him he can't call her anymore. He says to take care of herself, and she says she always has...

And then she goes inside, gets extremely drunk, and has sex with the bartender in the supply closet. Because our girl has a self-destructive streak! Luckily, she also has a friend now. No, not the bartender — Cory. And so help me, I like their relationship forged out of how equally but differently weird they are. At the hotel they're both staying in, Cory escorts Bradley into the elevator; she tells him how she "f—ed this bartender" and now she's scared because "I guess I'm famous now"; Cory lets her cry in his arms and tells her it's going to be fine.

Across town, a different anchor is offering very different assurances to a different UBA executive. Calling Fred up while he drives angrily back out of Manhattan following his failed rendezvous, Mitch sneers: "If I'm going down, you're going down with me."

The Pendulum Swings

Season 1
Episode Number: 6
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Friday November 22, 2019
Writer: Kristen Layden
Director: Tucker Gates
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoenfeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred), Ian Gomez (Greg), Augustus Prew (Sean), Victoria Tate (Rena), Briana Henry (Alyssa), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Eli Bildner (Joel), Kate Vernon (Geneva), Amber Friendly (Layla), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Paul Witten (Austin), Roman Mitichyan (Sam), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Chris Dougherty (Eric), Buckley Sampson (Kate), Al Coronel (Mike), Alain Uy (Jimmy), Andre Johnson (Stage Manager), Matthew Butcher (Hired Firefighter), Alice Lin (Jimmy's Grandmother), Carrie Armstrong (Woman), Ivan Fuchs (Man in Pilot), Candice Marie Bennett (Woman in Pilot)
Summary: TMS covers the California wildfire, while Alex and Bradley struggle to keep their relationship from going up in flames.



The episode opens with some footage of the Californian wildfires devastating the country. Fred, who has to evacuate his house, calls Cory and decides to have the girls go on-location to cover the fires during the show. It's here we see Bradley spent the night in Cory's room and he tends to her needs as she wakes up with a heavy hangover. Alex meanwhile wakes up to Chip calling her about covering the fires. Despite trying to refuse, Jason arrives to tell her that he's fed up with their lives and wants a divorce and is planning

to tell their daughter in the evening. This causes her to panic and asks him to wait until she's back from LA.

When the whole crew arrive in LA, they have a meeting to discuss all the different stories they're going to cover. However, tension builds when Bradley suggests doing a piece on celebrities' houses being prioritized over poorer households. This causes some outbursts by Alex who is getting fed up by her ways, especially since the Ashley Brown interview. After coming up with a story regarding celebrities hiring private firefighters, we see the different staff as they organize themselves for the difficult day ahead.

Meanwhile, Cory is busy watching a pilot of a new show for the channel and as he heads outside, he comes face to face with Chip who explains that he is worried about his job and that he needs protection. Determined to keep his position, he proposes a deal with Cory; to help him get to Fred's position in exchange for job safety. Cory is interested but suggests that they would need something concrete on Fred to get him out, which Chip isn't sure about.

Back on the set, Bradley decides to make Claire her assistant who then quickly heads to Yanko to give him the good news. However, he is more concerned about people finding out about their affair than her promotion.

Despite the tension between the two women, they manage to deliver the news about the fire on the show but Alex soon gets emotional when they interview a man who has been saving dogs from the fire, speaking about the importance of family. After the interview, Bradley follows Alex to her dressing room and does her best to comfort her despite the hostility Alex has. As Chip arrives, it's here she explains that Jason wants to get a divorce.

Later that night, Claire decides to go into Yanko's room, which is witnessed by Hannah while Alex knocks on Bradley's door to explain her emotional behaviour. She tells her she's getting a divorce and is worried about her daughter's reaction. After Alex says goodbye, Bradley does her best to reassure her about mother-daughter relationships, by using her own family life as an example. Alex thanks her and ends the conversation with a big hug. In his room, Chip calls Cory and tells him he is ready to talk, while Bradley receives a text from Mitch claiming that he has information she might be interested in where we leave the episode, hanging in the balance.

The Morning Show remains an enjoyable drama with enough interesting characterisation and plot twists to keep you coming back for more. This week touches on another difficult issue that California has been facing over the years, and finding out about rich people hiring private firefighters to tackle fires around their house was certainly eye-opening.

Open Waters

Season 1
Episode Number: 7
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Friday November 29, 2019
Writer: Jeff Augustin
Director: Roxann Dawson
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoenfeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred), Mindy Kaling (Audra), Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie), Oona Roche (Lizzy), Victoria Tate (Rena), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Joe Pacheco (Bart), Amber Friendly (Layla), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Eli Bildner (Joel), David Magidoff (Nicky), Romy Rosemont (Sheila), Brian Bowen Smith (Photographer), Dendrie Taylor (Yvette), Shane Munson (Samantha), Ken Holmes (Businessman)
Summary: Alex shares news to Lizzy. Bradley meets with Mitch. Chip plots against Fred.



Bradley wakes up in the same hotel room as Cory following her big drunken night out. Luckily, Cory proves himself to be the weirdo we always knew him to be, while not necessarily the creep his general demeanor has alluded to. Cory tells Bradley that he slept on the couch in the other room merely to make sure she didn't choke on her own vomit, and that he's glad he could be there for her. When Bradley accuses Cory of actually being a nice person, he assures her that he's not... he just happens to like her.

And then he tells her she has to shake her hangover because she's flying to Los Angeles in an hour. The Malibu wildfires that were mentioned in the last episode have spread, and Fred wants Bradley and Alex there right away to report on the disaster while conveniently pivoting the show's narrative away from #MeToo. Bradley is also eager for the opportunity because, according to her, "boots on the ground" is what she's good at — and isn't that just the most Bradley thing ever?

And the most Alex thing ever is to fuss at Chip that she won't deign to cover this fire ("It's not like it's 9/11 or something")... and then when her husband storms in to tell her that this sham marriage "with a charming a narcissist" is killing him, and he wants them to tell their daughter tonight that they're getting a divorce, our girl conveniently pivots to saying he just has to wait a few days because she has to get to L.A. stat: "Please, Jason, people's homes are being burned to the ground... this is important."

When Alex boards the plane with the rest of the Morning Show crew, she makes it clear that her disdain for Bradley following the Ashley interview still stands, and things don't get much better when they begin planning their coverage for the next day. Already on the agenda

are children who survived the fires in a swimming pool, a climate change expert, and a good Samaritan who rescued a bunch of dogs. Bradley deems ending on the dogs "a little soft," and Alex snaps, "Well, maybe one of the dogs had an abortion." ALEX!!!

Moving right along, Bradley latches onto a story that Claire found about wealthy Malibu dwellers hiring private firefighters to protect their homes, and when Chip suggests that denigrating firefighters might not be the right tone for *The Morning Show*, Bradley says — and you're not gonna believe this — that as a news program, their tone should be the Truth, even when it's ugly.

"OH MY GOD," Alex yells from the other side of the room. "Are you going to do this every day?" And I have to admit, while Alex is very much being a jerk to Bradley simply for daring to ask her if she was aware of Mitch's misconduct, which we found out last week, Alex very much was.

"You cannot begrudge people for wanting to feel better!" Alex yells. "It's part of the job, truth-teller, like it or not." Again I say: Might these two have something to learn from each other?

Luckily, the next generation of *Morning Show* women are playing much nicer. Claire drives Hannah around as she chases down a fire survivor she wants to book for the show, and marvels over how good Hannah is at talking to people in times of trauma. In return, Hannah offers Claire an Adderall since they're likely to be working for the next 32 hours, and also advises her that remote shoots are "a good opportunity to impress the higher-ups." That ultimately proves true when Claire's scouting of interesting stories impresses Bradley, and she asks Claire to be her executive assistant, but it's also a little concerning given all the close-ups Hannah has gotten during scenes discussing Mitch's misconduct, and what we know about his proclivity for taking advantage of remote locations.

Plus, when Hannah spots Claire going into Yanko's hotel room later, she retires to her own room to down some mystery pills with a tumbler full of tequila, standing next to a tray of cocaine. So, definitely keep your eye on Hannah, who is very good at her job, and super not doing well.

Los Angeles is just bringing out the most extra version of everyone, it seems. Even Chip is out here extending olive branches — or mafia deals, however you want to look at it. Chip tells Cory that he knows he'll be the first to go if things go south for the network, and he needs some protection. He wonders if it's crossed Cory's mind that if Fred were to be the one targeted for being culpable in Mitch's misconduct, that Cory could quickly find himself taking over the reins. "It's crossed my mind," Cory says, giving nothing away. Chip says that once these ideas get floated, they have a way of becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy, and given his journalistic clout, perhaps Chip could do some floating in exchange for protection.

Cory says it's intriguing, but he doesn't see Fred being taken down unless something specific comes out about him. "Like what?" Chip asks. "I don't know, like what?" Cory counters with an eyebrow raise. Someone will have to crack first, and it's probably not going to be the guy who frequently exits rooms saying things like "Chaos — it's the new cocaine!"

And now, to do what these people are conceivably in L.A. to do: the morning news. As Bradley and Alex prepare to go live from the sight of the fires, Bradley apologizes for asking Alex if she knew about Mitch, but her "journalistic instinct" told her she needed to ask the question at the time. "Your curiosity just thrills me," Alex replies. "I am in awe of your instincts." She tells Bradley that they are in this mess together now, but doing their job well only requires them to act like they like each other for two hours a day. "The rest of the time, we just have to be professional adults who can tolerate being in the same room," Alex says, making sure to specify that she knows she can handle those boundaries: "We'll see about you."

But, as usual, Alex is just a little too confident about her handle on a given situation. This time, the situation being... herself.

When Bradley and Alex start rolling on that feel-good dog segment, and the sweet man who rescued all the dogs starts talking about needing to keep family together, and Alex starts thinking about having to tell her daughter about the divorce, she starts... dry-sobbing... live on air. Which soon turns to loud wet-sobbing while cuddling a dog, as Chip hisses from the production tent to cut Alex's mic and keep the camera off her. Bradley handles the remainder of the segment, closing with a joke about people needing to hop on the website before Alex adopts all the dogs herself, and once Alex storms off to her trailer and won't come out, Bradley handles that too.

I mean, sort of. Alex does not want to see Bradley, which Bradley seems shocked by, but she tells Chip that she has plenty of experience dealing with people in crisis and just heads right in. Indeed, Alex is having a full-on panic attack, so Bradley holds her hair back while she vomits,

and then hugs her and tells her to breathe until she's had enough time to calm down. But once Alex does start breathing again, and realizes who it is that's helping her, she begs Bradley to get out and leave her alone.

Alex thinks Bradley will revel in seeing her that vulnerable, but Alex's brief moment of transparency winds up going in the other familial direction: Everyone gets a little more honest with each other, and gains a little more empathy.

Chip asks Bradley to come talk to him because he's gotten a call from Fred, and turns out, he's one of the rich people hiring private firefighters to protect his Malibu home. Chip is apologetic, saying that it was a good story, but it's out of his hands — they have to cut the story. And straight out of *Mean Girls*, Bradley informs Chip that she's a pusher. She wants to be clear that she's not apologizing, she's just explaining that pushing is in her nature, and she's realized she can't change it, she just has to lean into it.

Chip says he gets it; he used to be a pusher too: "But now I'm in this position where I can't push anymore because I have to hold the middle from being pulled to the other side, and keep the whole f—ing thing from falling down the mountain." And suddenly, Chip just decides to jump off that mountain: "Hey, Bradley, what if we said 'f— Fred' and ran the story anyway?"

The next morning, they do just that. The story doesn't make any big statement, or condemn the rich, or save the poor — it's just the news. Maybe Bradley can be good for this show, especially if she's able to work in conjunction with Alex. And that future gets a little brighter when Alex shows up at Bradley's door to tell her that she lost her s— earlier because she's getting a divorce, and she knows her daughter is going to blame her and this job, and she can't stand the idea of her daughter hating her. So Bradley tells Alex that her dad was a terrible drunk and he killed a kid while drinking and driving. She was furious with him, and she pushed him out of her life, but she never stopped loving him: "That's just how it is with parents and kids."

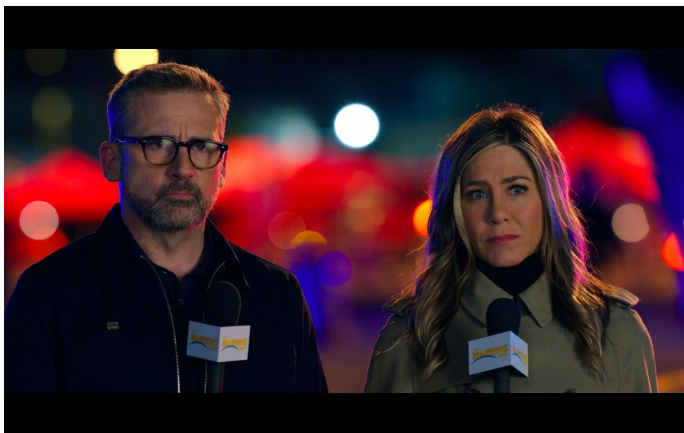
It's starting to seem like that just might be how it is with this Morning Show family too. "I want you to know that you can trust me, you can tell me things, you can be vulnerable," Bradley tells Alex. And Alex genuinely seems grateful to hear that...

Which is why Mitch just has to come in and do his whole ruining thing. Right before Bradley goes to bed, she gets an email from the former Morning Show co-anchor. "I'd like to meet with you," Mitch writes. "I think I have some information you might be interested in." Whatever could that be about?

Lonely at the Top

Season 1
Episode Number: 8
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Friday December 06, 2019
Writer: JC Lee
Director: Michelle MacLaren
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoenfeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred), Martin Short (Dick Lundry), Paul Guilfoyle (Reid), Embeth Davidtz (Paige), Ian Gomez (Greg), Augustus Prew (Sean), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Victoria Tate (Rena), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Kate Vernon (Geneva), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Eli Bildner (Joel), David Magidoff (Nicky), Amber Friendly (Layla), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), Judah Mackey (Teddy Kessler), Benjamin Mackey (Jeff Kessler), Christian Zuber (Fred's Assistant), Nanrisa Lee (Local News Reporter), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Joe Pacheco (Bart), Sean Alexander James (Security Guard), Richard Whiten (Paul), Michael Seitz (Spencer), Ethan Cohn (Jared), Jeff Pomerantz (Drew), Dana Davis (Christine), Brittany O'Connor (Dancer), Ferly Prado (Dancer), Rachael Markarian (Dancer), Christina Quarternik (Dancer), Ashleigh Wilson (Dancer), Victoria Acker (Dancer), Meagan Kong (Dancer), Hannah Douglass (Dancer), Traci Swartz (Dancer), Hannah Hawkins (Dancer), Ashley Everett (Dancer), Audrey Douglass (Dancer), Cassie Dzienny (Dancer), Dana Holm (Dancer), Kristin Johnson (Dancer), Kathlee Mangan (Dancer), Maurice Harris Jr. (Drum Major)
Summary: Mitch celebrates his 50th birthday and Las Vegas has a shooting.



The episode begins with an alarm clock going off at 3:30 a.m. It's time for Mitch to get ready to co-anchor The Morning Show; this particular morning just so happens to be his 50th birthday. Mitch walks through the TMS halls like the celebrity he is, giving and receiving high-fives and back-claps, and from Allison, a Marilyn-esque "Happy birthday, Mr. Kessler." As we've been told, Mitch is a flirt, with Alex especially. When they sit down at the desk together, Mitch teases Alex about how she should wear more dresses like Allison's flippy little number.

There's a clear love and affection between them, but there's also — from Alex's end, at least — a competitiveness. She's in Chip's office before they go on air, complaining that Mitch gets all the good stories, when Chip lets slip that the network had done some testing and Mitch tests very well. "Mitch tests well when he's with me," Alex insists, and it's true: That chemistry we've heard

so much about is right there on the screen. But there's also the uncomfortableness of Mitch's constant innuendo, even if Alex happens to find it endearing. "I would take you in that dress over Allison any day," Mitch tells Alex, pausing for effect. "Because if you were wearing the dress, it means she would be naked."

Zing! Right over the mic for everyone to hear. "There it is, first one of the day," Alex says with a laugh, right before they go to air.

In the midst of all this is Hannah, a fairly new junior booker who seems to really love her job but is also letting that job isolate her from any other personal connections she once had. Hannah suddenly catches Mitch's eye when she steps in to say she has some connections at a senator's office the head booker is refusing to contact even though Chip wants him to. "She's a go-getter," Mitch says causally to his makeup artist. And later, at the surprise birthday blowout Alex has planned for Mitch and the whole TMS crew, Mitch spots an uncomfortable-looking Hannah again and tells her she did the right thing speaking up. "You know what you did?" he says. "You made the show better on Friday — categorically better. So keep up the good work."

How enchanting would it be to hear those words from a superior, someone you truly admire, who's already been through all the steps to become the successful person you hope to be one day? And Mitch is so earnest when he says them. And perhaps he really does recognize potential in Hannah, but Mitch is also a narcissist — the only person he really seems to consistently be able to care about is himself.

On the eve of his 50th birthday, that self-obsession is taking a nose dive into self-pity. While his party is dying down, Mitch speaks woefully with his Woody Allen-esque director friend, played by Martin Short, saying that he knows he's accomplished a lot in his career, but is that really all there is? "I've let down the people I love — maybe that's my legacy at the end," Mitch says into his whiskey glass. "Maybe that's it." From an acting standpoint, it's fascinating to watch Carell convincingly drive Mitch off this emotional cliff: from a preening star to a walking midlife crisis lamenting his legacy in a matter of minutes.

From a character standpoint, it's foreboding. This is the frame of mind Mitch is in when the TMS crew hears about the shooting in Las Vegas, before many of them have even headed home for the night. The power Mitch wields — and therefore the power his own ego and emotional volatility have to sway the show and everyone on it — is on full display as he heads toward the airport. In the split-second between getting on the elevator and the doors closing, Mitch tells Chip to send Hannah to Las Vegas instead of the head booker, and that it's time to switch Mia from his team to Alex's because of the awkwardness following their breakup.

At the tragic scene in Las Vegas, Mitch burrows even further into his own feelings of insecurity; as Alex worries about the effect of having to face this kind of pain all the time for their job, Mitch says the unnatural part is actually how much money they have. "Part of being this successful is having enough money to not have to see the pain," he says, clearly gearing up for a full-on existential spiral. "The world is unfair and sad and ugly, and we hide from it in our wealth, but then the way you and I make our money is, we put ourselves right in the middle of everyone else's pain."

Mitch asks Alex to go out and get a drink, but she turns him down, reminding him that they've been up for 48 hours at this point.

And that's the state Mitch is in — sad, self-pitying, feeling powerless, and a little bit rejected — when he spots Hannah standing on the Strip. It's not an excuse for what he does, it just all goes toward underlining that "I just want to feel good" mentality he'll use as an excuse to himself later. But Hannah has yet to come to the numbing-the-pain point of her TMS experience that we know she'll turn to substances for later, and that Mitch presumably uses sex and manipulation for. When Mitch finds her on the Strip, she's crying, and he offers to walk her back to the hotel, seeming so genuinely nurturing in that moment.

On the way, they talk about what it's like to have this job. Mitch tells Hannah that sometimes you "just have to feel sad as s— and live with it," even though we know he'll use her in order to escape his own sadness soon. Hannah says she doesn't think she's ever learned so much in a single day, and Mitch notes that she's a sponge. "You just absorb stuff... that's what makes you smart. You really care about your job, and that's why I wanted you here." Once again, how good would that feel? To know that the qualities Hannah wants so badly for people to notice are being noticed by exactly the right person...

And how much worse would it feel then, when that validation turns into just another method for Mitch to get a young woman into a hotel room where he can try to have sex with her?

It could make you feel like none of it meant anything, like you're nothing but your body, like you're worthless. It could certainly make you feel confused. And in those moments of confusion and heartbreak written all over Hannah's face as someone she thought was becoming her mentor begins kissing her neck and telling her she smells good — that's when Mitch changes gears. That's when the words of affirmation and encouragement turn into coaxing "I just want to feel good," and "It's okay," even as Hannah tries over and over to pull away while also trying not to offend her superior by flat-out rejecting him.

It's like watching a horror movie as Hannah finally acquiesces to Mitch's gropes, her face shuddering with a look of dawning numbness we know she'll still be carrying two years later. And as Hannah takes on all that grief and confusion, Mitch gets to unload his. He sleeps soundly as she picks up her underwear afterward, staring blankly out into the hotel room.

Back at the TMS offices, Hannah gazes absentmindedly at her computer, walks distractedly down the halls. And when Mitch suddenly appears, he passes by with a simple hello, like nothing has changed at all for him...

Because nothing has. And in that moment, Hannah knows it — she marches upstairs to Fred's office and demands to speak to him. She tells Fred that she's a junior booker at The Morning Show... that she just got back from Vegas... that Mitch Kessler invited her up to his room to watch a movie and he wound up... and he wound up...

She can't finish the sentence through her tears, but Fred says she doesn't need to. He asks her name, says he's heard she's been doing good work, and that head booker could be in her future. "So this is how it happens," Hannah says. Indeed it is, Fred tells her. As a fresh wave of numbness washes over her face the news about Weinstein is breaking on the screen behind Fred's desk. This is how it happens.

Play the Queen

Season 1
Episode Number: 9
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Friday December 13, 2019
Writer: Erica Lipez, Ali Vingiano
Director: Kevin Bray
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoefeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Tom Irwin (Fred), Maria Sharapova (Maria Sharapova), Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie), Joe Tippett (Hal), Victoria Tate (Rena), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Chris Rivaro (Security Guard Billy), Ken Holmes (Businessman)
Summary: Things are heading up and Bradley tells Alex about Mitch coming to her asking for an interview. Alex gets scared and contact the head of the network about it. Everyone is now in question and we dont know witch way things will turn.



The episode picks up where the last present-day episode left off. It was alarming to see Mitch show up at Hannah's door cooing at her that it was time to pay him back, but now that we know how Mitch treated Hannah when she was a young junior booker working through her feelings about the Las Vegas shooting tragedy, to hear him inform her that she used him to get a promotion is lunge-for-the-remote-so-you-

don't-have-to-watch kind of material.

But not watching it wouldn't be fair to Hannah, and all the real people her character represents. When Mitch started coming on to Hannah, she felt confused, and powerless, and indebted. And Mitch didn't care about any of those feelings. And here they are now, in the exact same situation, just minus the sex. Because in the end, these things are always about power. Mitch is trying to regain the power he's lost, and he'll happily use and manipulate Hannah once again to do so.

Outside her apartment, Mitch has the nerve to ask Hannah if she remembers the time she slept with him and then leveraged it for a promotion. First he tells her that he's not judging her, he actually admires the move, then he tells her that when he first met her he was touched by her ambition, so "what [she] did" took him off guard — y'know, gaslighting! "I bet making a choice like that cost you something, and I bet you still think about that choice," Mitch tells her, absolutely clueless. "I am being forced to examine my behavior" — quick recapper's note: no, he's not! — "so why is Fred the only one who doesn't have to look at his behavior?" Mitch asks. He wants Hannah to corroborate his story to a reporter as "living, breathing proof" of Fred's complicity.

Then this a—hole leans in and touches her just after telling her that her story is coming out either way, so she might want to control the narrative.

Stunned nearly silent, Hannah says she'll think about it, and there's a lot of that going around in this episode: processing how to move forward when every single path seems bad. But processing is a good thing — a sign that someone is open to taking a risk to create change.

Alex Levy is not that person. Bradley shows up at Alex's apartment for the dinner they'd planned to talk about how they'll address Alex's divorce on the show. Unfortunately, Alex is fast asleep in her daughter's bed after recently telling the teenager to f— off, but she recovers quickly and ends up having a nice little bonding sesh with her co-anchor. That is, until Bradley mistakes their chumminess for actual intimacy, telling Alex there's an interview she'd like to do that would be good for both of them, and really good for the show, but it's... sensitive. Alex tells her to cut to the chase.

"Mitch contacted me and he wants me to interview him on the show," Bradley says to a simply stunned audience of one. She says she know he has his own agenda, but in order for him to accuse Fred of promoting a culture that silenced women, he has to admit he was part of the problem, "and that's a pretty stunning place to start an interview from." Bradley is sure that they can hold Mitch's feet to the fire and nail Fred at the same time. She tells Alex she'd never bring this to her if she didn't think this was an opportunity for both of them.

"Oh stop saying us, there is not us!" Alex finally snaps. "There is you interviewing him, and me getting f—ed!" Alex says Mitch is miserable and he wants company, going on to say that Fred protected Mitch because he was financially beneficial to the network. "Everyone knows this silencing culture exists, we don't need you telling how the world works — we need you to sit down and do your f—ing job, which includes just one little shred of loyalty to me!"

That's when Bradley gets confirmation of what she's suspected all along. "Loyalty," she repeats back. If Alex expects unwavering loyalty from Bradley, whom she doesn't even get along with, then what must she have been willing to give Mitch back when they were America's favorite on-air parents? Bradley heads out of Alex's door and into Cory's...

And Alex heads directly to Fred. "It's humbling to admit when you were wrong," she tells him over lunch. "But I care too much about this show to let my bruised ego get in the way." Oh, Alex... kindly come off it, dear. She's referring to going rogue and choosing Bradley as a co-anchor, which has now put the whole show in a very dangerous position. And Fred is fully on the lying-to-save-face train, telling Alex there was always something he didn't like about Mitch, and if he has one (one!) regret, it's not following that gut instinct. "Well, we seem to be the only two people who care about this show," Alex says solemnly.

These two martyrs hatch a little plot to start sending Bradley on more and more field assignments while Daniel fills her chair back home, and eventually they announce that Bradley is leaving after having her fire for field reporting reignited, and Daniel is named co-anchor because of the clear chemistry between him and Alex. And even though Daniel was ready to sign on the dotted line with *Your Morning America*, he says yes to this super-secret plan, telling his agent, "I may be a fool, but I gotta go with the devil I know."

But Fred tells Alex there's one more part to this cleanup plan. He says that from the internal investigation, some information has come to light about a colleague she cares about. "Charlie Black — it has become clear he knew about Mitch's behavior and he chose to protect Mitch." Alex meekly pushes back, saying that Chip's sins of omission were just like theirs, but in the end, who does Alex choose to protect? I'll give you one guess...

Meanwhile, Cory has just heard the new information from Bradley that Mitch says he has evidence Fred was silencing the women he had sex with, and he wants to be interviewed on the show. "He wants to topple the king," Bradley tells Cory. "And if that is of interest to you, that is definitely of interest to me." Cory tells Bradley he needs time to process, and then he asks her if she's considered that longevity at *The Morning Show* might actually provide her with "something called a nice life." Bradley looks him the eye and tells him that she has considered that. So Cory tells Bradley he's done processing, and they hatch a little plan of their own.

That plan involves bringing Chip into the mix. "You wanna turn *The Morning Show* in to a f—ing nuclear weapon and drop it on the network... This is a kamikaze mission!" Chip very calmly replies when he hears that they want to bring Mitch on the show, keep it a secret from Alex, and expose Fred as complicit in Mitch's misconduct.

"You're using a lot of World War II metaphors," Bradley informs him, also noting that she doesn't want to explode the show by interviewing Mitch. "If I do my job correctly, I think I can avoid network nuclear holocaust," she tells him. More convincingly, Cory tells Mitch that the

train is moving, Maggie Brenner is researching the story on in-house complicity, Fred has already met with Chip's chosen replacement, and there's one more person who has a meeting with said replacement: Alex.

Now it's a very hurt-looking Chip's turn to process. He calls Alex and asks her how she's doing, saying that she seemed like something was off when they talked earlier. "You good?" he asks. "Are... we good?" Of course they are, Alex assures him — all is well. Chip throws the phone to the ground, and he's made his decision as well.

So the lines have been drawn: There are the people who claim to care about the show but really just care about protecting themselves, and there are the people who care about doing something good — or at least interesting — with the show over their own general well-being. (Cory, of course, lives in the chaos between those two camps.) And then there are the people like Claire and Hannah who don't even get to be part of the conversation, just whipped around by all the powerful people above them playing god.

The two go to drinks, where Claire finally tells Hannah about her relationship with Yanko, and how in love she is with him, but how she's still unsure about going public with their relationship. And Hannah does... not react with the excitement Claire might have expected. "I know you feel like you love him, but at the end of the day, it's a transitory chemical feeling that's not worth losing your career over," Hannah says matter-of-factly. And then she tells Claire that she's the one who reported them to H.R. "It needed to be done," she insists. "I have a higher-up position at work, I have a responsibility!"

Hannah tells Claire she reported her precisely because they're friends: "You're so young and you have so much potential... There are a lot of men who care more about their own power than they do about you." Claire storms out, saying that whatever Hannah's experience was, that's not what's going on between her and Yanko.

But by the time she arrives to her first-ever public date with Yanko, she's clearly given a lot more thought to the consequences of all her co-workers — and even the public to whom Yanko is a famous reporter dating a much younger assistant — knowing that about her romantic relationship. She can't control how they would see it, and there's no chance it would work in her favor. On the verge of a panic attack, she tells Yanko that she's just starting out and she doesn't want to be defined by who she's dating. "You will always define yourself, Claire, you know that," Yanko pleads with her, knowing a breakup is on the horizon. "That's a beautiful, optimistic, and very naïve statement," Claire responds. Because as sweet as Yanko is, and as much as he might also be judged a little for dating a much younger woman from work, he's not the one whose career would suffer the lasting effects.

And we're back to where we started. Now with Hannah standing in front of Mitch's apartment, clearly a little drunk from the bar where Claire last left her, telling Mitch that she'll anonymously corroborate the story, but she needs to tell him that she doesn't remember things the way he does. She didn't use him for a promotion, he used her. "I thought you believed in me, that you were mentoring me — I looked up to you!" she exclaims. Misunderstanding, Mitch says he's sorry if he hurt her feelings, but Hannah cuts him off with what she's really been trying to say: "I tried to leave."

It's really a marvel to watch all Mitch's false empathy and warmth shutter off the moment Hannah says the one thing he refuses to hear from the multiple women who have come forward to say it to him. And what's worse, he's just had his ignorant stance reinforced by Alex, who came to his apartment begging him not to blow up *The Morning Show's* spot, and when he refused, spun a little tale about how she could very easily say that he's coerced her in the past. It's the most monstrous Alex has been, using the very real experience of very real women — women she knows — not only to get her own way, but to reinforce the idea that women falsely accuse men of misconduct to get ahead, when that is so rarely the case.

But Mitch heard it loud and clear — much louder, and much clearer than he's heard any of his real accusers. When Hannah tells him that it didn't even cross her mind what he might want when she went up to his room that night, he sneers, "Did you freeze or did you try to leave, which was it?"

"You're a strong woman, you're empowered," he yells at this person who was maybe 24 when he told her how talented she was, and how dedicated to the show, and how she should come up to his room to watch a movie to shake off the trauma of the day. "When Mitch Kessler decides he's having sex with you, you feel pretty f—ing powerless," Hannah spits back, finally putting

the right words to her complicated feelings. Mitch says that from what he can tell, she's a smart woman: "A smart woman knows what it means when a lead anchor who makes 20 million a year is hanging out with an assistant booker!"

The Interview

Season 1

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Friday December 20, 2019
Writer: Kerry Ehrin
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoenfeld), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler)
Guest Stars: Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred), Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie), Hayes MacArthur (Marlon Tate), Oona Roche (Lizzy), Ian Gomez (Greg), Victoria Tate (Rena), Augustus Prew (Sean), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Eli Bildner (Joel), Amber Friendly (Layla), Katherine Ko (Dhillon), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), Joe Pacheco (Bart), Joe Marinelli (Donny), Christian Zuber (Fred's Assistant), Lisa London (Landlord), Andrew Bridges (Male Tenant), Kelli Dawn Hancock (Woman at Bar), Tommy Buck (Tourist), Joseph James Sloan Jr (Camera Operator), Ken Holmes (Businessman)
Summary: TMS faces a fateful day as a plan to shake up UBA is set in motion.



tioned.

After Chip gives an emotional speech to his team, Bradley receives a text from Hannah who has changed her mind about the interview. They meet in her flat and Hannah starts recalling the events of that night in Vegas, including the aftermath of how Mitch and Fred treated her. After Bradley probes further on how this has affected her life, we see just how unhinged she is, blaming herself and also having to live with the fact that this is how she got a promotion.

Alex has a meeting with Fred to talk about Chip's replacement where he also offers her a new contract with co-anchor approval. As she leaves the building, Chip arrives in Fred's office where he tells him that after the findings of the internal investigation, Chip is found to be negligent and involved so he fires him, effective immediately.

Later that night, Bradley and Chip get together to discuss the interview but the latter warns her, revealing he has been fired. Bradley feels overwhelmed having to do this on her own but is

also struggling to cope with what Hannah has to deal with. Chip seeks the help of his assistant Rena to plan for the interview and how they're planning to sneak Mitch in without Alex knowing. We then cut to Clare as she heads to meet with Hannah. Unfortunately, she finds her door open and her neighbour calling the police as she is found dead, having choked on her own vomit.

Just as Fred relays the news of Marlon replacing Chip, Bradley gets a call from Claire, revealing that Hannah died from a potential overdose. Hanging up, she heads back in the studio to relay the bad news, creating devastation all around. She calls Chip to cancel the interview and tells him the reason why, blaming them for pushing Hannah into this. Afterwards, she heads back to the channel to tell Alex the truth and that she has decided to leave as she feels responsible for Hannah's death.

Alex runs after her and tells her not to blame herself and reveals she made mistakes too, begging her not to go. After some dramatic moments with a fan, Bradley agrees to come with her just for now. As she goes back in, Cory ambushes her and tries convincing her to tell the truth about Fred. It's Mitch's turn to find out what happened to Hannah and from Chip's mouth this time. The latter is unable to contain his anger and punches Mitch, revealing that he's the one that leaked the story to *The Times*.

As the show starts, Alex is unable to read the prompter and starts revealing the truth of what happened behind the scenes at the network. Deciding to do this together, Bradley reveals that Fred has been silencing female victims of sexual harassment. They tell the story of Mitch and Hannah while we see Fred rushing down to the studio. Mia locks the door though to stop him. Alex also admits to having not spoken out when she witnessed how the women suffered and apologies for it. Before the show get cut off, they manage to make an appeal to all the victims and tell them to speak out.

The episode then closes as the camera focuses and zooms in on a sombre looking Mitch as he realizes what has just happened and the repercussions he will now have to face.

Season Two

My Least Favorite Year

Season 2

Episode Number: 11

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Friday September 17, 2021
Writer: Erica Lipez, Adam Milch Kerry Ehrin
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Will Arnett (Doug), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Taylor Cooper (Meredith), Erin Dinsmore (Hipster), Alexandra Fatovich (Michelle Connors), Amber Friendly (Layla Bell), Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Krystin Goodwin (Tabitha Roberts), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Judy Kain (Adele), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), Hasan Minhaj (Eric), Anthony Molinari (Jake (Alex's Driver)), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Oona Roche (Lizzy Craig), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Mark Totty (Jeremy Brian), Tony von Halle (Phil), Frederick Falk (Researcher)
Summary: Controversy and betrayal strike TMS as a new year approaches. Alex faces a difficult decision.



The episode opens with the aftermath of the recent scandal where Bradley and Alex unified on air. Social media are going crazy. Alex and Hannah are fretting, wondering how UBA is going to react. Meanwhile, Cory is furious that he has been fired, and Fred has not. He tells the board that if they do not come to their senses, the show will die. He always deals in absolutes. The series then shows life in the city under covid-19—a ghost town with quarantines.

Episode 1 then moves to three months earlier, in December 2019. Bradley is enjoying hosting *The Morning Show* with Eric — they are anticipating New Year's Eve. Rumors are quickly spreading that there's an allegation against Ray Marcus for emotional abuse. Nothing has changed — the consequences of Mitch are still ongoing.

UBA also has a problem; ratings have not been great with Bradley, and Cory wants to shortlist who pairs with her. Mia asks Cory to put Bradley on the evening news, as it's her thing. But Cory brings the topic of bringing Alex back, but the board rejects that idea, stating that she is done. Meanwhile, Alex looks to be enjoying life in Maine, writing her own book. However, her publishing agent tells her to go deeper with the book and talk about Mitch — the agent knows Mitch will sell copies. Alex is emotional and frustrated with that request — despite leaving *The Morning Show*, it's not really left her.

Bradley speaks to Cory, and she wants to know who is replacing Ray for the evening news and puts herself forward. She explains that Cory got his job back because of her, so he owes her. However, Cory does not want to move her and decides to charm her instead.

Cory clearly has a plan to save ratings. He visits Alex in Maine and asks her to come back for a year — he highlights how Bradley is struggling and wants Alex to be part of the resurgence. Alex insists she's happy and declines. Later on, at a New Year's Eve party, Alex sits with a tarot reader who senses she is carrying a "paralyzing amount of guilt" — she thinks she's running away from something. It's clear at this point that Alex is not as happy as she appears.

For the network, Bradley hosts the New Year's Eve coverage with Eric. She's truly appreciative of her partnership with him. However, during the night, Eric tells Bradley he's leaving the morning show and joining evening news — everyone knew apart from Bradley. She angrily confronts Cory about it, and they argue intensely.

Feeling desperate to get Alex back, Cory had left Alex a voice mail telling her that her greatest work is yet to come — this hits Alex, and she feels emotional. As the countdown to the New Year begins, Alex rings Cory, and Cory asks her to fill in for Eric until her new primetime show. Alex wants to know if she can trust him.

But more trouble is afoot — as the episode ends, news reports highlight how Hannah's family will be filing a lawsuit against UBA.

It's Like the Flu

Season 2

Episode Number: 12

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Friday September 24, 2021
Writer: Torrey Speer, Kristen Layden
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Valeria Golino (Paola Lambruschini), Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred Micklen), Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Will Arnett (Doug), Hasan Minhaj (Eric Nomani), Mark Harelik (Richard), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Markus Flanagan (Gerard), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey Sherman), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Traci Belushi (Angela Cody), Terryn Westbrook (Fay Ohoa), Erika Ringor (Mandy Schaeffer), Judah Mackey (Teddy Kessler), Benjamin Mackey (Jeff Kessler), Marie-Françoise Theodore (Melissa), Kristina Hayes (Sally), Rebecca Klingler (Tammy), Hayley Kewon (Female Assistant), Rachel Danyew (Rachel Danyew)
Summary: Stars struggle to accept new roles. The TMS crew comes together for an important dinner.



The episode sees the post-New York City celebrations — the city is now quiet, but Bradley and Cory are still arguing. Cory makes the situation worse and reveals that Alex is back. He tries to reassure her, but she cannot help but be furious. Bradley speaks to her team and tells them she feels mistreated and she will not renegotiate — since her argument with Cory, she's pretended to be sick for three weeks.

We finally see Mitch — he's living life in Italy, and it seems he is enjoying a more peaceful life. A woman confronts him angrily at a cafe, knowing who he is

after being embroiled in the #MeToo scandal. He's embarrassed, but another woman defends him, claiming that she's grandstanding for Instagram. It looks like Mitch has found himself a new friend.

Without invitation, Alex heads to the UBA building with her agent, and she chills in her new executive office. Cory meets her, and he introduces her to the new President of UBA news, Stella Bak. Cory wants her return to be more secretive and planned for PR purposes. After the impromptu meeting, Alex cannot help herself and heads to the studio. She panics as people recognize her. She ends up in Eric's dressing room. Eric is overwhelmed by stardom and asks Alex for advice on his friendship with Bradley. Alex gets angry and tells Eric that he's crossed boundaries. There are old wounds that she has not addressed since leaving.

Unsure of her future, Bradley rings Chip, and she learns he is happy and engaged. She tells him that Alex is coming back to the show, and she feels bad. She wants insight into what Alex is like under the surface, but Chip feels resentment for Alex. Meanwhile, with Bradley playing games, Chip is told to fire Bradley.

With a meal arranged with Alex, Bradley, and other anchors, Cory heads to Bradley's hotel room, and he tells her that if she doesn't join this meal, then she is sticking it to herself — he assures her that he's trying to help. Bradley doesn't respond nicely, so Cory simply replies, "Bye, Bradley." He knows full well if she does not attend the meal, she's gone.

The dinner with Alex and other staff members happens. Bradley changes her mind and turns up at the meal. We witness an extra-long awkward hug between both women like it's a modern-day cold war.

As the meal begins, Alex underestimates how much pain she caused back when the scandal was rife; Daniel refuses to accept her apology as he feels she f****d him over. To lighten tensions, Cory tries to give a speech and celebrates the return of Bradley and Alex, but it feels desperate on his part. Privately, Alex talks to Bradley to check she is okay, but it is clear her return is not as celebrated as she would have liked. Knowing the meal is over for her, Alex announces her departure but tells everyone there is history attached to her, but she's worked on herself. She admits she has missed the workplace.

With tensions peaking, the ending of episode 2 sees Bradley chase after Alex, and she demands that things are different this time around. She gets more agitated at Alex's justifications to what happened before, but then Alex minimizes Bradley's problems and tells her that "people have actual problems." Alex continues, telling her to compete with her and not to roll over. As Alex gets in the lift, Bradley reminds her that she never spoke to Mitch after leaving, who she worked with for 15 years.

Back in Italy, Fred finds Mitch, but he is not in the mood to talk and shuts the door on him. Meanwhile, Cory has a bigger problem than the show — Hannah's family wants to go to trial and will not accept the settlement. With the argument with Bradley in Alex's mind, she visits Chip and asks him to come back on the show to be her producer. Chip immediately accepts the offer — his resentment against her must weigh less than his new routine job.

Laura

Season 2

Episode Number: 13

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Friday October 01, 2021
Writer: Brian Chamberlayne, Jeff Augustin
Director: Lesli Linka Glatter
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie Brener), Valeria Golino (Paola Lambruschini), Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Tom Irwin (Fred Micklen), Hasan Minhaj (Eric Nomani), Ryan Alexander Holmes (Ian), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Amber Friendly (Layla Bell), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey Sherman), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Erika Ringor (Mandy Schaeffer), Choni Francis (RJ Smith), Danni Wang (Jun), Patrick Bristow (Gordon), Krishna Smitha (Noorean Gill), Jesse Wang (Chinese Conductor), Lee Chen (Translator), Michael Gallagher (Paparazzo #1), Countrified Wedman (Paparazzo #2), Warren Marks (Crew Member), Tara Burrows (Editor), Amy Shaughnessy (Control Room Producer)
Summary: Bradley covers the start of election season while Alex prepares for her big moment.



The episode opens in Wuhan, China. Daniel is told to leave before 10 pm as they are locking the entire region down. It's chaos, and getting on a train includes temperature checks. This brings back memories of scrolling through Twitter and seeing the danger come from afar. Daniel reports from Beijing while in quarantine, and there's so much naivety as Bradley and her co-host laugh at the concept of social distancing.

Moving away from covid-19, at UBA, there's excitement brewing with marketing prep for Alex's return. Alex tells Cory and the team that she wants Chip to be the producer because "he's the best." Cory tells Stella to arrange it immediately. You can tell Stella ain't happy.

And so, on The Morning Show, it's announced that Alex Levy will be returning. When they are off-air, Bradley reveals she is still frustrated with Cory — she wants to be known as an independent thinker in politics, and she demands that she moderates a debate in Iowa for an election. Cory is annoyed at Bradley, reminding her who is boss, and asks her not to speak to him in the way she is.

In Italy, Mitch and Fred walk together through a town, and it's pretty clear Mitch is still not in the mood to talk. Fred tells Mitch that they are in the same boat, and he does not feel responsible

for Hannah's death. Mitch strongly reminds Fred that Hannah was bright and capable. Fred wants them both to put on a united front. It's good to know that Fred is still an asshole.

Alex and Bradley meet for lunch; Alex comes clean and accepts that she hurt people and apologizes. Bradley accepts the apology but clarifies that she's going to compete, so the tension between both women remains. Alex warns Bradley about the interview they are both taking with Laura Peterson — she wants them to get their facts straight — if anything, Alex is highlighting the bullshit that occurs in the world of media.

Episode 3 presents the interview between Alex and Laura Peterson first; Alex tells Laura that she doesn't want to talk about Hannah during the interview out of respect. But then, Laura lands a question that throws Alex off — she asks about her relationship with Mitch. Alex admits that Mitch was her best friend but that he was "many things to many people." Afterward, Alex asks Chip about Laura's question regarding Mitch, and she is furious, believing she was angling that they slept together. She felt it was an accusation, not a question. She warns Bradley again, telling her to be on guard.

Back in Italy, Mitch chills with his new friend Paola at a bar — he learns that Alex has returned to *The Morning Show*, and he's upset about it. His new friend tells him to pity Alex as he has had the chance to move on with life while she is back to where the toxicity began. She reminds him he cannot undo what he did, but he can still help people. She asks him to help with a documentary she is making about a rape conviction. Mitch is emotionally imbalanced and cannot even consider anything at present, so he walks off.

While in Iowa for an election, Bradley is interviewed by Laura. She asks Bradley about her thoughts on her career at this stage of her life. Later in the evening, Laura tells Bradley that Cory insisted that she look after her, but she doesn't think she needs it. Laura calls Bradley a dynamo and believes UBA is not using her in the right way — she suggests she's bigger than *The Morning Show*.

The next day, while in the back of a car with each other, Laura asks Bradley a personal question without a camera on them — she asks her if she got vetted for the job. In a moment of opportunity, Bradley senses the mood and kisses Laura. Laura kisses her back, and they passionately embrace.

As the episode ends, Alex returns to *The Morning Show* — she walks through the studio and is met by applause. The episode cuts as the show is about to start with both women smiling. You can feel the artificiality through the screen.

Kill the Fatted Calf

Season 2

Episode Number: 14

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Friday October 08, 2021
Writer: Ali Vingiano, Scott Troy
Director: Jessica Yu
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)

Guest Stars: Valeria Golino (Paola Lambruschini), Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Embeth Davidtz (Paige), Oona Roche (Lizzy Craig), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Markus Flanagan (Gerard), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Amber Friendly (Layla Bell), Foo Fighters (Foo Fighters), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Jack Conley (Earl), Choni Francis (RJ Smith), Sean Alexander James (Jimbo), Catherine Dyer (Teresa Bonner), Candice Ramirez (Jasmyn), Zak Lee (Professore Viola), Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters), Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters), Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters), Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters), Pat Smear (Foo Fighters), Rami Jaffee (Foo Fighters), Violet Grohl (Foo Fighters' Background Vocalist), Barbara Gruska (Foo Fighters' Background Vocalist), Laura Mace (Foo Fighters' Background Vocalist), Samantha Sidley (Foo Fighters' Background Vocalist), Christine Heneise (Cocktail Waitress / Italy Tourist), Amy Shaughnessy (Control Room Producer)

Summary: A potential tabloid leak creates moral complications. A debate-moderator role becomes hotly contested.



The episode opens with the *Foo Fighters* performing at the studio. It's a "welcome back" celebration for Alex — she's trending. This is a success, just like Cory wanted. Everything is going so smoothly that Chip tells Alex to relax. But there's no resting in this world. You always need to keep two steps ahead.

As for Bradley, she continues to enjoy her romance with Laura Peterson. She reveals to Laura that Cory was secretly fired, so they got close as friends. She claims that Fred was fired after she un-

loaded on the board, and Cory was asked to return as CEO. Laura drops a bombshell — that the UBA is thinking of replacing Cory. This relationship between Bradley and Laura could turn dangerous.

In Italy, Mitch decides to help Paola with her documentary and preps her for the interview she's taking. Paola admits she is not used to people helping her, so thanks him. Mitch calls Cory

and tells him that someone has launched a smear campaign against Hannah, and it must be Fred. He tells Cory to cut off the root and "do the right thing." Both men end up arguing, but Mitch leaves it on the last word — he reminds Cory that he is the CEO and tells him to handle it.

With Daniel questioning UBA's use of black voices, Mia asks Stella about Daniel doing the election debate — this is a sought-after role that Alex does not want. Stella tells Mia that Daniel has reached his level of charisma. When Daniel finds out about this, he's frustrated. And so, Stella speaks to Alex about the debate and raises how she will bring quality. Alex is hesitant and thinks there are other people at UBA that have more to prove. She doesn't think Stella "gets it."

With their friendship in tatters, Bradley visits Cory and tells him that she recognizes that their relationship has suffered. However, Cory thinks she's only seeing him so she can get the election debate. Bradley firmly claims that she cares about their friendship and understands that he cannot cater to her needs 24/7 as the CEO — she apologizes. Cory reminds Bradley that he's on her side as he's too old to have enemies. The pair hug it out.

But this leads to a personal crisis for Bradley — she updates Laura about making up with Cory and references how having "two straight women" on the election debate is unnecessary. Laura is confused about why Bradley called herself "straight," but Bradley does not like defining things. Laura resents Bradley for not embracing her sexual fluidity and using her identity because when she navigated her career growing up, she was fired for being gay. Laura knows the world has changed, and she's disappointed Bradley would hide. She thinks Bradley is repressed and delusional. Bradley is furious at the accusation, and the two women argue intensely, leading Bradley to smash one of Laura's vases.

And tensions are high between Stella and Cory, too — Stella questions why she was hired and wonders if it was for diversity. Cory tells her that "talent is talent" and not to underestimate him — she wants her to sort out the Alex and the election debate issue. Stella suggests she is being used as an Asian woman and puts the phone down. Afterward, Daniel decides to spontaneously sing on *The Morning Show*, much to the shock of the production crew, who are powerless. Mia asks Daniel why he did that.

Bradley continues to struggle and speaks to Stella about the election debate and states she can offer perspective. It looks like she's about to reveal her sexual identity, but instead, she falters and reveals she is from a southern Conservative family, so she may be able to add an angle. Stella is not amused and speaks to Alex. She tells Alex that she wants things to change, which includes starting afresh. She explains to Alex that she came from the rotten mess, and the result is the present day. Stella is persuasive, telling Alex to do the debate because she owes a connection to the women of the country, as she means something as a leader and a feminist — Alex agrees to do it.

Paola reveals to Mitch that the documentary producer got the coronavirus — she says they will need to quarantine and that it will be lonely — she asks him if he'd like to continue working on the documentary with her.

As for Bradley, she shows up at Laura's place and hugs her with desperation — she does not want to lose her.

Finally, a desperate Cory asks Cybil for help — he tells her that Fred is spreading nasty news about Hannah in the press, and he wants her to speak to Fred as a friend. Cybil reveals she isn't Fred's friend and reminds him that this is business, not a morality play. She questions why Cory would not contact Fred himself and feels that Fred recommended him for a reason. Cory receives a brutal dressing down here. Are his days numbered?

Ghosts

Season 2

Episode Number: 15

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Friday October 15, 2021
Writer: Erica Lipez, Adam Milch
Director: Tucker Gates
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Mindy Kaling (Audra), Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie Brener), Valeria Golino (Paola Lambruschini), David Paymer (Hannah's Father), Tom Irwin (Fred Micklen), Jack Conley (Earl), Hasan Minhaj (Eric Nomani), Katie Aselton (Chip's Fiancée), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Amber Friendly (Layla Bell), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey Sherman), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Aflamu Johnson (Aflamu), Candice Ramirez (Jasmyn), Choni Francis (RJ Smith), Stephen Friedrich (Jeffrey Gordon), Brad Lee Wind (Kenny), Marisa Echeverria (Robin), Casey Adams (NY Pedestrian), Amy Shaughnessy (Control Room Producer)
Summary: The UBA team head to Vegas, where past misdeeds continue to haunt them.



The episode opens with Cory calling Fred — he tells him to stop the smear campaign against Hannah, but Fred blames him. It feels like Fred has power over Cory, which is ironic as Fred is ousted, and Cory has more resources to control the situation.

So, Cory visits Bradley in confidence, and he wants to talk to her about Hannah because he feels it is heavy. Afterward, he sees the father of Hannah with-out the lawyers present; he desperately tells the father to take the settlement and gets quite emotional about it, feeling the family will get nothing if they pursue the

case. He warns the father that Hannah will be smeared by the press, and he wants to do right by her.

Alex Levy prepares for the democratic debate, but during the meeting, she has a visitor — Audra. She brings up Maggie's book, and she wants to check if she's okay with the press tour. Alex is super nervous and asks Chip if he can get a copy. She reminds him that the book will mention him too.

Mitch continues to help Paola during the covid-19 quarantine. He admits he likes her company but doesn't want her to think they will be sleeping together. He makes her aware that it isn't about her but that he's damaged. Later on, Paola asks Mitch if she can interview him for practice, and he accepts — he delves into his regrets surrounding Hannah.

As episode 5 moves to the halfway point, an assistant tells Cory that there's gossip circling that Laura Peterson and Bradley are dating. Cory does not believe his assistant at first and tells him not to be a gossip. Flashbacks show Cory and Bradley did have spurts of potential romance when he was fired.

Tensions begin to bubble in Vegas for the democratic debate as Alex is fretting over Maggie's book. Chip brings up to Alex that she once said, "I don't want to be in Mitch's garbage." Alex claims she never said that, but Chip raises how she conveniently forgets things. At this point, Alex figures out that Chip spoke to Maggie, and the pair argue.

Cory rings Bradley, and he hears Laura in the background — he has to recompose himself, clearly hurt by what he heard. He asks for advice regarding Hannah and is looking to Bradley for a moral center — he wants to know if she should stop Hannah from being publicly denigrated. Bradley thinks he should stop it at all costs.

As we reach the ending of episode 5, a couple of things happen. Alex confronts Maggie in her Vegas hotel room about her book — she wants to read it. Maggie claims she doesn't have a copy, but Alex finds a blank prototype with the cover. The book is called "The Wrong Side of the Bed" with a photo of Alex and Mitch at the front of it. Maggie confirms there's a part where Alex slept with Mitch. Alex is devastated and tells her she is liable and needs to fix it — she claims it isn't true and does not want to be associated with Mitch in that way.

Maggie confirms that she spoke to Mitch, but he told her to "f**k off." Alex leaves Maggie's room, shellshocked by what the book implies. The next day, Alex calls in sick due to her bad back and flies back home.

A Private Person

Season 2

Episode Number: 16

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Friday October 22, 2021
Writer: Torrey Speer, Stacy Osei-Kuffour
Director: Rachel Morrison
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Dave Foley (Peter Bullard), Janina Gavankar (Alison Namazi), Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Jack Conley (Earl), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Amber Friendly (Layla Bell), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey Sherman), Stefanie Stevens (Dr. Gwen Zeegers-Bottum), Aflamu Johnson (Aflamu), Patrick Bristow (Gordon), Sean Alexander James (Jimbo), Guilford Adams (Curt Savage), Brian Stelter (Carl Richardson), Ron Gilbert (Tom Ballantine), J. Anthony McCarthy (Weaver), Stefan Chase (Corrine Patterson), Mark Ivanir (Al), Frederick Falk (Researcher), Mindy Kaling (Audra), Amy Shaughnessy (Control Room Producer)
Summary: TMS welcomes a new face. Bradley gets a surprise visit.



The episode opens with a betrayal, and one we do not want to see. Cory is leaking a story regarding Bradley and Laura's secret relationship. The journalist wants photographic evidence, and Cory promises to provide some. Cory is a hurt individual as he has romantic feelings for Bradley, and he's using his privileged power to bring down a woman — he's "outing" her against her choice of privacy, splashing a gay relationship in the media. Every character in this series is flawed, but this is Cory's most question-

able act yet.

In the news, Maggie's new book is discussed, while the production crew of TMS does not know when Alex will be back. Stella and Mia press Chip on her return — he states she's in a lot of pain with her back. Cory wants someone big to fill in for Alex in the meantime, and Chip recommends Laura Peterson; Cory agrees, but this is, unfortunately, a manipulative, shady move by Cory as he knows she will be paired up with Bradley when the news of their relationship breaks out.

When Bradley returns to her apartment, her brother Hal is there, and he declares that he's missed her. Later in the night, Bradley looks through his bags to see if there are any drugs as he's a recovering addict. Hal claims she has nothing to worry about.

A revelation hits Chip early in the chapter as Laura tells him that Alex visited Maggie about the book before she went off sick. So, Chip is immediately worried about her. He leaves her a

voicemail on her phone, but she's not in her apartment. Anyway, Laura joins *The Morning Show*, and Bradley takes the lead. Stella and Cory watch the opening, and Stella can tell something is off with Cory. Laura is brilliant on the show, so the production crew will think Alex will hate it.

Meanwhile, Yanko has been suspended for attacking the man who racially abused him and Stella. Cybil tells Stella to "make the right decision," essentially hinting to keep him suspended. Stella also learns that the board told Cory to fire Bradley. Cybil wants Stella to take some responsibility and be on the right side. So, Stella thanks Yanko for defending her, and Yanko insists he had to. In an awkward moment, Stella tells him that he's still suspended. Yanko feels he cannot win, and it's difficult to disagree with him.

During a break on *The Morning Show*, an article revealing Laura and Bradley's relationship circulates on social media. Bradley's world crashes around her, and she struggles to remain composed as she presents the show. She manages to stay on track, but there are murmurs around her as the production crew learns of the article.

Back on another break, Bradley takes refuge in a dressing room, and Daniel covers the next segment. Laura checks up on Bradley, who is having an anxiety attack. Bradley clarifies that she does not want her "private life to be public" and mainly worries about her strongly conservative family. She also confesses that her relationships never last long, but Laura insists everything will be okay and that she needs to return to the live show, as hiding will be way worse.

While the break continues, Mia sees an article that impacts her too — the report states that in Maggie's book, it claims that Mitch targeted black women. Mia is shaky, and she takes it out on Chip after overhearing that he has no idea where Alex is. She's furious at him and apports plenty of blame on him for what's happened at the studio. Chip tries to calm her down as he sees she's hurting and apologizes "for everything that happened." Mia tells him to get Alex back.

Chip enters Alex's apartment, but she's not there. She doesn't want Chip to know where she is. Alex's assistant made sure Chip didn't know as well. The assistant calls Chip an average white man that isn't exceptional. Ouch.

After all the drama, Bradley tells Laura that she does not want to go to her apartment. Laura explains that she's had many experiences where morning television is traumatic, but she got therapy and made her peace. Bradley does not respond well, stating that Laura is comfortable being out as gay but that her family is not the same. Laura does her best to remain calm and tells her that she's not a child, and adults change their circumstances.

Bradley returns home, and her brother tells her that their mother is freaking out over the article about her relationship with Laura; he explains their mother lives in a small town, so she's embarrassed. He wants to know why she took so long to "come out of the closet." The siblings argue intensely, revealing again how dysfunctional this family is. The brother reveals he came to her as he's been using drugs again, and he cannot handle living at home with their mother as she's got worse. Bradley is blunt, stating that she cannot deal with it. She tells him to go to rehab, but Hal doesn't want her to pay for it.

Trying to defuse the situation, Bradley tells Hal that she's had an awful day, which irritates him, and he responds by saying it's always about her. Cory arrives and knocks on the front door. Bradley meets him outside. Cory reassures Bradley about the leaked article and tells her that she can sue the network if she wants. Bradley begins to wonder why she cares what her family thinks, and sees herself in them, which worries her. Cory tells Bradley that she is her own brilliant individual. This forces Bradley to think clearly for the first time, and she admits that she wants Laura.

Cory looks heartbroken but confused, knowing he instigated all of this. This is not the way he expected his leak to the press to go. Is he feeling guilt for what he did? Or is he dismayed that Bradley did not run into his arms? He's a complicated character, and it makes the audience wonder what he will do next. Also, what will Bradley do when she finds out it was he who leaked the story?

La Amara Vita

Season 2

Episode Number: 17

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Friday October 29, 2021
Writer: Kerry Ehrin, Scott Troy
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Valeria Golino (Paola Lambruschini), Giuseppe Raucci (Italian Police Officer), Oona Roche (Lizzy), Kevin Stidham (ACSN British Anchor), Peter Arpesella (Vincenzo)
Summary: Alex takes a trip to finally find closure.



The episode begins with Paola watching footage of her practice interview with Mitch as the pair spend time together in quarantine. In the interview, Mitch talks about the world of being "replaceable." Anyway, covid-19 is spreading wildly in Italy, and Mitch is thinking of going back home to his children. He asks Paola to delete the practice interview he did. He trusts her, but not the world. Paola initially protests but agrees to delete it.

Suddenly, Alex turns up to Mitch's residence; he lets out a similar sigh from

when Fred appeared. Alex is furious, and she asks Mitch why he told Maggie to "f**k off." She wanted him to deny things. Mitch tells Alex that he's done lying, but Alex becomes vicious with her words and explains that no one will respect her if they know she had sex with him. Mitch agrees to release a statement, but he's dumbfounded that consensual sex with him could be the catapult of her career — it's something he is struggling with.

Paola appears but quickly leaves the room as she can feel the tension. Alex is skeptical about why Paola is living with Mitch, but he tells her that she is a lovely woman and that he's helping her with the documentary that she's creating — he's truthfully informing Alex that he isn't sleeping with her. But Alex gets impatient and wants a real statement from Mitch, so asks for his new number and walks out. Paola tells Mitch not to leave it like that with her.

So Mitch chases after Alex and asks her to catch up with him. He admits to Alex that he was two-faced and lost track of what was important. Alex is unsure of how to respond. Mitch is desperate to convince her that he isn't evil. There's a lot of desperation between these characters.

Alex tries to book a private plane, but she learns they are all booked up, so she insists that she go to the airport and pay more for a seat. As she drives, she nearly falls asleep on the wheel and shocks herself, so she sleeps at the side of the road. Alex is found by a police officer the following day, and because it is a lockdown, he wants to see Alex make arrangements. With her phone dead, she has no choice but to give the officer Mitch's number. Meanwhile, Paola gets her laptop and wants Mitch to watch her delete the interview video. She then tells Mitch that she is leaving. Mitch doesn't want her to go, but she does anyway.

And then, as if by fate, Alex has to return to Mitch's residence. When she gets inside, he's left her breakfast and coffee, accompanied by a note saying that he cannot talk to her anymore so that he will live on one side of the house. He's also left her with an official statement stating that they didn't have sex. Alex breaks down in tears and breaks some glass, so Mitch appears to help her. Alex sobs and tells Mitch that she has missed him, so they hug it out.

And so, the pair do spend time together. Mitch helps arrange a private flight for Alex, but they still have hours remaining before she has to leave. They drink and play trivia. The subject of Paola comes up, and Alex wonders if she left because of her — Mitch doubts that and invites Paola back by text. Mitch asks Alex if she will help Paola out in the industry in the future, and she agrees.

Alex and Mitch intimately dance and laugh together. Mitch tells her that getting canceled means knowing who's there in your life — he apologizes for what happened between them. Alex reminisces about their time in Chile and reveals that she thought she was pregnant — she didn't feel it was a bad thing because she loved him as a partner. However, it was a late period. They embrace each other, but it all feels like "lovers who cannot be together." They enjoy each other's company for the rest of the night until they fall asleep.

Mitch and Alex wake up, and they briefly watch the news — there's a report that Maggie claims in her book that Mitch targeted black women. Mitch is furious, but suddenly Alex is aware of where she is and wants to go. Mitch wonders if Alex believes the report and wants her to teach him to be a good person. He begs her. Alex does not give any definitive answers, but Mitch is distraught that Alex does not want to be canceled and refuses to tell the world her true thoughts on him.

When tensions calm down, Mitch asks for a hug. He reassures her that he'll release a statement, but it's a strange moment where Mitch is not looking right — it's almost like the reminder that he's a bad person has bubbled back up by Alex's return. It's also made worse that Alex reminded Mitch of their intimate friendship. Alex leaves, and Mitch tells Paola that he will go to her place instead.

When he gets to Paola's, Mitch asks her if she believes what she saw on the news. She kisses him passionately, but Mitch insists he cannot be intimate with her. Paola slaps him and says with jest, "show me your big f*****g balls," and they sleep together.

During pillow talk, Paola tells Mitch that she did not delete the interview video because she thought she might never see him again and wanted something to remind her of him. Strangely enough, Mitch does not react angrily, and he's understanding and tells her he's heading out to get her cigarettes.

Episode 7 ends showing both Alex and Mitch driving in their cars. Alex is heading to the airport, and she's telling herself that she's a good person. She clearly feels she isn't — her feelings for Mitch are conflicting in her mind. As Mitch drives, all the demons in his head go round in circles, reminding him that he's an evil person. It's torturing him. Suddenly, a truck nearby sounds its horn at him, so he moves out of the way, but in a moment of wanting it all to end, Mitch lets go of the steering wheel and allows his car to go over the cliff edge.

Confirmations

Season 2

Episode Number: 18

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Friday November 05, 2021
Writer: Kerry Ehrin, Jay Carson, Brian Stelter
Director: Victoria Mahoney
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Will Arnett (Doug), Jack Davenport (Jason Craig), Valeria Golino (Paola Lambruschini), Sean Alexander James (Jimbo), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Judah Mackey (Teddy Kessler), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Hannah Shoenfeld), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Amy Shaughnessy (Control Room Producer)
Summary: TMS races to report an unconfirmed story.



The episode opens with Cory confronting Stella about "feelings." He lets her know that caring about other people is not relevant for this company, and they need to be self-serving (which is ironic once we understand the rest of this chapter). Meanwhile, Chip is still fretting about Alex (who we know was in Italy). He leaves her an angry voicemail for disappearing. The disappearance of Alex is stressing Chip and causing a rift with his fiancée.

Bradley wants to see Laura before the show. She apologizes to her and reveals

she's set up boundaries with her brother. Laura tells Bradley there isn't a simple fix for their situation, and there isn't time to talk about it before *The Morning Show* starts. It will be interesting to see how this couple figures out their relationship. Maybe the downfall of Mitch will help soften the blow.

Mitch's car accident has immediate repercussions for UBA. During a meeting, an Italian journalist rings Cory, Stella and colleagues — he reveals that Mitch is dead and wants a comment. They want to verify that he's dead; Cory tells Stella to get Alex back as soon as possible — he wants her to report it. Stella reveals the news to Mia — they need to be the first one to report it, so Mia demands her staff to find two confirmations. Mia speaks to Chip about the rumour of Mitch's death. She insists that he gets Alex back. Chip pretends to be Alex Levy and rings the bank. He learns her recent transactions were in Italy. It's strange to see how news outlets work — it's less about the death and more about breaking it first.

On a break, Mia rounds up the studio staff about the rumours that Mitch died in a car accident. She tells everyone to stay quiet until there are confirmations. She reminds the team that Mitch was a human being with a family. It's a strange piece of news for the team, who will be conflicted with sadness and the anger that Mitch left in his wake.

Chip rings a hospital where Mitch was supposedly present. He believes Alex was in the hospital, based on the unhelpful information. He marches into Cory's office, and he reveals that he

thinks Alex is dead. He's jumped assumptions based on the phone call at the hospital. Mia gets a call from someone confirming that Mitch is dead. She needs a second confirmation before she can run the breaking news. Meanwhile, Cory and Chip learn that Alex booked a flight back to the USA, so they need to know if she landed.

While live on *The Morning Show*, Bradley learns that her brother Hal has shown up. He's drunk and high. Bradley gets Hal a coffee, tells him to "shut the f**k up", and reveals Mitch may have died. Laura turns up, and Hal says, "oh, that's your girlfriend", and then asks if Mitch killed himself. It's awkward for Bradley as Hal is making a scene. More colleagues gather around as Hal starts trashing the kitchen, and security is called. As Hal is dragged out, Bradley's eyes fill with tears. In the dressing room, Laura comforts her and tells Bradley that it is her life and she may need to walk away from her brother. Laura cares about Bradley, and it shows in this scene.

Chip heads to the airport, and Alex Levy gets off the plane. He's so relieved and hugs her. Chip breaks the news to her that Mitch is rumoured to be dead. Alex is in disbelief and confused and asks for Chip's phone. She rings Paola to confirm. Paola makes the second confirmation — Mitch is dead. It's a numbing moment, and Alex is completely heartbroken. Alex wants to tell Mitch's family, and she rings Mia with the second confirmation; she wants Paige to know before it's revealed on *The Morning Show*.

The angry tension between Chip and Alex remains and they end up arguing on the way to Paige's place after Alex plays Chip's angry voicemail. They tell each other how much they hate each other, but their words are more clouded with confused grief. There are so many emotions boxed in this scene. It demonstrates how grief is a strange thing.

Alex sees Paige at her family home and reveals that Mitch was in a car accident and died. Paige thanks Alex for breaking the news to her, but she doesn't want to talk to her. Paige knows about her relationship with Mitch and tells Alex that she's sorry for her loss. This scene shows the lack of self-awareness that Alex has. She had a secret intimate relationship with Mitch, yet used to act completely normal in front of Mitch's wife, Paige. Alex has no idea the pain she has caused. Paige is right — maybe Alex and Mitch are the same person.

After this devastating moment, Alex tells Mia she's good to go. She then tells Bradley to break the news as she's the right person to do this as she was the start of the change. Alex offers her appreciation to Bradley. And so, Bradley breaks the news that Mitch has died on *The Morning Show*. It's an honest account of Mitch's time, from success to the recent controversy.

Testimony

Season 2

Episode Number: 19

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Friday November 12, 2021
Writer: Scott Troy, Justin Matthews
Director: Miguel Arteta
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Bel Powley (Claire Conway), Martin Short (Dick Lundy), Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie Brener), Valeria Golino (Paola Lambruschini), Embeth Davidtz (Paige), Dave Foley (Peter Bullard), Tom Irwin (Fred Micklen), Will Arnett (Doug), Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Michelle Meredith (Lindsey), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Stefanie Stevens (Dr. Gwen Zeegers-Bottum), Taylor Cooper (Meredith), Patrick Bristow (Gordon), Sean Alexander James (Jimbo), Countrified Wedman (Paparazzo), James Gleason (Uncle Mike), Patti Tippo (Lauren Kessler), Ann Hu (Sasha Press Coordinator), Christopher Wolfe (Yancy Hinkle ENL Anchor), Sohm Kapila (Desiree Bowers ACSN Anchor), Alex Alchek (Harry Hotel Bellman), Paul Norwood (Randall), Josh Latzer (Roy), Anthony Molinari (Jake), Jayson Victor (Rehab Staff)
Summary: Alex and Bradley try to accept change as a new book promises shocking revelations.



The episode begins with Bradley waking up, and her brother apologizes for going to her office and states he was hurt; he wanted to see her break the way she hurt him and calls himself pathetic. Hal asks for another chance and says he will go to rehab and fix it, but it feels like the beginning of the end for this sibling relationship.

Alex arrives at work. She meets Cory and Stella for a meeting. Cory tells Alex that she is family, and they will support her if there is any backlash. Alex says she should never have come back and wants to leave on March 16th. Maggie's book

comes out on the 17th. Stella and Doug leave the room to give Alex and Cory privacy. Alex reveals he is going to be canceled, but Cory is not buying it. She tells him that she slept with Mitch, dubbed the "sexual predator and enemy." Alex also reveals he does not regret it one bit, and she's finished on The Morning Show. Cory tries his best, but Alex is adamant that she's leaving.

Alex finds Bradley in her dressing room and tells her she will be back to co-host *The Morning Show*. Bradley reveals that Laura will be co-hosting with her on Monday as she's taking Hal to rehab. Alex is okay with that, and she tells Bradley to distance herself for her own good (due to the impending revelations in Maggie's book). Alex seems different in episode 9; she accepts her situation and appears to be reflective and selfless.

Mitch's ex-wife Paige arrives at the studio, and Alex tries to hide. Paige gives a speech to the studio; she reveals her youngest child wants her father's friends to be at his funeral, so she's here as a mother. She gives a date for the funeral. As she walks out, Paige looks directly at Alex before walking off. The situation between them is awkward but also resoundingly tragic.

Mia tells Alex that everyone will have studios placed in their homes in case the coronavirus becomes a problem. Alex is unsure about that plan due to her impending departure. And then Chip comes in, and he tells her he will stick around until she gets a new producer or when she's undoubtedly canceled. Alex does *The Morning Show* with Laura; the central part of the news is the coronavirus — it's all about "washing your hands." Damn, this was a whiplash reminder, folks.

Bradley tells Hal that she will not be able to see him when he gets out of rehab. Hal refuses to go inside the facility unless she sees him after. Bradley tells Hal she's paid for the place. Hal threatens to overdose and kill himself, but Bradley tells him to stop and states it is his life. This was a courageous moment for Bradley; she accepted that Hal is responsible for his own life and mental health and that the manipulation must stop. And she's right.

After *The Morning Show*, Alex asks Laura why she doesn't like her, as they used to be friends. Laura reveals that they were not friends once it "went south" — she tells Alex that she likes to talk. Alex admits that everyone talked about her sexuality back then, as it was gossip; she admits gossip used to be the norm. Alex wishes they'd have straightened it out sooner but admits she'd have probably denied it if they had talked about it in the past. Laura admits she spoke s**t about her too. But again, more interestingly, Alex has had a shift of energy. She's no longer being blameless.

And then, in a pivotal moment, Alex turns up at Mitch's memorial. Paola greets her. Alex wants to help Paola out as she promised Mitch to bring her into the industry, but Paola isn't ready yet.

Alex then delivers a speech at the memorial and tells Paige to "bear with her." She talks about Mitch's unforgivable choices and reveals that she saw Mitch in Italy on the day he died. She explains how Mitch was starting to understand the consequences of his actions and that he wanted to be better. She wants him to be remembered for that. She seems to be abiding by her friendship with Mitch; he was appalled that she wasn't willing to speak the truth before she died, so she's finally spoken out.

Bradley interviews Maggie about the book at the request of Cory — she knows she'll be fair; Bradley tells Maggie that she's disappointed at some aspects of the book for not writing about how she got on *The Morning Show*. Bradley notes how without Alex, she'd have never had this opportunity. She then turns the screw on Maggie and wonders why most of the book is about Alex and Mitch's consensual relationship. She finds the point quaint, especially with Mitch's horrors. Bradley wonders if Maggie has a personal issue with Alex.

Maggie reveals how Alex visited her in Las Vegas and was losing her mind; she wanted to know if her book included the part where she slept with Mitch and wanted it taken out. Bradley highlights that a woman came to her, who she's known for a very long time, and who was in significant distress, and she published it anyway. She asks Maggie who is the worst person she has slept with, which feels like a thrilling response. Alex watches the interview, and Bradley's defense of her heartens her. Bradley raises how she didn't write about a changed woman who begged her for mercy. She believes that people change and grow, and she highlights how she and Alex risked their careers to oust Fred and UBA.

On social media, Alex is being heavily supported since the Bradley interview with Maggie. Alex is elated. Laura is surprised by the interview. Bradley tells Laura that she does not feel Maggie is being fair. Laura raises that with her heart condition and the covid-19 pandemic, she will go to her home in Montana. She invites Bradley to stay with her as she has a studio on her ranch. Bradley realizes that she's Laura's woman, and it makes her happy.

But as the penultimate chapter comes to an end, life catches up to Alex. Episode 9 proves that life can be cruel. As soon as Alex confronts the issue, her life hits rock bottom.

Someone drops off an envelope of money to Bradley, which concerns her. She wants to know when it was dropped off. Meanwhile, in the middle of the night, there's a storm on social media — everyone has turned on Alex; there's leaked footage of her at Mitch's memorial giving that speech. Everyone knows that Alex visited Mitch in Italy on the day he died. Her worse fears have come true — she's canceled. In a state of panic, Alex trips up, hurts herself, and ends up in the hospital. Doug rings her and tells her she has been canceled but also tested positive for covid-19.

The cameras move from her hospital room to see the hospital in complete disarray from covid-19 patients. Reality has hit — America is facing the coronavirus pandemic. Cancel culture seems less concerning in the grand scheme of things.

Fever

Season 2

Episode Number: 20

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Friday November 19, 2021
Writer: Kerry Ehrin
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Desean Terry (Daniel Henderson), Steve Carell (Mitch Kessler), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Ruairi O'Connor (Ty Fitzgerald)
Guest Stars: Valeria Golino (Paola Lambruschini), Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Damon Dayoub (Glen), Markus Flanagan (Gerard), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Amber Friendly (Layla Bell), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Guilford Adams (Curt Savage), Aflamu Johnson (Aflamu), Sean Alexander James (Jimbo), Choni Francis (RJ), Martin George Berishaj (Peja Bjelica), Catherine Dyer (Teresa Bonner), Noah Blake (Brian Boso), Arianna Ortiz (Pamela), Candice Ramirez (Jasmyn), John Gloria (Dr. Vincent Botz), Anneris Mercedes (Blaine E.R. Receptionist), Danielle Thorpe (E.R. Doctor), Stephen L. Wilson (Sick Man), Joe Daru (Angry Husband), Hosai Ehsan (Home Nurse), Midnight White (DJ Dennis), Angelo Vacco (Gary), Kerry Gutierrez (Marcy), Edie Mirman (E.R. Phone Nurse), Roselind Anyumel Emuge' (E.R. Hospital Nurse), Ephraim López (Shopkeeper)
Summary: TMS covers a growing crisis that turns personal for Alex and Bradley.



The episode opens with Bradley handing out missing posters for her brother Hal. And then the scene flits to The Morning Show addressing the video footage of Alex Levy at Mitch Kessler's memorial. The board discusses postponing UBA+. Cory tells Cybil that he wants to get it off the ground regardless. The pandemic and Alex's controversy are taking a toll on the CEO.

Colleagues are moving to video calls as they are worried Alex has spread Covid-19 to them. Stella orders everyone to go home and test. It's funny — all season, they didn't see this coming. It's our 2020, replayed. Stella tells Daniel that he will be anchoring The Morning Show from home. But Daniel declines and says he needs to see his grandfather at a nursing home. He's done proving himself. Stella tells him this is the biggest news in their lifetime, but Daniel quits. The pandemic provided perspective.

Stella tells Cory that Alex has Covid-19, and they knew she was in Italy. They feel screwed over by Alex again. They are both panicking about what to do and have no idea how contact tracing works. Meanwhile, in her apartment, Alex is struggling with covid symptoms, but because she can breathe properly, her doctor cannot help her. She can't go to the hospital. She rings Chip and tells him that she's going to die. He reassures her that she isn't.

The next day, Chip proposes to Cory an idea — for the nation to watch Alex get through the virus symptom. It takes a while to convince him, but Cory is eventually onboard with the idea. Stella tells Cory it's a bad idea, so Cory tells her they'll put it on UBA+ — he may as well; he has nothing to lose at this stage.

Chip heads to Alex's place and tells her he has the virus as well. He states he's asymptomatic. Alex is relieved to see someone. He tells her that the network wants her on the air, and he tries to sell her the concept, but she throws up.

Paola meets Cory after Alex arranged it. She wants him to see a snippet of her documentary. It's the interview with Mitch, and it shows him remunerating over his actions. Cory tells her that it's good. Paola asks for a job, but Cory feels there's an audience for her documentary. Paola doesn't want to betray Mitch. Cory feels the existence of the documentary could be a living monument for humanity to show the capacity for good. Will season 3 show Paola giving up the one thing that Mitch did not want to be released?

Bradley rings Alex about her brother Hal. Alex tells Bradley that families are f****d up, and if she can't cut them off, she has to own it. She doesn't want her shame to ruin her life. These two have formed an unlikely friendship. Bradley sends out a social media post about her missing brother.

Chip produces Alex's show on her experiences with Covid-19. Alex describes her life with covid symptoms. She tells the public that either the virus will cancel her or they will. It's making good television. She even attacks Maggie's book. While producing, we learn that Chip wasn't positive for Covid-19 at all. He's risked his life to help Alex. His loyalty to Alex is almost tragic — he's even ignoring his partner's calls.

Due to the pandemic, events relating to UBA+ are canceled. Cory is losing the one thing he wanted to launch. He decides to help Bradley find Hal. While looking for Hal, Cory confesses to Bradley that he loves her. Before Bradley can respond, she gets a call from a nurse who suspects they have found her brother.

On the show, Alex questions whether she brought this on herself. She tells the audience that she was once a kid, like everyone else — from "first steps" to "first love." She didn't even realize that the most entertaining thing about her career would be her sex life. She thought it would be what she's good at. Alex states she's done apologizing for herself.

Bradley and Cory head to the hospital, and due to covid restrictions, Bradley has to sneak herself in, and the wards are filled with covid patients. She finds Hal, and it's an emotional reunion. Hal says he got into a fight and apologizes. Bradley promises she'll never leave him.

Cory looks up at the news. The death toll is rising. Alex continues to talk on her show; she discusses her adversity and questioning who she is. She's thankful for being alive. She hopes they figure it out and thanks her audience for sticking with her all these years.

Season Three

The Kármán Line

Season 3

Episode Number: 21

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday September 13, 2023
Writer: Charlotte Stoudt
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Tig Notaro (Amanda Robinson), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Esther Perel (Esther Perel), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Choni Francis (RJ), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Jack Conley (Earl), Mindy Kaling (Audra), Jennifer Kim (Leigh), Virginia Tran (Assistant Director), Ashley Platz (Lena), Yuli Zorrilla (Luna Garcia), Kim Pettiford (Stylist), Moe Bertran (Mel Sidewalk Vendor), Adam J. Kang (Photographer), Andrew Patrick Ralston (Elmer), Josh Breslow (Dylan), Damien Luvara (Cop), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Frederick Falk (Writer)
Summary: A bold proposal to shore up a financially-challenged UBA meets with opposition, as Alex and Bradley discover their autonomy has limits.



The episode begins on March 10, 2022. Alex Levy is preparing for the maiden voyage of the Hyperion One suborbital rocket, which will soon be launching into space. The UBA host is nervous about this risky venture and has even had to prepare her own obituary in the event of her death.

Alex has been training for the voyage for some time now, and this preparation is being closely followed on the UBA news shows. The voyage will be streamed live on the Morning Show and coincides with

Alex's twentieth year working for UBA.

This celebration has gotten Alex thinking, though she wants to be more involved in the company. She asks UBA's CEO, Cory Ellison, for a seat on the board. Cory isn't best pleased with Alex's negotiation tactics and calls her demands unprecedented. Alex states that she may be forced to leave if they cannot comply with her wishes.

Meanwhile, UBA's evening news host, Bradley Jackson, is hard at work on an abortion news story. She has been speaking with Luna Garcia, a young woman who bravely crosses the border from Texas into Mexico every month to get women's abortion pills.

Bradley's story is abruptly axed by Stella, though. The company doesn't want to disrupt the status quo or receive any lawsuits due to this tricky subject matter. Bradley is furious with the network's decision; she gets rather drunk at her own awards show later that day.

When it comes to making a speech at the American Alliance of Journalists awards ceremony, Bradley slurs her words, stating that people have tried to silence her in the past. Cory is frustrated with Bradley's drunken speech.

After this awkward announcement, Alex speaks with Bradley in private. Bradley updates her friend on the Texas abortion piece. Alex suggests that Bradley let this one story slide. She has finally reached the height of her career; Bradley must learn to enjoy success before challenging the higher-ups.

Bradley phones Luna and apologizes; she won't be running the story after all. She feels like a fraud. Bradley has just won a journalist award, but she is still unable to make any real difference as a famous host.

The conversation spurs on Alex, though, who researches the dire state of the abortion clinics in Texas for herself.

The day before the launch, the UBA team traveled to the Hyperion One launch center. Alex meets with the Hyperion One founder Paul Marks. This billionaire wants to buy UBA, although Cory hasn't told anyone about this pending deal just yet.

Paul takes Alex on a tour of the facility. He then reveals the truth about this deal. Alex heads straight on over to Cory's place to confront the CEO about the merger.

Cory states that it is just a conversation at this point; nothing has happened yet. He worries that the company won't be able to stay relevant in this ever-changing industry; he needs Paul's money to keep UBA afloat.

Alex realizes that she is just a pawn in this entire deal, and her role in the rocket launch is also just a part of this setup. Cory urges Alex to trust him; she will be well taken care of if the deal goes through. Alex vents to Chip afterward about the deal and Bradley's story. She is then informed that Luna has been arrested.

Now both hosts have been played, Alex decides to ditch the rocket launch altogether. She will not be a part of Cory's games anymore. Alex drives to Texas with Chip to report on Luna's unjust arrest instead. On her way there, Alex messages Mia with her apologies.

The team frantically attempted to replace Alex at the last minute. In the end, Cory manages to convince Bradley to take Alex's place. He tells Bradley that his legal team will help Luna.

Bradley decides to change her mind completely; she ditches Luna and takes Alex's seat on the voyage.

Chip and Alex watch from a diner as the rocket launches into space. Paul, Bradley, and Cory survive the launch and float about in space, having reached the Karman line, a boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space.

As Bradley makes her speech to the Morning Show viewers, they suddenly lose communication, and the live feed cuts out.

Ghost in the Machine

Season 3

Episode Number: 22

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday September 13, 2023
Writer: Michelle Denise Jackson
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Amber Friendly (Layla), Mike Ostroski (Victor), Clive Standen (Andre Ford), Maria Canals-Barrera (Mercedes), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Choni Francis (RJ), Aflamu Johnson (Aflamu), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Jack Conley (Earl), Will Arnett (Doug), Stephen Fry (Leonard Cromwell), Armie Hicks Jr. (Tech Guy)
Summary: Technical difficulties provoke chaos at UBA. Buried secrets surface as Alex forms a surprising alliance.



The team lost their live feed and feared the worst. Suddenly, the feed returns, and viewers around the world continue to watch Bradley's speech from space.

The launch was a success, but Paul is livid. The transmission error and Alex's little disappearing act will be extremely costly for his company. Cory echoes this displeasure to Alex in person on the plane. She meets up with the team, discussing Luna's arrest with Bradley in private.

Alex goes straight to Cybil at UBA headquarters next. She tells her about Cory's dodgy deal; he wants to sell the network to Paul Marks. Alex is worried that it'll ruin the company's credibility, but Cybil promises that the deal will never go through.

Cybil appears to be one of Alex's closest allies, but she instantly goes behind her back. Cybil wants Alex suspended for her little stunt. Stella proposes that they put her on the Morning Show five days a week instead, boosting the ratings while punishing their greatest host in the process.

During the Morning Show's next recording, the network suffered catastrophic technical failures. The prompter cuts out, and then the power cuts entirely. When the power finally reboots, they realize that they have been hacked.

Stella takes immediate control, desperate to put an end to all this madness.

The employees are then sent emails revealing the entire staff's personal performance reviews information and Cory is sent an intimate video between Bradley and Laura. Bradley confirms that the video was sent from her own personal phone. Stella realizes that the hackers now have access to everything that is connected to the network servers.

Bradley is overwhelmed by this video leak, which could very easily become a headline story in a matter of minutes. The company's data has been compromised both on a business and a

personal level. Cory is then sent the demands; the cyber-terrorists want \$50 million within 48 hours.

Adding another layer of tension to proceedings, the hackers playback this very conversation that just took place; they are recording everything. Stella orders all the employees to hand over their phones and electronic devices. Cory calls Paul, questioning whether the billionaire is behind the attack.

After a meeting with the main staff members, Stella informs Alex that she will be hosting the Morning Show five days a week as punishment for her actions. Alex refuses the gig, but Stella states that she has breached her contract she will be forced to comply.

The employees worry about their darkest secrets being revealed. Bradley urges Cory to pay the ransom. He makes this very suggestion at an emergency board meeting. Cybil coerces the other board members to reject this option, though. They all agree, voting against Cory's idea. They will not be negotiating with terrorists; they will not be paying the ransom.

Later, Alex and Bradley argue over the cyber-attacks. Bradley worries that if her secrets are leaked out, then they will ruin her reputation. But Alex is still bitter about her own history with the company; she argues that her privacy was never protected. Alex then finds out about Chip and Isabella's secret romance.

Stella warns Bradley about the coming leaks. Bradley decides to still read the news that evening regardless. She delivers a powerful speech about UBA's cyber-attack and our rights to privacy. Bradley publicly states that the company will not be paying the ransom.

The episode ends with Cory deciding to leak the news story about the merger with Paul Marks as a business strategy. Alex apologizes to Bradley about their argument; she offers to help her friend with the video leak. Then, in the final scene, Stella retrieves her confiscated phone, hovering over an image of her with Paul.

White Noise

Season 3

Episode Number: 23

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Wednesday September 20, 2023
Writer: Joshua Allen
Director: Thomas Carter
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Tig Notaro (Amanda Robinson), Hannah Leder (Isabella), June Diane Raphael (Eagle News Anchor), Alano Miller (Marcus Hunter), Maria Canals-Barrera (Mercedes), Jack Conley (Earl), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Amber Friendly (Layla), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Aflamu Johnson (Aflamu), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Stephen Fry (Leonard Cromwell), Jennifer Kim (Leigh), Sachin Bhatt (Geoffrey), Markus Flanagan (Gerald Drummond), Meredith Scott Lynn (Linda)
Summary: When a contract negotiation becomes public, the old and new guards clash. Chris takes center stage.



The Morning Show tries to keep things light after the cyber-attacks, but the scandal has actually boosted ratings somehow. Meanwhile, Cory's own manufactured leak concerning Paul's merger has also worked wonders for the company, leading to stock prices rising. Cory even urges Paul to reconsider his original offer.

Of course, the latest scandal upends all of this positivity. Cory contacts his legal team; they are in for another complex battle. Cory pleads with Christina not to

sue them.

He offers her a new deal, promising her that she is valued. But Christina is distraught; she doesn't feel valued at all within the company.

Cybil hides from the scandal and speaks with Alex in private. She wants to defend herself and asks to be interviewed on Alex's show. Alex doesn't want to get involved with the story, though. Cybil fights her corner, refusing to be canceled over one mistake.

Alex may be against the idea herself, but she pitches it to the others regardless. The team agreed to interview Cybil on the show. Stella wants to show the world that UBA is taking this issue seriously, but Cory wants his nemesis gone.

Meanwhile, Layla discovers more leaked information on the hackers' website. It shows all of the employee's differing salaries. Layla warns her boss, Mia, that the staff are angry and ready to walk over these payment issues.

In response, Mia and Stella host a meeting to discuss racism and pay disputes within the company. This debate turns into another argument.

Mia and Stella argue among themselves in private. Mia says that the staff are overworked and underpaid; she even admits to sleeping in her own office due to these financial woes.

Stella proposes that they get drunk instead. Stella invites Christina, but she's busy chatting with Alex. Together, they are formulating a plan.

With the mounting pressures, Stella and Mia decide to go and get drunk. At the nightclub, they bump into one of Cory's workers (Kyle), who updates them on Cory's plans. He is desperate to get rid of Cybil and is talking to the board. Stella admits that she used to work with Paul; he is ruthless and not to be trusted. Christina crashes the party, announcing that she wants to be the one to interview Cybil.

After this bombshell, Stella persuades Cory to agree to Christina's terms, while Alex convinces Cybil to go ahead with the interview as well. It's an exciting setup as the two enemies prepare for the potentially life-changing interview.

During the interview, Cybil apologizes for her racist comment. Christina believes that the conversation is about more than just the email, though. She brings up racial issues and queries her own hiring and the inequality in the industry.

Cybil tries to put some of the blame onto Cory and offers Christina the chance to discuss these issues in future board meetings.

Christina reveals that she was the most tested host in the network's history. Cybil says that she should be grateful for the opportunity, believing that racial divisions are being exploited in the industry. Christina ends the interview after Cybil's final, unsettling comments. She handles the interview admirably, leaving Cybil flustered. Cybil has clearly ruined her own defense with these last comments.

Cory is overjoyed by Cybil's onscreen meltdown. He thanks Mia for the interview. Mia then offers Layla the new anchor producer role.

After the interview, Cybil is voted off the board. Cory is elated by this result. To celebrate, he decides to ambush Paul that night to discuss the deal further. Paul tells Cory that UBA is damaged goods; it is no longer a safe brand. The episode ends with Paul calling the deal off; he will not be buying UBA after all.

The Green Light

Season 3
Episode Number: 24
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Wednesday September 27, 2023
Writer: Kimi Howl Lee
Director: Mark T. Gates III
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Retta (Retta), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Fortune Feimster (Comedian), Tom Irwin (Fred Micklen), Clive Standen (Andre Ford), Choni Francis (RJ), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Anthony DeVito (Coney Island Vendor), Stephen Fry (Leonard Cromwell), Brent Bailey (Zach), Sam Boxleitner (Drew), Emmie Nagata (Erica), Ilia Volok (Pavlo), Brian Byrnes (Reed), Paull Walia (Sahil), Tristen MacDonald (Kendra), Logan Hulick (Ad Exec #1), Kyle Louis (Ad Exec #2)
Summary: The UBA Upfront brings everyone together for a party in the Hamptons. Bradley and Alex each revisit a problematic relationship.



The episode opens with a long, continuous shot of Cory striding through the backstage area. He may have completely messed up his deal with Paul, but Cory has other options. Today he needs to get a loan to keep UBA afloat. And to get that loan he needs to first acquire \$300 million in ad sales.

To win over potential investors and ad executives, Cory is throwing a lavish party at his home. He asks Alex and Bradley to help with the schmoozing. Cory blames Alex for ruining the merger

deal with Paul. He dangles the possibility of a board role in front of Alex to convince her to help out, but she has her own plans.

Alex decides to track down Paul herself. She stalks him in the streets and confronts the billionaire, offering to talk things over. Paul quickly relents and takes a car ride with her. They discuss the deal and Alex apologizes for bailing on him. She admits that she didn't like being used.

Next, Alex takes Paul to the fun fair, where they get to know each other better. Alex tries her best to be open and honest, but always brings things back to the deal. Paul asks why she is so desperate to help UBA out. Alex confesses, she feels like she owes them something, but she also wants to make a difference at the company.

Meanwhile, Bradley and Laura's secret romance goes viral, although the leaked video doesn't seem to have surfaced in the media just yet. They are relieved to have escaped this media attack for now. Bradley invites Laura to Cory's party for a catch up.

Mia then updates Bradley on the latest news from Ukraine. There has been a bombing in a hospital in Mariupol. This is going to be a huge news story and Mia wants to be the first to break it. She even has a journalist in place to photograph the incident. We later discover that Mia's mystery man from previous episodes is Andre Ford, a man renowned in his field.

And in the final subplot, Stella is tasked with winning over the main ad execs. She takes them out for dinner. They are obnoxious and arrogant, but Stella does her best to keep them interested in her pitch.

One of the ad execs forces a waitress to degrade herself in front of them for money and Stella watches, eager to get the deal at any cost. Here Stella sees the darker side to the industry. She may achieve her goals and gain the deal, but she is broken by the whole incident. Stella messages Cory, they have the ad revenue they require. The loan can now go ahead.

During the party, Christina confronts the new board chairman Leonard Cromwell about pay issues. Leonard says that the issue will be raised at the next board meeting. Bradley and Laura explore Cory's home, it is revealed that Cory paid off the hackers to keep the video out of the news.

Mia calls Andre about the bombing. Andre has taken the photographs and is now attempting to safely escape. Mia promises to only publish the photographs once Andre is safe. She is clearly in love with the man and fears for his safety.

Stella arrives a little later, broken after the negotiations. Cory tries to comfort her, but she still feels terrible. Next, Cory bumps into Fred, his nemesis. Fred ruins Cory's high, announcing that he is a consultant working with the very same loan company that Cory has just made a deal with. In effect, Cory now works for Fred again.

Elsewhere, Mia is forced to release the bombing photos even before she knows whether Andre made it out safely or not. If he is captured and the photographs are released, Andre could be in serious trouble. Mia worries about her lover, but publishes his photographs regardless.

After Fred's horrifying news, Cory updates Stella. He says that if they accept the loan, then Fred will practically own them. Stella is furious, having sold her soul for this deal to go through. She refuses to help Cory out anymore. He will have to find the funding on his own.

The episode ends with a possible upshot to all of this chaos. Paul and Alex arrive at the party via helicopter. Alex has managed to work her magic and has convinced Paul to hopefully restart negotiations. UBA may still be saved after all.

Love Island

Season 3

Episode Number: 25

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Wednesday October 04, 2023
Writer: Zander Lehmann
Director: Stacie Passon
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Natalie Morales (Kate Danton), Sasha Alexander (Salma), Clive Standen (Andre Ford), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Theo Iyer (Kyle), T.V. Carpio (Emma), Daniel Kash (Seth), Stacey Swift (Sam), Zeke Alton (Concierge Doctor), Leslie Thurston (Jackie), Eliza Shin (Roberta)
Summary: Unexpected connections emerge, while the world is in lock down.



The episode begins in March 2020, in the early days of the pandemic. Bradley is hosting the Morning Show, and Cory is desperate for more content for UBA+. Preparing for the worst, Bradley decides to move to Montana with Laura. They continue their romance in lockdown, where they also host the news together.

Mia is also enjoying some romance in lockdown. She is shackled up with journalist Andre Ford. Their love blossoms through a heartwarming montage sequence as these lovebirds get more fa-

miliar with each other. Even Cory has his eyes on a new love interest. Realtor Salma shows him around potential homes during the pandemic.

As we fast forward into the summer months, Bradley and Laura's relationship continues to grow. Bradley is even considering going public with their secret romance. Cory and Salma continue to flirt, and Cory asks her out on a date. They finally remove their masks in person, feeling more comfortable around each other.

Then the George Floyd protests and the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement took center stage in May 2020. Mia and Stella discuss what footage to broadcast. The whole situation upsets Mia greatly, leaving her despondent and broken.

Cory and Salma become an item; he informs her about the network's money woes. Salma knows where all the rich people live. She proposes that Cory goes after Paul Marks and his wealth next, as he lives nearby.

Elsewhere, Hal tells Bradley that their mother has contracted COVID-19. Days later she dies from the disease. Bradley is devastated by the sudden news. As fall creeps in, Bradley and Laura start to argue more. Bradley is struggling with her grief, and Laura is tired of being blamed for all of Bradley's problems. Bradley even calls Laura an elitist snob.

Stella and Mia debate new, potential hosts. Chris Hunter's name is thrown around. Mia confesses to Andre that she had a relationship with Mitch and that she was in love with him. Possibly spurred on by this revelation, Andre goes out drinking. Mia is outraged by Andre's selfish actions. Fearing that she will get the disease, she packs up and leaves.

Mia isn't the only one to leave. Bradley decides to split up with Laura after their fight, she heads to DC for work. And Andre takes on an assignment in Afghanistan.

Winter arrives, and the show focuses on the Capitol attack in January 2021. Bradley manages to gain access to the terrifying event, witnessing the violence firsthand. She films everything, even recording her brother Hal, who she finds assaulting a police officer.

Bradley and Hal escape from the riots and regroup. Hal tries to defend his actions, but Bradley is distraught. She tells Hal to leave, pretending that he was never there. Bradley then deletes the incriminating footage from her files. She shows Stella the rest of the footage.

They plan a special report. Bradley asks to be the new host of the Evening News, using the footage as leverage.

Next, Cory bumps into Paul on the beach. He sparks up a conversation with the billionaire, suggesting that Paul gets into the media. This is their first encounter, which will of course lead to future negotiations.

The episode ends with Bradley visiting Cory at his new, swanky home. The FBI is after footage from the attack on the Capitol. A police officer was assaulted, but there were no witnesses. They want to look through Bradley's footage, hoping that they may be able to spot the fight in the background of her recordings.

Bradley admits that it was Hal who was the attacker and that she has since deleted the footage. She needs Cory to help her out. Cory decides to only hand over the footage from the special report. This will protect UBA's image and save Bradley's career.

It is clear that Cory is only really doing this to protect the network, but he still has strong feelings for Bradley as well. She thanks him, but he doesn't want to talk about it anymore. Bradley gets her dream job, hosting the Evening News, but at what cost?

The Stanford Student

Season 3

Episode Number: 26

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Wednesday October 11, 2023
Writer: Micah Schraft
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Tig Notaro (Amanda Robinson), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Samantha Sloan (Cheryl), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Choni Francis (RJ), Damon Dayoub (Glen Corn), Scott Peat (Ryder Flynt), Anne Berger (Stage Manager)
Summary: A pivotal interview complicates the Hyperion-UBA deal. Stella debates whether to reveal her history with Paul.



The episode begins with Paul addressing his purchase of UBA with the network's staff. He states that he's there to address any concerns and answer any questions. Bradley asks about the hack and Mia brings up layoffs. Paul answers the questions thoughtfully, promising to keep their data safe and to expand the team if possible.

Alex asks about the conflict of interest with his Hyperion business. Cory tries to shut down Alex's probing, but Paul is happy to discuss this issue at a later

date. Afterward, Cory argues with Alex over the questioning. He's worked too hard for her to sabotage the deal at the last minute. She wants to interview Paul though, to do her own vetting.

Meanwhile, Bradley is visited by her brother Hal, his wife Cheryl (Samantha Sloan), and their daughter Taylor. The visit may seem innocent, but Hal has some big news. He has decided to turn himself into the FBI. Bradley is flabbergasted by this decision, which could ruin his family's lives and Bradley's career. Hal refuses to change his mind though.

Paul gets familiar with the UBA offices. He asks Stella what changes she wants to see at the company. Stella is suspicious of Paul's motives though. Paul then visits Alex about her sidebar. Alex asks to interview Paul and he surprisingly accepts her offer. He thinks it's a great idea. Alex is shocked and flustered by Paul's confidence.

Alex asks Chip and Isabella to do some digging, she wants them to find some dirt on Paul. They only have two days to prep for this colossal interview though. Chip heads straight to Stella, asking her if she has any dirt on Paul. Stella lies, saying she barely knew him, but she is clearly shaken by the questioning. What is she hiding?

Bradley doesn't take Hal's threat lightly. She fights back, inviting him to the studio. Bradley then interviews a man who is in jail, awaiting a trial for assaulting a police officer at the Capitol attack. The prisoner regrets his actions. Bradley is evidently making a point here.

This news segment grabs Cory's attention as well. Bradley promises that she is handling the matter, although back at Bradley's apartment, Hal still refuses to change his mind. Bradley

reiterates that he is going to ruin everyone's lives with this needless confession. Hal questions why Bradley didn't just delete all of the footage from the Capitol. He realizes that she will fight to succeed no matter what.

Paul's interview follows. Alex questions the billionaire about his motives and his hatred of the media. Paul admits that he hates interviews, but he thinks this deal is important. He wants to stamp out fake news and fix the industry on the whole.

Alex attempts to catch Paul out, but he flips it onto her. He brings up her own mistakes, ditching him at the rocket launch and stalking him outside of his hotel. Alex is flustered and Paul proposes that they take a break. In this break, Chip asks Alex to bring up the dirt they have on Paul.

When they return, Alex goes for the jugular. She talks about a Stanford student, who claims that Paul stole their coding and their idea. This idea would then go on to make Paul a rich man. Paul denies stealing anything, stating that he bought the idea fairly. This is Chip and Alex's dirt on Paul, their chance to uncover a potential scandal.

Alex seems to think that the student was forced. They have since stated that they regret the deal, which then led to depression and a suicide attempt. Paul is shocked to hear this. He talks about his blinkered approach to work, and how it led to the breakdown of his own marriage. Paul admits that he has since changed his policies, personal behaviors, and beliefs.

This human, honest response saves Paul. Afterwards, Alex and Paul discuss the interview further. Paul is impressed with Alex's approach. They flirt with one another and then kiss. It seems the interview was just foreplay for the main event. Alex and Paul then sleep together.

Sensing some unease, Laura tries to make amends with Hal. She talks about her relationship with Bradley, and that she just wants a second chance to make her happy again. This conversation seems to do the trick and Hal changes his mind; he won't be turning himself in after all. Later, Bradley apologizes to Laura, and the two kiss in public.

The episode concludes with Stella and Paul discussing the interview together before it airs. Paul then reveals that Stella was the Stanford student all along, the person who came up with Paul's moneymaking idea. He asks her why she didn't tell him how she felt.

Stella announces that she will be quitting her position, as she doesn't want to sour the merger. Paul states that UBA needs her though. He's going to get rid of Cory and he wants Stella to take over Cory's job, to run the place. Stella is shocked, yet excited by this proposition.

Strict Scrutiny

Season 3
Episode Number: 27
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Wednesday October 18, 2023
Writer: Bill Kennedy
Director: Jennifer Getzinger
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Lindsay Duncan (Martha Ellison), Natalie Morales (Kate Danton), Tig Notaro (Amanda Robinson), Alano Miller (Marcus Hunter), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Andrea Bendewald (Valerie), Theo Iyer (Kyle), Sean Alexander James (Jimbo), Stephen Fry (Leonard Cromwell), Taissa Zveiter (Daisy Rodriguez), Hunter Elizabeth (Party Guest), Eyal Podell (Larry Pane), Ari Beverly Carter (Maya), Chris Mann (Patrick), Peggy Dunne (Sue Bridges), Corey Martin Craig (Carter), Mark Seliger (Mark Seliger), Sean Muramatsu (Reporter (Rui Tanaka)), Ilia Volok (Pavlo)
Summary: Harsh reality collides with an opulent night celebrating fashion. Cory and Bradley visit a crucial player in the potential sale of UBA.



We open with Paul and Alex's steamy romance as the two celebrities can't seem to keep their hands off each other. Paul makes Alex breakfast that morning and they discuss their previous divorces. They both know one another's flaws and the gigantic consequences of their relationship if it were to go public, but neither wants to stop the romance anytime soon.

They prepare for a fundraiser party happening that very night, agreeing to stay separate from each other whilst in the public eye. Meanwhile, Cory is

hounded by Leonard about the merger. A political strategist has been calling the Justice Department nonstop. Cory is ordered to put out yet another fire.

He asks Bradley to tag along, hoping that she will help alleviate some of the pressure. Cory promises that she will be back to host the evening news that night. They head off to Connecticut together. Meanwhile, Mia still hasn't heard from her lover, Andre. She worries about his safety in war-torn Ukraine.

Bradley and Cory arrive at the political strategist's house. Of course, this individual turns out to be Cory's own mother, Martha. She is the person who is ruining Cory's UBA merger plans. Bradley and Cory attempt to sweet-talk Martha into easing off.

Martha gives them a tour of her home and she shows off her achievements. She is impressed with Bradley's journalistic integrity and her work in general. Martha invites them to stay for a meal. Cory is guilted into staying. He gets someone to cover for Bradley's TV slot in the meantime.

Back at the UBA offices, Stella mulls over Paul's contract. He's offered her the CEO role and she has her team investigate the deal further. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Stella — she would potentially be earning \$14 million a year if she agrees. Her team proposes negotiating the finer details, but Stella is still conflicted.

Stella asks Mia for her opinion on the offer. Mia thinks Cory will be fine even if he's sacked. But Stella worries about the ruthless nature of the job; she doesn't want to turn into Cory. This vicious dog-eat-dog world frightens her.

The fundraiser gets underway. Paul and Alex are photographed on the red carpet together, although they try to play it cool, keeping things professional. Chris is questioned about the concerns over equity pay at UBA. Paul is then informed that the Vault has a photograph of him and Alex kissing. He tells Alex the bad news and promises to kill the story before it ruins both of their careers.

Next, Stella is visited by her old friend Kate, who has just been fired by Paul from Hyperion. She clearly has it in for her old boss, but she can't believe how submissive Stella has become. Kate realizes that Paul must have offered Stella a monumental promotion. She warns Stella against accepting the offer though, fearing that Paul will then own her and manipulate her if she signs the deal. This debate turns into an argument.

Meanwhile, in Connecticut, Cory finally addresses the merger issues. He asks his mother to stop pestering the Justice Department. Martha states that she was just trying to help and is hurt by Cory's demands. Cory tries to win over his mother, but she sees straight through his act.

This also turns into an argument. Martha makes some rather nasty remarks and tells Cory to leave. On the drive home, Bradley tries to comfort Cory. Their conversation is interrupted by a breaking news story though. There's been a Supreme Court brief leak — they are overturning Roe. The abortion rights are in jeopardy. This news makes its way to the fundraiser as well. The team springs into action right away.

Angered by the news, Chris posts a political and highly controversial photograph online. Paul is told that the Vault won't be paid off, they are going to publish the scandalous photograph of Paul and Alex kissing no matter what.

Stella updates Cory on the developing news stories. She then brings up Paul's offer in another dramatic twist. Cory is visibly surprised, but not that upset. He tells Stella to sign the employment agreement, then they will have the upper hand over Paul.

It would appear that Cory's career isn't dead just yet. Stella looks like she is choosing to side with Cory instead. Will they bring down Paul together now?

As the episode concludes, Cory argues with Leonard, telling him to back off. Then Chip walks in on Alex and Paul kissing.

DNF

Season 3

Episode Number: 28

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired:	Wednesday October 25, 2023
Writer:	Selina Fillinger
Director:	Millicent Shelton
Show Stars:	Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars:	Tig Notaro (Amanda Robinson), Natalie Morales (Kate Danton), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Shannon Woodward (Jess Bennett), Clive Standen (Andre Ford), Tom Irwin (Fred Micklen), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Eli Bildner (Joel Rapkin), Amber Friendly (Layla), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Choni Francis (RJ), Mindy Kaling (Audra), Jamal Lloyd Johnson (Preston), Kelli Scates (Photographer), Jerome Beck (Baker 1), Titus Lam (Baker 2)
Summary:	Alex and Chip disagree on how to manage rumors about her private life. Bradley begins an investigation that could upend the deal.



The episode opens with Chris's dramatic storyline. Her controversial post is all over the news and Chris feels compelled to read through the horrifying online comments whilst on her way to work. As she exits her car and enters the UBA building, Chris is attacked by a protester, who hurls red paint or possibly even blood at the host.

The office is abuzz with gossip. Chris is dominating the headlines with her controversy, but Alex looks set to overtake her co-host any moment now with her

own scandal. The photograph of Alex and Paul kissing has also gone viral. The timing is just terrible, as Alex's exclusive interview with Paul is supposed to be dropping any day now.

Alex wants to concentrate on the SCOTUS news story instead though, ordering Chip to find her a better replacement guest for her Unfiltered show. Chip is struggling to land any important figures in the abortion news story though. Cory thinks the interview with Paul will be a big crowd-pleaser, but Alex wants it pulled entirely.

Meanwhile, Cory and Stella continue their plans to bring down Paul from the inside. Stella thinks that there might be a scandal waiting to be uncovered at Hyperion. She tries to contact Kate, who was just sacked by Paul, but she is ignored. Stella asks Bradley to investigate further in her place.

Chris starts to receive further death threats whilst at work and is given a bodyguard to keep her safe. Chris is frustrated by the escalating situation, but the UBA staff are just as annoyed with her and her naive post. Mia and Yanko in particular are concerned about Chris' professionalism and knee-jerk reactions. Is Andre still alive?

Whilst recording a live show, Mia spots Andre on another news program. She is amazed to discover that her lover is alive and well, back in New York City. Mia confronts him that very

night. Their conversation ends in an argument. Mia is hurt that Andre wouldn't contact her. Andre seems to be living recklessly.

RELATED: [The Morning Show Season 3 Episode 7 Recap](#)

Moments before her live interview, Alex's latest guest pulls out of the program. Chip offers a different interviewee instead, although Alex is under-prepared for this new guest, having focused all of her attention on another one entirely. Alex trusts Chip, but the interview goes terribly anyway.

Afterward, Alex and Chip argue about this disastrous interview. Chip defends himself and things of course turn rather personal. Out of the blue, Alex fires Chip. It's a heartbreaking moment for the friends, who have been through so much together. But Alex has had enough of Chip, he has made some big mistakes and questioned her relationship with Paul.

Paul's day isn't going any better. He turns up for his photo shoot with Cory late and intoxicated. Paul's rocket launch has been delayed and Amanda informs him that the firing of Kate might soon become an issue also.

A montage follows, addressing the major subplots in the series. Laura investigates Bradley's hacked emails and phone conversations. She discovers the cover-up between Bradley, Cory, and Hal over the January 6 Capitol footage.

Bradley meets with Kate for information on Hyperion, but the whistle-blower is a no-show. Chris exercises on a track and injures herself; she isn't the athlete she used to be. Whilst Cory and Paul argue with one another at the photo shoot. Cory warns Paul that he doesn't know what he is getting himself into with UBA.

After their public argument, Andre turns up at the UBA offices to apologize to Mia. He regrets what he has said, but Mia is adamant that nothing will change. Regardless of her thoughts, she ditches her work colleagues to spend more quality time with Andre. The UBA staff have all gathered to pay tribute to the deceased host Hannah Shoenfeld. Mia misses this emotional tribute to be with her lover.

As the episode comes to an end, Paul offers Alex a different future. He suggests that they sell off UBA and start from the ground up on a new network, with Alex running things.

Elsewhere, Paul's assistant Amanda asks Fred for his help with their plans to sell off UBA.

Update Your Priors

Season 3
Episode Number: 29
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Wednesday November 01, 2023
Teleplay: Laura Wexler
Story: Shalisha Francis-Feusner
Director: Stacie Passon
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Marcia Gay Harden (Maggie Brener), Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Tig Notaro (Amanda Robinson), Elizabeth Perkins (Elena), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Jack Conley (Earl), Alano Miller (Marcus Hunter), Tara Karsian (Gayle Burns), Theo Iyer (Kyle)
Summary: A line is drawn as Alex and Bradley are forced to choose sides. Cory scrambles for stable ground.



The episode kicks off with a conflicted Laura. She doesn't know whether to expose Bradley's secrets about the Capitol or not. Laura meets with a colleague to discuss her options. This could be make or break for her career, but she decides to follow the story and betray Bradley in the end.

To test the waters, Laura calls Hal, asking him if his family will join them for the Fourth of July celebrations in DC. Hal agrees but lies about being in DC in recent years. Laura can sense his lies over

the phone.

Elsewhere, Alex worries about her and Paul's plans to sell off UBA for parts. Paul reassures her that this is the best option and that Alex will be making something greater in its place. She can even bring all her old staff along with her.

Stella, Bradley, and Chip continue their mission to bring down Paul with the Hyperion scandal they are trying to uncover. They have contacted all of the company's disgruntled former employees, but no one is willing to talk and Kate is still ignoring everyone's calls.

Meanwhile, Cory finds out that a mystery buyer is purchasing a sizable amount of UBA stocks. This looks set to be hugely detrimental to the merger deal. Cory questions Paul, but the billionaire doesn't seem too fussed by the news.

Paul is then updated on the financial side of the merger. Amanda informs Paul that if they sell everything off, they could look to be making a \$10 billion profit from the sale of UBA. This is great news for Paul, who is desperate for the cash so he can get Hyperion back on track. It looks like he needs the money for his other company.

After an unusual chat with Maggie, Alex feels a need to speak with Bradley, whom she's been neglecting of late. She offers her co-host a chance to come and work for her when UBA is scrapped. Bradley doesn't hold back though, stating that she doesn't trust Paul one bit. She even talks about her concerns with Hyperion.

Alex defends her partner and asks for some serious proof. Their argument ends with Alex storming off though. This spurs her on to go ahead with Paul's plans. She tells Paul that she is ready to start the new company.

Stella and Bradley take their Hyperion investigation to Cory, hoping that he can delay the vote on the merger. Cory doesn't seem fussed by the possible scandal though, believing that everything will work out just fine. Stella talks about the issues within Hyperion, but Cory will not change his stance. Stella admits that she will be leaving UBA once the deal has gone through.

Later in the episode, Laura confronts Bradley about the Capitol cover-up. Bradley is heartbroken that Laura has found out the truth and admits to everything. Laura promises that she won't be investigating the matter any further, but she doesn't want anything more to do with Bradley. They then break up.

It is revealed that Cybil is the mystery buyer. She hoped that her little stunt would sway the merger vote. Cybil then warns Cory about Paul's plans. Cory is utterly dumbfounded by the news; he did not have a single inkling about Paul's plans to sell UBA immediately.

Cory absolutely loses it, stomping around UBA looking for Paul and Alex. He even punches a wall! Cory confronts Alex first, ranting about his beliefs and goals. Alex admirably defends herself, telling Cory that he doesn't actually care about anyone but himself. She promises to take all of Cory's staff with her to her new company. After this revelation, Cory phones Leonard to tell him the bad news, hoping to organize an emergency board meeting right away.

Alex informs Paul about Cory, and that he knows their secret plan. Paul then plays his most devilish move yet. He confronts Bradley, a mere 30 seconds before her live show. Paul tells her that he knows all about her Capitol cover-up. Bradley is clearly shaken by the blackmailing accusations; I don't think she will be continuing her Hyperion investigation any longer now.

The episode concludes with Bradley delivering her live evening show. She reads her opening monologue, but she is clearly distracted and then dramatically pauses. Bradley thanks her viewers and co-workers and then resigns on live TV.

Stella and Cory race through the building after Bradley, but she refuses to talk. Then Cory is informed that a story has just been released. The article accuses Cory of grooming Bradley and helping her rise to the top at UBA. When she rejected his advances, Cory outed Bradley and Laura to the public.

Cory is shocked once again and then informed that security is coming to escort him out of the building. Cory is certain that Paul is behind this latest scandal.

The Overview Effect

Season 3
Episode Number: 30
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday November 09, 2023
Teleplay: Anya Leta
Story: Charlotte Stoudt, Anya Leta
Director: Mimi Leder
Show Stars: Jennifer Aniston (Alex Levy), Reese Witherspoon (Bradley Jackson), Billy Crudup (Cory Ellison), Mark Duplass (Chip Black), Nestor Carbonell (Yanko Flores), Karen Pittman (Mia Jordan), Julianna Margulies (Laura Peterson), Greta Lee (Stella Bak), Nicole Beharie (Christina Hunter), Jon Hamm (Paul Marks)
Guest Stars: Joe Tippett (Hal Jackson), Holland Taylor (Cybil Richards), Tig Notaro (Amanda Robinson), Natalie Morales (Kate Danton), Hannah Leder (Isabella), Shari Belafonte (Julia), Victoria Tate (Rena Robinson), Amber Friendly (Layla), Joe Marinelli (Donny Spagnoli), Aflamu Johnson (Aflamu), Joe Pacheco (Bart Daley), Jack Conley (Earl), Stephen Fry (Leonard Cromwell), Brian Byrnes (Reed), Paull Walia (Sahil), Aven Lotz (Young Bradley), Jeremy Denzlinger (Desk Officer), Paul Chirico (Bradley's Father), Joanne Baron (Brenda Litchfield), Jason W. Wong (Maitre D'), John Hartmann (Interviewer), Ingrid Walters (Simone), Rafael Cabrera (Vincent), Matthew Downs (Officer #2), Marita de Lara (Sarah), June Diane Raphael (Eagle News Anchor)
Summary: The Hyperion-UBA deal comes to a vote. Bradley faces her past as Alex considers her future in the new world order.



The episode opens with a depressed and paranoid Bradley. She's just resigned from UBA on live TV after Paul's well-timed threats and her Capitol coverup story looks set to go public. Cory attempts to speak with Bradley, who is hiding in her apartment after these traumatic events. Bradley tells Cory to go away, admitting that Paul knows all about the coverup.

Paul updates Alex on Bradley's crimes. He lies to Alex though, saying how he promised to help Bradley and that she

chose to resign on her own accord. Alex tries to contact Bradley next, but she ignores her calls and messages.

Alex decides to confront Bradley herself in person. Bradley confesses to her sins but still insists that Paul cannot be trusted. She is adamant that he is surveilling her, and that he knew all about her private conversations with Laura. He must be listening in.

After this conversation, Alex starts to become more suspicious of Paul. She sends Bradley a text message, purposely including the wrong information about Bradley's hometown to test the waters. Back at her apartment, Paul falls for the text message hook, line, and sinker, casually mentioning the wrong hometown in conversation. Alex is now certain that Paul is spying on Bradley.

After Paul leaked a false news story about Cory, the CEO is questioned about the predatorial allegations against him. Cory defends himself, stating that this is all just mind games from Paul.

He wants to get back to work immediately, to save the company and the merger. His legal team advised him to lie low instead.

Leonard refuses to help save UBA, so Cory gives his old frenemy Cybil a call. Cory then meets with Reed, hoping to negotiate terms on a new, sizeable loan from Sloane to save the network.

Elsewhere, Stella decides to tell her team the truth about the merger. They agree to go public with Paul's plans to sell UBA after the deal has gone through. They plan to interview a guest who can make this vital announcement on live TV. Chip ends up being their special guest. He nervously tells Yanko and Chris and the whole planet this shocking news. Chip means well, but his honest approach comes off as more of a rant. Enraged by Paul's plans, Chip then has a full meltdown on live TV, swearing lots and threatening Paul in the process.

This meltdown may look bad, but it has the desired effect. Shareholders start to vote against the merger. Amanda updates Paul on this sudden change. They are now losing votes. Paul then decides to ambush Cory, battling back the only way he knows how.

Paul manipulates Reed so that the UBA loan is rejected. He then offers Cory a way out. Paul promises to make the sexual harassment claims go away and offers Cory \$10 million for his troubles. All he wants in return is for Cory to sign an NDA. Cory rightfully declines Paul's offer.

Cory accepts defeat and phones his mother to inform her of the ensuing media storm. But Alex has a plan brewing in the background. She interrupts the boardroom vote to make a counteroffer. Alex proposes that UBA merges with rival network NBN.

Angered by Alex's betrayal, Paul asks to speak with his partner outside. She directs him into a nearby room, where Paul is ambushed by Stella and Kate. Stella lists all of Paul's crimes. She knows that he forced Kate to cut the transmission during the rocket launch to hide their navigation malfunction. He then buried the results using the UBA hack.

Kate adds that he has been lying to NASA for months now and when she told Paul about safety concerns, he fired her. Alex brings up the fact that Paul was spying on Bradley and blackmailed her into resigning too. Paul asks Alex what she wants, offering to delay the vote. Alex asks Paul to walk away from the deal and to make things right with NASA and Hyperion. Paul surprisingly admits defeat himself and agrees to pull out of the merger altogether. The mounting evidence against Paul ends the merger.

Two weeks later, Bradley is being questioned about the sexual harassment lawsuit against Cory Ellison. She defends him, yet tells the whole truth about his love for her. They then bump into one another after their separate meetings. Bradley admits that she misses Cory. This is a bittersweet moment for Cory, who looks emotionally winded by the comment.

Unsurprisingly, Alex and Paul break up. Paul tells Alex that he will have to sell off a major share in his company if Hyperion isn't already dead. He regrets his actions, wishing he'd concentrated on their relationship instead.

The episode ends with Alex and Bradley heading to the FBI headquarters together. It would seem that Bradley is ready to turn herself in. She heads into the building with her brother Hal. It looks like they are finally about to admit to their crimes concerning the Capitol attack.

Actor Appearances

A

Victoria Acker	1
0108 (Dancer)	
Casey Adams	1
0205 (NY Pedestrian)	
Guilford Adams	2
0206 (Curt Savage); 0210 (Curt Savage)	
Alex Alchek	1
0209 (Harry Hotel Bellman)	
Sasha Alexander	1
0305 (Salma)	
Zeke Alton	1
0305 (Concierge Doctor)	
T.J. Alvarado	1
0105 (Barista)	
Jamal Antar	2
0101 (Paparazzi); 0102 (Paparazzi)	
Philip Anthony-Rodriguez	3
0102 (Gabriel); 0103 (Gabriel); 0105 (Gabriel)	
Carrie Armstrong	1
0106 (Woman)	
Jack Armstrong	1
0104 (Beau)	
Will Arnett	5
0201 (Doug); 0202 (Doug); 0208 (Doug); 0209 (Doug); 0302 (Doug)	
Peter Arpesella	1
0207 (Vincenzo)	
Katie Aselton	1
0205 (Chip's Fiancée)	

B

Brent Bailey	1
0304 (Zach)	
Joanne Baron	1
0310 (Brenda Litchfield)	
Jerome Beck	1
0308 (Baker 1)	
Shari Belafonte	23
0101 (Julia); 0102 (Julia); 0103 (Julia); 0104 (Julia); 0105 (Julia); 0107 (Julia); 0108 (Julia); 0109 (Julia); 0110 (Julia); 0201 (Julia); 0202 (Julia); 0203 (Julia); 0204 (Julia); 0205 (Julia); 0206 (Julia); 0209 (Julia); 0301 (Julia); 0302 (Julia); 0303 (Julia); 0305 (Julia); 0306 (Julia); 0308 (Julia); 0310 (Julia)	
Traci Belushi	1
0202 (Angela Cody)	
Andrea Bendewald	12
0101 (Valerie); 0102 (Valerie); 0106 (Valerie); 0107 (Valerie); 0108 (Valerie); 0110 (Valerie); 0203 (Valerie); 0204 (Valerie); 0209 (Valerie); 0302 (Valerie); 0306 (Valerie); 0307 (Valerie)	
Candice Marie Bennett	1
0106 (Woman in Pilot)	
Anne Berger	1

0306 (Stage Manager)	
Martin George Berishaj	1
0210 (Peja Bjelica)	
Moe Bertran	1
0301 (Mel Sidewalk Vendor)	
Sachin Bhatt	1
0303 (Geoffrey)	
Eli Bildner	18
0101 (Joel); 0103 (Joel); 0104 (Joel); 0105 (Joel); 0106 (Joel); 0107 (Joel); 0108 (Joel); 0110 (Joel); 0203 (Joel Rapkin); 0204 (Joel Rapkin); 0205 (Joel Rapkin); 0206 (Joel Rapkin); 0209 (Joel Rapkin); 0210 (Joel Rapkin); 0301 (Joel Rap- kin); 0302 (Joel Rapkin); 0303 (Joel Rapkin); 0308 (Joel Rapkin)	
Noah Blake	1
0210 (Brian Boso)	
Sam Boxleitner	1
0304 (Drew)	
Andre Boyer	1
0105 (Host)	
Josh Breslow	1
0301 (Dylan)	
Andrew Bridges	1
0110 (Male Tenant)	
Patrick Bristow	3
0203 (Gordon); 0206 (Gordon); 0209 (Gordon)	
Jake Broder	1
0101 (Nate)	
Tommy Buck	1
0110 (Tourist)	
Tara Burrows	1
0203 (Editor)	
Matthew Butcher	1
0106 (Hired Firefighter)	
Brett Butler	3
0101 (Sandy Jackson); 0102 (Sandy Jackson); 0104 (Sandy Jackson)	
Brian Byrnes	2
0304 (Reed); 0310 (Reed)	

C

Rafael Cabrera	1
0310 (Vincent)	
Maria Canals-Barrera	2
0302 (Mercedes); 0303 (Mercedes)	
Jaco Caraco	1
0104 (Guitarist)	
T.V. Carpio	1
0305 (Emma)	
Ari Beverly Carter	1
0307 (Maya)	
Jorga Caye	1
0101 (Protestor)	
Stefan Chase	1
0206 (Corrine Patterson)	
Lee Chen	1

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0203 (Translator)
 Hank Cheyne 1
 0102 (Disgraced Director)
 Paul Chirico 1
 0310 (Bradley's Father)
 Robert Cicchini 1
 0105 (Robert)
 Kelly Clarkson 1
 0104 (Kelly Clarkson)
 Ethan Cohn 1
 0108 (Jared)
 Jack Conley 8
 0204 (Earl); 0205 (Earl); 0206 (Earl); 0301 (Earl);
 0302 (Earl); 0303 (Earl); 0309 (Earl); 0310
 (Earl)
 Taylor Cooper 2
 0201 (Meredith); 0209 (Meredith)
 Al Coronel 1
 0106 (Mike)
 Corey Martin Craig 1
 0307 (Carter)
 Rozzi Crane 1
 0102 (Vocalist)

D

Rachel Danyew 1
 0202 (Rachel Danyew)
 Joe Daru 1
 0210 (Angry Husband)
 Jack Davenport 1
 0208 (Jason Craig)
 Embeth Davidtz 4
 0101 (Paige Kessler); 0108 (Paige); 0204 (Paige);
 0209 (Paige)
 Dana Davis 1
 0108 (Christine)
 Damon Dayoub 2
 0210 (Glen); 0306 (Glen Corn)
 Anthony DeVito 1
 0304 (Coney Island Vendor)
 Jeremy Denzlinger 1
 0310 (Desk Officer)
 Erin Dinsmore 1
 0201 (Hipster)
 Chris Dougherty 1
 0106 (Eric)
 Audrey Douglass 1
 0108 (Dancer)
 Hannah Douglass 1
 0108 (Dancer)
 Matthew Downs 1
 0310 (Officer #2)
 Lindsay Duncan 1
 0307 (Martha Ellison)
 Peggy Dunne 1
 0307 (Sue Bridges)
 Catherine Dyer 2
 0204 (Teresa Bonner); 0210 (Teresa Bonner)
 Cassie Dzienny 1
 0108 (Dancer)

E

Marisa Echeverria 1
 0205 (Robin)
 Hosai Ehsan 1
 0210 (Home Nurse)
 Hunter Elizabeth 1
 0307 (Party Guest)

Roselind Anyumel Emuge' 1
 0210 (E.R. Hospital Nurse)
 Ashley Everett 1
 0108 (Dancer)

F

Frederick Falk 3
 0201 (Researcher); 0206 (Researcher); 0301 (Writer)
 Clayton Farris 1
 0104 (Segment Producer)
 Alexandra Fatovich 2
 0104 (Michelle); 0201 (Michelle Connors)
 Fortune Feimster 1
 0304 (Comedian)
 Foo Fighters 1
 0204 (Foo Fighters)
 Markus Flanagan 6
 0103 (Gerard); 0105 (Gerard); 0202 (Gerard); 0204
 (Gerard); 0210 (Gerard); 0303 (Gerald Drum-
 mond)
 Dave Foley 2
 0206 (Peter Bullard); 0209 (Peter Bullard)
 Choni Francis 9
 0203 (RJ Smith); 0204 (RJ Smith); 0205 (RJ Smith);
 0210 (RJ); 0301 (RJ); 0302 (RJ); 0304 (RJ);
 0306 (RJ); 0308 (RJ)
 Stephen Friedrich 1
 0205 (Jeffrey Gordon)
 Amber Friendly 18
 0101 (Layla); 0103 (Layla); 0104 (Layla); 0105 (Layla);
 0106 (Layla); 0107 (Layla); 0108 (Layla); 0110
 (Layla); 0201 (Layla Bell); 0203 (Layla Bell);
 0204 (Layla Bell); 0205 (Layla Bell); 0206 (Layla
 Bell); 0210 (Layla Bell); 0302 (Layla); 0303
 (Layla); 0308 (Layla); 0310 (Layla)
 Stephen Fry 5
 0302 (Leonard Cromwell); 0303 (Leonard Cromwell);
 0304 (Leonard Cromwell); 0307 (Leonard Cromwell);
 0310 (Leonard Cromwell)
 Ivan Fuchs 1
 0106 (Man in Pilot)

G

Michael Gallagher 1
 0203 (Paparazzo #1)
 Janina Gavankar 14
 0101 (Alison Namazi); 0102 (Alison Namazi); 0103
 (Alison Namazi); 0104 (Alison Namazi); 0105
 (Alison Namazi); 0106 (Alison Namazi); 0107
 (Alison Namazi); 0108 (Alison Namazi); 0110
 (Alison Namazi); 0201 (Alison Namazi); 0202
 (Alison Namazi); 0203 (Alison Namazi); 0204
 (Alison Namazi); 0206 (Alison Namazi)
 Deborah Geffner 1
 0101 (Kassie Spitzer Crisis Specialist)
 Ellen Gerstein 1
 0102 (Woman)
 Ron Gilbert 1
 0206 (Tom Ballantine)
 James Gleason 1
 0209 (Uncle Mike)
 John Gloria 1
 0210 (Dr. Vincent Botz)
 Julie Goldman 1
 0102 (TMS Desk Security Guard)
 Valeria Golino 8
 0202 (Paola Lambruschini); 0203 (Paola Lambrus-
 chini); 0204 (Paola Lambruschini); 0205 (Paola

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Lambruschini; 0207 (Paola Lambruschini); 0208 (Paola Lambruschini); 0209 (Paola Lambruschini); 0210 (Paola Lambruschini)

Ian Gomez 8
 0101 (Greg); 0102 (Greg); 0103 (Greg); 0104 (Greg); 0105 (Greg); 0106 (Greg); 0108 (Greg); 0110 (Greg)

Krystin Goodwin 1
 0201 (Tabitha Roberts)

Allan Graf 1
 0101 (Joe)

Harley Graham 1
 0104 (Young Bradley)

Elizabeth Greer 1
 0102 (Lisa Paushter)

Dave Grohl 1
 0204 (Foo Fighters)

Violet Grohl 1
 0204 (Foo Fighters' Background Vocalist)

Barbara Gruska 1
 0204 (Foo Fighters' Background Vocalist)

Paul Guilfoyle 1
 0108 (Reid)

Kerry Gutierrez 1
 0210 (Marcy)

H

Jason Halbert 1
 0104 (Pianist)

Zuri Hall 1
 0102 (E! Reporter)

Tony von Halle 1
 0201 (Phil)

Kelli Dawn Hancock 1
 0110 (Woman at Bar)

Marcia Gay Harden 10
 0102 (Maggie); 0103 (Maggie); 0105 (Maggie); 0107 (Maggie); 0109 (Maggie); 0110 (Maggie); 0203 (Maggie Brener); 0205 (Maggie Brener); 0209 (Maggie Brener); 0309 (Maggie Brener)

Mark Harelik 3
 0103 (Richard); 0105 (Richard); 0202 (Richard)

Maurice Harris Jr. 1
 0108 (Drum Major)

John Hartmann 1
 0310 (Interviewer)

Hannah Hawkins 1
 0108 (Dancer)

Taylor Hawkins 1
 0204 (Foo Fighters)

Kristina Hayes 1
 0202 (Sally)

Christine Heneise 1
 0204 (Cocktail Waitress / Italy Tourist)

Briana Henry 2
 0101 (Alyssa); 0106 (Alyssa)

Armie Hicks Jr. 1
 0302 (Tech Guy)

J.D. Hinton 1
 0101 (Bob Stephens)

Dana Holm 1
 0108 (Dancer)

Ken Holmes 7
 0101 (Businessman); 0102 (Businessman); 0103 (Businessman); 0105 (Businessman); 0107 (Businessman); 0109 (Businessman); 0110 (Businessman)

Ryan Alexander Holmes 1
 0203 (Ian)

Ann Hu 1

0209 (Sasha Press Coordinator)

Logan Hulick 1
 0304 (Ad Exec #1)

I

Tom Irwin 16
 0101 (Fred); 0102 (Fred); 0103 (Fred); 0104 (Fred); 0105 (Fred); 0106 (Fred); 0107 (Fred); 0108 (Fred); 0109 (Fred); 0110 (Fred); 0202 (Fred Micklen); 0203 (Fred Micklen); 0205 (Fred Micklen); 0209 (Fred Micklen); 0304 (Fred Micklen); 0308 (Fred Micklen)

Mark Ivanir 1
 0206 (Al)

Theo Iyer 13
 0201 (Kyle); 0202 (Kyle); 0203 (Kyle); 0204 (Kyle); 0205 (Kyle); 0210 (Kyle); 0301 (Kyle); 0302 (Kyle); 0303 (Kyle); 0304 (Kyle); 0305 (Kyle); 0307 (Kyle); 0309 (Kyle)

J

Cheyenne Jackson 1
 0105 (Cheyenne Jackson)

Christian Jacob 1
 0105 (Pianist)

Rami Jaffe 1
 0204 (Foo Fighters)

David Jahn 1
 0105 (Desk Clerk)

Sean Alexander James 7
 0108 (Security Guard); 0204 (Jimbo); 0206 (Jimbo); 0208 (Jimbo); 0209 (Jimbo); 0210 (Jimbo); 0307 (Jimbo)

Aflamu Johnson 6
 0205 (Aflamu); 0206 (Aflamu); 0210 (Aflamu); 0302 (Aflamu); 0303 (Aflamu); 0310 (Aflamu)

Andre Johnson 2
 0104 (Stage Manager); 0106 (Stage Manager)

Jamal Lloyd Johnson 1
 0308 (Preston)

Kristin Johnson 1
 0108 (Dancer)

Jeni Jones 1
 0101 (Guest Star)

John Marshall Jones 1
 0101 (Noah)

John Patrick Jordan 1
 0104 (Tom)

K

Judy Kain 1
 0201 (Adele)

Mindy Kaling 7
 0102 (Audra); 0105 (Audra); 0107 (Audra); 0205 (Audra); 0206 (Audra); 0301 (Audra); 0308 (Audra)

Adam J. Kang 1
 0301 (Photographer)

Sohm Kapila 1
 0209 (Desiree Bowers ACSN Anchor)

Tara Karsian 11
 0201 (Gayle Burns); 0203 (Gayle Burns); 0204 (Gayle Burns); 0206 (Gayle Burns); 0208 (Gayle Burns); 0209 (Gayle Burns); 0301 (Gayle Burns); 0302 (Gayle Burns); 0306 (Gayle Burns); 0307 (Gayle Burns); 0309 (Gayle Burns)

Daniel Kash 1

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0305 (Seth)
 Hayley Keown 1
 0202 (Female Assistant)
 Jennifer Kim 2
 0301 (Leigh); 0303 (Leigh)
 Michelle Kim 1
 0105 (Hostess)
 Rebecca Klingler 1
 0202 (Tammy)
 Katherine Ko 9
 0101 (Dhillon); 0103 (Dhillon); 0104 (Dhillon); 0105 (Dhillon); 0106 (Dhillon); 0107 (Dhillon); 0108 (Dhillon); 0109 (Dhillon); 0110 (Dhillon)
 Meagan Kong 1
 0108 (Dancer)
 Pramode Kumar 1
 0103 (Cab Driver)

L

Ephraim López 1
 0210 (Shopkeeper)
 Titus Lam 1
 0308 (Baker 2)
 Marita de Lara 1
 0310 (Sarah)
 Josh Latzer 1
 0209 (Roy)
 Hannah Leder 22
 0101 (Isabella); 0102 (Isabella); 0104 (Isabella); 0105 (Isabella); 0108 (Isabella); 0109 (Isabella); 0110 (Isabella); 0201 (Isabella); 0202 (Isabella); 0203 (Isabella); 0204 (Isabella); 0205 (Isabella); 0206 (Isabella); 0209 (Isabella); 0301 (Isabella); 0302 (Isabella); 0303 (Isabella); 0304 (Isabella); 0306 (Isabella); 0308 (Isabella); 0309 (Isabella); 0310 (Isabella)
 Nanrisa Lee 2
 0101 (Local Reporter 1); 0108 (Local News Reporter)
 Zak Lee 1
 0204 (Professore Viola)
 Andrew Leeds 1
 0101 (Alan)
 Alice Lin 1
 0106 (Jimmy's Grandmother)
 Lisa London 1
 0110 (Landlord)
 Aven Lotz 1
 0310 (Young Bradley)
 Kyle Louis 1
 0304 (Ad Exec #2)
 Damien Luvara 1
 0301 (Cop)
 Meredith Scott Lynn 1
 0303 (Linda)

M

Hayes MacArthur 1
 0110 (Marlon Tate)
 Tristen MacDonald 1
 0304 (Kendra)
 Laura Mace 1
 0204 (Foo Fighters' Background Vocalist)
 Benjamin Mackey 2
 0108 (Jeff Kessler); 0202 (Jeff Kessler)
 Judah Mackey 3
 0108 (Teddy Kessler); 0202 (Teddy Kessler); 0208 (Teddy Kessler)
 David Magidoff 6

0101 (Nicky); 0103 (Nicky); 0104 (Nicky); 0105 (Nicky); 0107 (Nicky); 0108 (Nicky)
 Kathlee Mangan 1
 0108 (Dancer)
 Chris Mann 1
 0307 (Patrick)
 Joe Marinelli 21
 0101 (Donny); 0102 (Donny); 0103 (Donny); 0104 (Donny); 0105 (Donny); 0106 (Donny); 0107 (Donny); 0108 (Donny); 0110 (Donny); 0201 (Donny Spagnoli); 0203 (Donny Spagnoli); 0204 (Donny Spagnoli); 0206 (Donny Spagnoli); 0208 (Donny Spagnoli); 0209 (Donny Spagnoli); 0210 (Donny Spagnoli); 0301 (Donny Spagnoli); 0302 (Donny Spagnoli); 0303 (Donny Spagnoli); 0308 (Donny Spagnoli); 0310 (Donny Spagnoli)
 Rachael Markarian 1
 0108 (Dancer)
 Warren Marks 1
 0203 (Crew Member)
 Hannah Marshall 1
 0103 (Veronique)
 Jacqueline Mazarella 1
 0101 (Trisha Marino)
 Gugu Mbatha-Raw 1
 0208 (Hannah Shoenfeld)
 Helene McCardle 1
 0101 (Senator)
 J. Anthony McCarthy 1
 0206 (Weaver)
 Fred Melamed 2
 0101 (Mitch's Agent); 0103 (Mitch's Agent)
 Nate Mendel 1
 0204 (Foo Fighters)
 Anneris Mercedes 1
 0210 (Blaine E.R. Receptionist)
 Michelle Meredith 13
 0101 (Lindsey); 0103 (Lindsey); 0104 (Lindsey); 0105 (Lindsey); 0108 (Lindsey); 0110 (Lindsey); 0201 (Lindsey Sherman); 0202 (Lindsey Sherman); 0203 (Lindsey Sherman); 0205 (Lindsey Sherman); 0206 (Lindsey Sherman); 0208 (Lindsey); 0209 (Lindsey)
 Alano Miller 3
 0303 (Marcus Hunter); 0307 (Marcus Hunter); 0309 (Marcus Hunter)
 Hasan Minhaj 4
 0201 (Eric); 0202 (Eric Nomani); 0203 (Eric Nomani); 0205 (Eric Nomani)
 Edie Mirman 1
 0210 (E.R. Phone Nurse)
 Roman Mitichyan 4
 0101 (Sam); 0103 (Sam); 0104 (Sam); 0106 (Sam)
 Anthony Molinari 2
 0201 (Jake (Alex's Driver)); 0209 (Jake)
 Natalie Morales 4
 0305 (Kate Danton); 0307 (Kate Danton); 0308 (Kate Danton); 0310 (Kate Danton)
 Julian Morris 1
 0105 (Andrew)
 David Morse 1
 0105 (Mr. Jackson)
 Shane Munson 1
 0107 (Samantha)
 Sean Muramatsu 1
 0307 (Reporter (Rui Tanaka))

N

Emmie Nagata 1
 0304 (Erica)

Costa Nicholas	1
0101 (Doorman)	
Hank Northrop	1
0101 (Unruly Protestor)	
Paul Norwood	1
0209 (Randall)	
Tig Notaro	7
0301 (Amanda Robinson); 0303 (Amanda Robinson); 0306 (Amanda Robinson); 0307 (Amanda Robinson); 0308 (Amanda Robinson); 0309 (Amanda Robinson); 0310 (Amanda Robinson)	

O

Brittany O'Connor	1
0108 (Dancer)	
Noreen O'Neill	1
0105 (Barista)	
Ahna O'Reilly	2
0102 (Ashley Brown); 0104 (Ashley)	
Arianna Ortiz	1
0210 (Pamela)	
Mike Ostroski	1
0302 (Victor)	

P

Joe Pacheco	17
0103 (Bart); 0104 (Bart); 0105 (Bart); 0107 (Bart); 0108 (Bart); 0110 (Bart); 0201 (Bart Daley); 0203 (Bart Daley); 0204 (Bart Daley); 0206 (Bart Daley); 0208 (Bart Daley); 0209 (Bart Daley); 0210 (Bart Daley); 0301 (Bart Daley); 0302 (Bart Daley); 0308 (Bart Daley); 0310 (Bart Daley)	
Nikhil Pai	1
0104 (Research Expert)	
David Paymer	1
0205 (Hannah's Father)	
Scott Peat	1
0306 (Ryder Flynt)	
Esther Perel	1
0301 (Esther Perel)	
Elizabeth Perkins	1
0309 (Elena)	
Kim Pettiford	1
0301 (Stylist)	
Chris V. Pipkin	1
0105 (Waiter)	
Ashley Platz	1
0301 (Lena)	
Eyal Podell	1
0307 (Larry Pane)	
Jeff Pomerantz	1
0108 (Drew)	
Adina Porter	3
0101 (Sarah); 0102 (Sarah); 0103 (Sarah)	
Bel Powley	2
0208 (Claire Conway); 0209 (Claire Conway)	
Ferly Prado	1
0108 (Dancer)	
Augustus Prew	8
0101 (Sean); 0102 (Sean); 0103 (Sean); 0104 (Sean); 0105 (Sean); 0106 (Sean); 0108 (Sean); 0110 (Sean)	

Q

Christina Quarternik	1
0108 (Dancer)	

R

Andrew Patrick Ralston	1
0301 (Elmer)	
Candice Ramirez	3
0204 (Jasmyn); 0205 (Jasmyn); 0210 (Jasmyn)	
June Diane Raphael	2
0303 (Eagle News Anchor); 0310 (Eagle News Anchor)	
Giuseppe Raucci	1
0207 (Italian Police Officer)	
Retta	1
0304 (Retta)	
Erika Ringor	2
0202 (Mandy Schaeffer); 0203 (Mandy Schaeffer)	
Zakary Risinger	1
0104 (Young Hal)	
Chris Rivaro	1
0109 (Security Guard Billy)	
Shelley Robertson	1
0104 (Janet)	
Oona Roche	8
0101 (Lizzy); 0102 (Lizzy); 0103 (Lizzy); 0107 (Lizzy); 0110 (Lizzy); 0201 (Lizzy Craig); 0204 (Lizzy Craig); 0207 (Lizzy)	
Romy Rosemont	1
0107 (Sheila)	

S

Buckley Sampson	1
0106 (Kate)	
Kelli Scates	1
0308 (Photographer)	
Jordan Seigel	1
0102 (Musician)	
Michael Seitz	1
0108 (Spencer)	
Mark Seliger	1
0307 (Mark Seliger)	
Maria Sharapova	1
0109 (Maria Sharapova)	
Amy Shaughnessy	5
0203 (Control Room Producer); 0204 (Control Room Producer); 0205 (Control Room Producer); 0206 (Control Room Producer); 0208 (Control Room Producer)	
Benjamin Shepherd	1
0102 (Musician)	
Chris Shiflett	1
0204 (Foo Fighters)	
Eliza Shin	1
0305 (Roberta)	
Martin Short	3
0103 (The Director); 0108 (Dick Lundy); 0209 (Dick Lundy)	
Samantha Sidley	1
0204 (Foo Fighters' Background Vocalist)	
Joseph James Sloan Jr	1
0110 (Camera Operator)	
Samantha Sloyan	1
0306 (Cheryl)	
Pat Smear	1
0204 (Foo Fighters)	
Brian Bowen Smith	1
0107 (Photographer)	
Krishna Smitha	1
0203 (Noorean Gill)	
Clive Standen	4
0302 (Andre Ford); 0304 (Andre Ford); 0305 (Andre Ford); 0308 (Andre Ford)	

The Morning Show Episode Guide

Brian Stelter..... 1
 0206 (Carl Richardson)

Stefanie Stevens..... 2
 0206 (Dr. Gwen Zeegers-Bottum); 0209 (Dr. Gwen Zeegers-Bottum)

Kevin Stidham..... 1
 0207 (ACSN British Anchor)

Nancy Stone..... 1
 0101 (Jenna Macantire)

Kelly Sullivan..... 1
 0104 (Vicki Manderly)

Traci Swartz..... 1
 0108 (Dancer)

Stacey Swift..... 1
 0305 (Sam)

T

Victoria Tate..... 24
 0101 (Rena); 0102 (Rena); 0103 (Rena); 0104 (Rena); 0105 (Rena); 0106 (Rena); 0107 (Rena); 0108 (Rena); 0109 (Rena); 0110 (Rena); 0201 (Rena Robinson); 0202 (Rena Robinson); 0203 (Rena Robinson); 0204 (Rena Robinson); 0205 (Rena Robinson); 0206 (Rena Robinson); 0208 (Rena Robinson); 0209 (Rena Robinson); 0210 (Rena Robinson); 0301 (Rena Robinson); 0302 (Rena Robinson); 0303 (Rena Robinson); 0308 (Rena Robinson); 0310 (Rena Robinson)

Dendrie Taylor..... 1
 0107 (Yvette)

Holland Taylor..... 9
 0202 (Cybil Richards); 0204 (Cybil Richards); 0206 (Cybil Richards); 0210 (Cybil Richards); 0301 (Cybil Richards); 0302 (Cybil Richards); 0303 (Cybil Richards); 0309 (Cybil Richards); 0310 (Cybil Richards)

Marie-Françoise Theodore..... 1
 0202 (Melissa)

Danielle Thorpe..... 1
 0210 (E.R. Doctor)

Leslie Thurston..... 1
 0305 (Jackie)

Joe Tippett..... 12
 0101 (Hal Jackson); 0103 (Hal); 0104 (Hal); 0109 (Hal); 0206 (Hal Jackson); 0209 (Hal Jackson); 0210 (Hal Jackson); 0301 (Hal Jackson); 0305 (Hal Jackson); 0306 (Hal Jackson); 0309 (Hal Jackson); 0310 (Hal Jackson)

Patti Tippo..... 1
 0209 (Lauren Kessler)

Mark Totty..... 1
 0201 (Jeremy Brian)

Virginia Tran..... 1
 0301 (Assistant Director)

Cory Tucker..... 1
 0105 (Guy at Table)

U

Alain Uy..... 1
 0106 (Jimmy)

V

Angelo Vacco..... 1
 0210 (Gary)

Kate Vernon..... 5
 0102 (Geneva); 0103 (Geneva); 0105 (Geneva); 0106 (Geneva); 0108 (Geneva)

Jayson Victor..... 1
 0309 (Rehab Staff)

Ilia Volok..... 2
 0304 (Pavlo); 0307 (Pavlo)

W

Paull Walia..... 2
 0304 (Sahil); 0310 (Sahil)

Christopher Wallinger..... 1
 0105 (Security Guard Russ)

Ingrid Walters..... 1
 0310 (Simone)

Danni Wang..... 1
 0203 (Jun)

Jesse Wang..... 1
 0203 (Chinese Conductor)

Natalia Warner..... 2
 0102 (Cecily); 0104 (Cecily)

Greg Webster..... 1
 0102 (Musician)

Countrified Wedman..... 2
 0203 (Paparazzo #2); 0209 (Paparazzo)

Terryn Westbrook..... 1
 0202 (Fay Ohoa)

Midnight White..... 1
 0210 (DJ Dennis)

Richard Whiten..... 1
 0108 (Paul)

Ashleigh Wilson..... 1
 0108 (Dancer)

Stephen L. Wilson..... 1
 0210 (Sick Man)

Brad Lee Wind..... 1
 0205 (Kenny)

Paul Witten..... 2
 0101 (Austin); 0106 (Austin)

Christopher Wolfe..... 1
 0209 (Yancy Hinkle ENL Anchor)

Jason W. Wong..... 1
 0310 (Maitre D')

Shannon Woodward..... 1
 0308 (Jess Bennett)

Z

Carolyn Zeller..... 1
 0105 (Jane)

Yuli Zorrilla..... 1
 0301 (Luna Garcia)

Christian Zuber..... 4
 0102 (Fred's Assistant); 0104 (Fred's Assistant); 0108 (Fred's Assistant); 0110 (Fred's Assistant)

Taissa Zweiter..... 1
 0307 (Daisy Rodriguez)