HOLLY WOULDN'T

Written by

Amanda Palasciano

Based on a hyperbolic version of the truth

HOLLY WOULDN'T - PILOT "HOT TOTTIE-LATES"

FADE IN

INT. BAGGAGE CLAIM (LAX AIRPORT) - AFTERNOON

A sharp-tongued Italian/Jew, HOLLY SIEGEL, late 20's, is hurriedly crushing a cigarette butt on her high heel, through automatic doors.

A SUITCASE rounds a creaky conveyor circle. The luggage tag reads <u>Holly Siegel</u>.

An ornery crowd of business singles, arm-in-arm twosomes and fragmented families wait - patiently. Every single person looks down at some device or digital apparatus.

HOLLY

Wait, wa- wait wait!

Holly pummels through a linked twosome to retrieve the suitcase. One half of twosome, a young HIPSTER with a poorly-grown mustache waits for her to look at him.

HIPSTER

You do know it goes around again right?

HIPSTER'S OTHER HALF

(to Hipster)

Don't be confrontational

Holly ignores them both. She manhandles her luggage. A PACK OF PARLIAMENT LIGHTS falls to the floor.

HIPSTER

I said you do know it goes around again, right?

HOLLY

Listen. I chose to ignore you for your own benefit. I just got off a red eye knee deep in nicotine withdrawal. If I answered you I would have told you that when you live west of Brooklyn, the mustache looks stupid.

Hipster pets his face, like a ferret.

HIPSTER

I live in Bed Stuy.

HOTITIY

Then I take it back. No matter where you live it looks stupid.

HIPSTER'S OTHER HALF

(to Holly)

You are just so overwrought right now. So. Overwrought. So full of angst. And "RAWRRR." Oh dear, you are in need of some cleansing. DO you do Pilates?

Holly chokes on a laugh.

HIPSTER'S OTHER HALF (CONT'D)

Here take my card.

HOLLY

Oh that won't be necessary.

HIPSTER'S OTHER HALF

I insist.

HOTITY

But I won't use it.

HIPSTER'S OTHER HALF

That's okay. No one here does.

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD

(o.s.)

Miss?

The three turn from awkward business card peddling. An AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD is stomping out a small OPEN FIRE on the carpet fringes.

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Was this your cigarette?

INT. HERTZ RENTAL CAR (LAX AIRPORT) - ONE HOUR LATER

Holly is at the way back of a long line. No one is irritated by the line but her.

INT. HERTZ RENTAL CAR - EVEN LATER

Holly has made it to the front of the line. Two associates continue a conversation among themselves as though there are no customers.

HOLLY

Really?

ASSOCIATE ONE

(through continuous smile)
Hi. Will you be getting liability
insurance on your vehicle today?

HOLLY

I don't even know what that means. I haven't driven a car in ten years. Do I need it?

ASSOCIATE ONE

Oh I see. We are just doing our due diligence to inform you of your options.

HOLLY

But you didn't.

ASSOCIATE ONE

Didn't what Ma'am?

HOLLY

Inform me of my options.

ASSOCIATE ONE

So you decline?

HOLLY

Yep.

ASSOCIATE ONE

Can we offer you personal automotive insurance?

HOLLY

Are you serious?

EXT. PARKING LOT EXIT BOOTH - MINUTES LATER

Holly rolls down the window. A man, late 50s, reads "HUSTLER Magazine" undeterred.

(to booth attendee)

Excuse me. Can you tell me how to start heading toward the valley?

BOOTH MAN

On purpose?

Booth Man gets a kick out of his own joke and then turns the magazine sideways.

HOLLY

Yes. (Beat) I'm a pornstar.

BOOTH MAN

Well look-y here. I haven't seen you, that's for sure. You must be in categories I don't watch.

HOLLY

(under breath)

As if there are any of those.

Booth Man sets the magazine aside and curls his arm on the ledge, interested.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

The directions...

BOOTH MAN

Okay you're gonna wanna take the 405 past the 10 and the 110 to the 101. Prob-ly get off on Ventura.

HOLLY

What's the the's? Why is everything a the? What is with all the math here? The number this, the number that. Is there a direction as in East or West, North, South?

Booth man has already lost attention. He pulls the centerfold from his magazine.

BOOTH MAN

You know her?

Booth Man turns the un-accordion-folded magazine to Holly.

HOLLY

Yes, she slept over last night. We had a pillow fight. Thanks for the directions.

Holly rolls up the window and lights a cigarette. She flicks her first ash next to the No Smoking sign in the car.

INT. RENTAL CAR - ONE HOUR LATER

Holly bangs her head on her steering wheel. She is stuck in traffic, chain smoking. Her stomach GROWLS. She BLARES her horn.

INT. PIZZA PLACE - LATER

A PIZZA MAN, Mexican-descent, 40's, is shimmying a PIZZA from the stove onto a WOODEN BOARD. He maneuvers it onto a silver circle and turns to tend to the customers.

PIZZA MAN

Yes. What can I get for you?

HOLLY

One small pie.

PIZZA MAN

A what?

HOLLY

A pie.

PIZZA MAN

Do I look like some kind of bakery?

HOLLY

Whatever. Pizza. I want pizza.

EXT. PIZZA PLACE - MINUTES LATER

Holly walks out with two boxed slices, bites the first and spits it back into the box.

HOTITY

You can't be serious California.

Three SCIENTOLOGISTS, one MALE and two FEMALE, stand outside the pizza place with CLIPBOARDS and BROCHURES.

MALE SCIENTOLOGIST

Would you like to participate in our free evaluation?

FEMALE SCIENTOLOGIST Have you ever heard of Dianetics?

SECOND FEMALE SCIENTOLOGIST

We can really hone in on your reactive mind, any negative emotions you might be harboring.

Holly takes the other slice of pizza and face plants it onto the clipboard.

HOT₁T₁Y

My negative emotions are not harbored. I'm very in touch with them.

INT. RENTAL CAR (SHERMAN OAKS) - HALF AN HOUR LATER

Holly holds a piece of paper up with an ADDRESS and picture of a Spanish-style building on it. She pans the street and realizes every building looks exactly the same.

HOLLY

(to herself)

Soooo, the one with the stucco, balcony and palm trees.

Holly exits the car and pulls her luggage out. She piles bags onto suitcases and clumsily pushes them down the block.

EXT. - APARTMENT BUILDING - MINUTES LATER

Holly pushes an intercom button. A BUZZ and then LOUD MUSIC is heard through the intercom.

HOLLY

Ha-Hello

INTERCOM VOICE (O.S.)

Yea, hey!

Laughter fills the intercom.

HOLLY

Hi hello? This is Holly. Siegel. I was meeting you for the keys to the apartment swap. I'm a little late but-

INTERCOM VOICE (O.S.)

Yea right on.

Right on what?

Holly looks around. A BUZZER sounds loud and long.

EXT. - APARTMENT COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Holly trudges her bags past a clear pool with adjacent apartments. She is smiling for the first time. It's as though Los Angeles finally did something right.

HOLLY

(to herself)

Okay Melrose Place circa 1993. I'm with ya.

EXT. - APARTMENT 1B DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Holly KNOCKS and waits. She knocks again. ROCK MUSIC is blasting from inside.

HOLLY

Helllooooo

Holly hears MOANING and loud ORGASMIC NOISES.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Really?

Holly trudges to the pool with her luggage. She props her tote bag like a pillow and lays her head down.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING COURTYARD - DAWN

Holly half wakes, opens one eye and wipes drool from her mouth. She is still sleeping by the pool.

EXT. - APARTMENT 1B DOOR - MORNING

Holly is about to knock on the door when MARC ZANE, 26, opens it instead. Marc is Bohemian-ly attractive, messy and smiles like a kid in trouble.

MARC

Oh, hello there.

HOLLY

Hello there?

MARC

That's what I said.

HOLLY

Cmon, how old are you?

MARC

Twenty-six.

HOLLY

(a hard huff)

Yes, well, I'm Holly. The same Holly subletting your apartment. I start a brand new job today. We spoke about this for I don't know, weeks?

MARC

Yes. Hi!

HOLLY

Right. Hi. We also spoke last night. On your intercom. You were buzzing me in, right before you decided to get laid. So, I, your house guest, just spent the night poolside.

MARC

Poolside's nice.

HOLLY

Is there something clinically wrong with you?

MARC

Probably.

HOLLY

Poolside is nice when you're tanning. I was hoping this apartment sublet was for an actual apartment.

MARC

Look, I get it. But for the record, I was like, in the middle, when you buzzed. So then it was like awkward to stop and let you in and then try to figure out how to politely leave the room and then-

Enough. I have to be in suit like twenty minutes ago. A business suit, not a bathing suit in case you are confused. See, because I slept by a pool and that may throw you off.

MARC

See I thought someone was sleeping by the pool, I just thought it was a homeless chick.

HOLLY

And then where did the polite girl on your intercom go?

MARC

Maybe the courtyard bum scared off the polite intercom girl?

HOLLY

Okay. I assume you're leaving soon?

MARC

You're funny! Just relax.

Holly takes a deep breath. Just as she begins to look calmer, a girl walks up behind Marc completely naked.

NAKED GIRL

Marky! Why is the homeless lady at your door?

INT. - COFFEE SHOP - HOURS LATER

Holly is in a tailored suit waiting in line. The baristas move exaggeratedly slow and carry on internal conversation.

BARISTA

Hello! What can I get your morning started with today to make it a good morning?

HOLLY

Um. Yea. I'll just take a large coffee.

BARISTA

Oh my God, are you from New York? Can you say it again?

Say what?

BARISTA

Ya know. (Giggles) Caw-fee.

SECOND BARISTA

(clapping)

Aaah! I love it! Caw-fee. Cawwww-fee. Again again.

BARISTA

I hear people from New York are like so mean. Is that true?

HOLLY

Look, I need to get to work. I'm sure these other fine patrons need to get to work as well.

CUSTOMER BEHIND HOLLY

Nope. Screenwriter.

Holly pans the two-top tables that line the room.

SEATED CUSTOMER 1

Screenwriter.

SEATED CUSTOMER 2

Screenwriter.

SEATED CUSTOMER 3

Screenwriter.

HOLLY

Does anyone here have a job? That they need to be at?

Holly retrieves her change and coffee and walks out.

EXT. - PARKING LOT - "BRIGHT RAINED MEDIA" (STUDIO CITY) - DAY

Holly pulls between two cars. One LICENSE PLATE reads IMACELEB and the other reads SHOWBIZ1.

HOLLY

(to herself)

Oh, you're a celeb alright. You and show biz one are quite special.

INT. - "BRIGHT RAINED MEDIA" OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Holly is waiting for a BUSTY BLOND RECEPTIONIST to look at her. The receptionist is ignoring the phone as it rings and reads lines of a script to herself instead.

HOLLY

Excuse me, sorry to er, bother you.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh, I'm not the receptionist.

HOLLY

Oh. Sorry. Well, my name is Holly Siegel and I am starting today-

RECEPTIONIST

You'll have to tell the receptionist.

HOLLY

Well, do you know where I might find the receptionist?

RECEPTIONIST

Oh you totally fell for it! See, I AM the receptionist.

HOLLY

Look at that!

RECEPTIONIST

But I'm in character right now. A zombie hooker, so ya know, I can't act like real me.

HOLLY

That's lovely. Okay so how do I explain this? See, real live me, Holly, is real live late. How would I tell zombie hooker, you, to tell the receptionist, (whispers) whomeever that might be, to buzz the boss?

RECEPTIONIST

(snorts)

Duh. I can tell myself.

HOLLY

Right.

Holly walks to the lobby couch. The entire lobby is filled with creative art sculptures in glass casings.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Right brained. I getcha.

Holly thumbs through a book.

RECEPTIONIST

(in phone)

Mr. Simmons? You don't know who this is, but someone named Holly Siegel is-. Yes. Great.

She hangs up. Holly gives her a death stare.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

(to Holly)

You can head back. They're all in the morning meeting. Just around the bend, first room on your right. I think.

HOLLY

Thanks.

INT. - MEETING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

A LONG WOOD SLAB with mismatched chairs along the permineter serves as a conference table and seats nine colleagues, all in shorts, Khackis, flip flops, spaghetti strap dresses and tank tops. A salt-and-peppered haired man, JACK SIMMONS, 43, is the only one standing. He enthusiastically uses a WHITEBOARD. A CHIHUAHUA stares from the corner of the room.

JACK SIMMONS

Yes that's all fine and well but how do you expect one campaign to pop over the next if they use identical branding?

FEMALE COLLEAGUE

You just have to see the trees for the forest.

JACK SIMMONS

It's forest for the trees.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE

Whatever.

Holly stands awkwardly overdressed in a suit.

(clears throat)

Sorry, the er, receptionist said-

JACK SIMMONS

Ms. Siegel. We're just wrapping up our Monday morning meeting. Have a seat, absorb. Don't mind Widget, she's harmless.

Holly looks at the dog then pulls a chair between two people that look her age: LILA FRANCE and CHRIS VETNOR. Lila is the quintessential California type, holistic. She peels the skin of an UNKNOWN FRUIT during the meeting. A YOGURT PARFAIT is in front of her. Her pencils are sharpened to a point. Chris is half awake and wearing a "Sonic Youth" t-shirt with a bow tie.

LILA

(to Holly)

Persimmon?

HOLLY

What? No.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(to room)

I apologize for being late, I am just-

JACK SIMMONS

Noooo worries. It happens.

JACK SIMMONS (CONT'D)

(to room)

As I was telling everyone, I have hired a replacement for Sue out of New York. Holly here is a spitfire of a copywriter and will make an uber amazing addition to our family. Everyone, behave.

Jack shoots a look at Chris, who is now awake.

CHRIS

(to Holly)

Hey do you have any friends in New York in need of any green?

HOLLY

People still smoke pot?

CHRIS

I hope so. Or I don't have a job.

Don't you work here?

Chris laughs. A KNOCK comes at the door. It's the non receptionist receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Simmons, I have to go. I have an audition.

JACK SIMMONS

Jaden. I am thrilled you have an audition. But I need my phones covered until 5 PM. It is almost 10 AM. See where that causes an issue?

JADEN

I know, I know. I feel super bad but this is for a lead and honestly, I really don't want to work here anyway. My mom said I need the benefits.

CHRTS

That would been a good time to use your acting chops Jaden!

JACK SIMMONS

Okay, well if you leave, don't bother coming back tomorrow.

JADEN

Because you totally think I'm gonna get it. Like the secret? Are you willing me the part right now?

JACK SIMMONS

Let me rephrase that. You don't have to come back at all.

JADEN

Sweet!

Mr. Simmons continues the meeting without missing a beat.

HOLLY

It's probably not my place, but I think she is really leaving.

JACK SIMMONS

Third one this month.

INT. - "RIGHT BRAINED MEDIA" OFFICE CUBICLES - ONE HOUR LATER

Holly is at Lila's heels, rounding the cubicles and concluding a tour of the office.

LILA

We also have a de-stress room in the back. It promotes a healthier work environment.

HOTITY

Who's hairbrained idea was that?

LILA

Mine.

HOTITIY

Oh.

CUT TO:

A MAN IS DOING YOGA IN A TINY ROOM IN THE BACK WHILE A GIRL BEHIND HIM MOVES SLOWLY WITH A SHEER SCARF.

INT. - "RIGHT BRAINED MEDIA" OFFICE CUBICLES - CONTINUOUS

HOLLY

I still don't get it.

LILA

It's quite nice. You can just go in there and just breathe.

HOLLY

Oh I don't breathe.

LILA

Sorry?

HOLLY

Yea I don't like breathing any more than I have to.

Holly and Lila reach the office kitchen. Chris is pouring himself a cup of coffee.

INT. - "RIGHT BRAINED MEDIA" KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CHRTS

Ladies. Coffee?

Lila walks to a drawer filled with tea varieties instead. Chris leans on the wall in no rush to go back to work.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Did you guys know that coffee enemas are like super healthy for you?

Holly puts the cup down she was about to pour.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I'm serious! They are dope. Work like a charm too.

LILA

Well I'm not thirsty anymore. Holly?

HOLLY

I'm good.

LILA

(to Chris)

You're a jerk.

CHRIS

(to Lila)

Did you tell her about the 5 o'clock game yet?

HOLLY

What's the 5 o'clock game?

LILA

That's just Chris's name for people who work late.

CHRIS

Oh my God it is so much more than that. So everyone here plays this waiting game at 5. No one wants to be the first to leave so they outwait each other. It's funny as Hell.

LILA

It's not that bad.

CHRIS

Not that bad? Holly, people will literally get up to go and then pretend they were just going to the copier instead.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

They grill each other the second a chair moves backwards.

HOLLY

I'm used to working until like 7.

LILA AND CHRIS

(in unison)
Seven?!

HOTITY

Sometimes later.

CHRIS

Well, then you'll totally win the 5 o'clock game. I lose like everyday.

Lila and Holly exit the kitchen. Chris stays.

INT. - HOLLY'S NEW DESK - LATER

Holly is exhaling vapor from an ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE. No one at "Bright Rained" smokes. Her phone RINGS. She ducks to finish her exhale, then comes back up to answer it.

HOLLY

(with trepidation)

This is Holly.

LILA

Would you want to come with me tonight to hot yoga? It might help you center.

HOLLY

Center what?

Holly pulls on her fake cigarette.

LILA

Yourself.

HOLLY

No thanks. I feel centered. Front and centered. I don't like yoga. Or yogurt for that matter.

LILA

No worries.

HOTITY

Yea.

Holly hangs up the phone. It rings again immediately.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Hello?

LILA

Is it just yoga?

Holly drops her head down to the desk in frustration. She keeps speaking in this position.

HOLLY

Is what just yoga?

LILA

Because I have hot-tottie-lates on Thursday. It's like Pilates. But hot and with amazing tea.

Holly perks up a bit.

HOLLY

Wait like whiskey? A hot tottie is-Nevermind. No. I'm not really an exerciser.

LILA

No worries.

HOLLY

Great.

LILA

I know I love you too.

HOLLY

Wait what? C'mon. Is that some spiritual LA hang up the phone with peace mambo jambo?

Lila giggles. She has the phone off the extension. Holly rounds the cube to hers. Lila is on VIDEO FACETIME with a MALE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Okay. Totally thought you were talkin' to me. I guess this is less weird.

She spins around to leave.

LILA

Oh! Ha, no! This is Stan. Say hi Stan.

STAN

(on video)

Hiiiiii

HOLLY

Hi?

LILA

Stan is my boyfriend. We stay on video chat all day. It really helps strengthen our relationship. He feels like a part of my work environment and vise versa.

HOLLY

Wait you're being serious.

Lila is blowing kisses at her screen. Holly takes a drag from the fake cigarette, it is out of fumes. She tosses it in a wastebasket. Another colleague walks by.

OTHER COLLEAGUE (to computer on Lila's desk)

Hey Stan.

INT. JACK SIMMONS' OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Jack Simmons is putting golf in his office. He has panoramic windows overlooking Studio City. He is mentally willing himself on the green. There is a KNOCK at his door. He throws the club under his desk.

JACK SIMMONS

(startled)

Come in!

Holly enters his office, charging.

HOLLY

Mr. Simmons, I quit. I'm sorry. This place just isn't for me. LA, not the job. I-

JACK SIMMONS

No worries.

HOLLY

(fuming)

See. That's just it. I worries. Holly worries. Doesn't anyone around here worry about anything?

JACK SIMMONS

I beg your pardon.

HOLLY

Doesn't it get old? The whole passive aggressive (uses air quotes) "no worries," yoga and tea land?

JACK SIMMONS

Doesn't your negative, half-empty, over caffeinated, over-analyzed world get old to you Ms. Siegel?

There is a taken aback BEAT.

HOTITIY

Τ-

JACK SIMMONS

Look, if you don't want to be here, I'm not going to stop you. Jaden left this morning. We got our phones covered didn't we? Not everyone can hack it in LA.

HOLLY

With all due respect sir, it isn't that I can't hack it.

JACK SIMMONS

Isn't it?

Holly is frozen.

HOLLY

Fine. I want my job back.

JACK SIMMONS

I can't do that. Company policy.

HOLLY

But-

JACK SIMMONS

Relax! I'm only kidding. Remember how passive aggressive we are?

Jack winks.

HOLLY

I'm a New Yorker. We can hack anything.

JACK SIMMONS We shall see Ms. Siegel.

Holly turns and exits the office like a well tantrumed-out child.

JACK SIMMONS (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Well played Jack, well played.

He retrieves his putter from under his desk.

CLOSE UP on COLLEGE DEGREE on JACK SIMMONS' WALL FROM NYU.

INT. - "RIGHT BRAINED MEDIA" OFFICE CUBICLES - (5:00 PM)

Holly is busy reading a pile of papers. She hears whispering. Across the way, she sees TIM THE ACCOUNTANT swirl his chair around and mouth something diagonally over to Chris.

CHRIS

Nope. Not me. I'm just going to the bathroom. Why you headed out?

MIT

Nah. I have all this here to do still. You know how that goes. 'Nother late night.

ALEX, the girl in the cube next to Jim, begins to get up from her chair.

CHRIS

You leaving for the day Alex?

She sits back down.

ALEX

Me? Oh no I was just fixing my skirt. Why are you outta here?

HOLLY

Oh for Christ's sake. I'm leaving! Have a good night everyone.

EXT. - PARKING LOT OF RIGHT BRAINED MEDIA - DUSK

Holly is sitting in the rental car scribbling on POST IT NOTES. She exits the car and affixes on to the both windows of the vanity-plated vehicles.

CLOSE UP on POST IT NOTES.

Each reads: Vanity Plates are Juvenile

Lila is walking out of the building.

HOLLY

Lila!

Lila turns surprised.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Count me in for hot-tottie-lates. I'm interested in this tea they have there.

T.TT.A

Oh you are going to love it! The tea is magnificent. It really makes the whole experience.

HOTITY

I bet it does.

LILA

All that sweat and good energy.

HOLLY

(under her breath)

And bourbon.

LILA

What?

HOLLY

Oh nothing.

EXT. - APARTMENT 1B DOOR - LATER

Holly is standing at the door of 1B, still having not received her own set of keys. Marc answers in a towel.

HOLLY

So before you leave, I just wanted to get my keys and say I'm sorry we got off on the wrong foot.

MARC

Yea, about that.

HOLLY

What?

MARC

It's minor really. My project fell through, so I'm not leaving. But you can still stay here. We can be like roomies.

HOLLY

There's no way

MARC

I won't even charge you. I feel terrible.

HOLLY

Do you even have two bedrooms?

MARC

I'll take the couch.

HOLLY

I can't make you sleep on the couch in your own house.

MARC

Why not? I had an ex once that made me do it every night. Besides, I can't very well make you sleep on my couch.

HOLLY

So now what?

MARC

We can share the bed.

HOLLY

No.

Marc laughs.

MARC

It was worth a shot. Why don't you just come in and we'll figure it out as we go. How long can it take you to find a place?

HOLLY

How should I know.

Holly walks inside the apartment.

MARC

Why don't you start by telling me what you do.

HOLLY

Why don't you start by putting clothes on.

MARC

Fair trade.

HOLLY

I'm a copywriter.

Holly is surveying the apartment and doesn't notice that Marc dropped his towel and started dressing right there.

MARC

(o.c.)

A girl who's not an actress! Are you for real?

HOLLY

No really I'm an actress who plays a copywriter.

Holly is looking at pictures in Marc's picture frames, still oblivious.

MARC

I'd believe it!

HOLLY

After today, so would I.

MARC

So you moved here just because of work?

She turns and sees him half naked. Her cell phone is vibrating. She looks at the screen uncomfortably and sees the name $\underline{\text{KYLE}}$.

HOLLY

Something like that.

THE END