

LESS SOAP, MORE BLOOD

by

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INT. AGENCY - DAY

ROMA barges into her agent GREGORY'S office.

AGENT

Roma! How are you, dear?

ROMA

Oh come off it. Don't give me that happy Roma dear bullshit.

AGENT

What's wrong?

ROMA

You know what's wrong, Greg. I want to work! I need to work or I'm going to explode out of my mind. I'm sick of these two word, three word lines at these horrible auditions. I can't even get a full sentence nowadays! Am I not good enough for a full sentence at an audition?!

AGENT

Obviously, you're upset.

ROMA

Upset!! I'm angry! I'm angry, Greg. We've been working together for two years! Two years and all you send me out on are soap commercials.

AGENT

Even Ingmar Bergman, one of the most revered filmmakers of all time made soap commercials during his career.

ROMA

Don't give me that shit! You think comparing me to some great foreign director is going to somehow make me feel ecstatic about doing a soap commercial?!

AGENT

Well, to be honest...if you can just calm down and give me a second. I have some interesting news to tell you.

(MORE)

AGENT (CONT'D)

To be honest, I was just about to call you and tell you some good news. It may not be the good news you wish to hear right this instant, but your ears must have been ringing---

ROMA

Just spit it out before I die from suspense.

AGENT

Well...I received a call today...and, as it turns out...there's a director who wants to cast you in something but, before you get crazy, let me just say it's a wonderful opportunity, he's a good director, his short film just got into Sundance.

ROMA

Greg...tell--me what it's for, right now.

AGENT

...It's for a soap commercial.

ROMA

A what?

AGENT (CLEARS HIS THROAT)

A soap commercial.

ROMA

I see.

AGENT

Roma, dear, let me put this into perspective for---

ROMA

Gregory, can I ask you a question?

AGENT

Sure.

ROMA

Okay. Is my work as an actress going to consist of being literally a soap star?

(MORE)

ROMA (CONT'D)

I have five different soap brands sending me free boxes of their products to my home each month. I have enough soap to cleanse all of Hollywood for an entire year.

AGENT

I know, I know but if you take this gig, it will be good for you.

ROMA

For you! It will be good for you! I'm making you money and you're killing my career before it even gets started. What the hell did I do theatre for ten years for?! I played Lady Macbeth! I killed myself over that role! Those lines still penetrate my brain...''blood on my hands!'' I can't take this degrading industry anymore. You better do something for me and you better do it fast. I need something I can sink my fangs into. Give me some meat! I am hungry and I need to eat a giant piece of fat meat right here and (she imitates eating meat in the air) like that and I am a vicious hungry bitch and want to work on a role that will actually show what the hell I'm capable of giving to this sucked out humanity.

Beat.

AGENT

Will you do this commercial? They need to know today?

ROMA

..Yes, since I know I'm needed, Gregory...but this is the last one. The very last one. After this, I want something more. (she walks to the exit and turns to her agent) Less soap, more blood...got it?