

SHRILL

Episode 308

Written by

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Based on a book by

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SHRILL  
 EPISODE 308  
 2ND REVISED PINK DRAFT 12.22.20

CAST

ANNIE	AIDY BRYANT
WILL	CAMERON BRITTON
ANDY	SCOTT ENGDAHL
MAUREEN	JO FIRESTONE
ANGUS	SEAN GUSTAVUS TARJYOTO
AMADI	IAN OWENS
FRAN	LOLLY ADEFOPE
EMILY	E.R. FIGHTMASTER
BILL	DANIEL STERN
VERA	JULIA SWEENEY
MIKAYLA	ERICA SULLIVAN
EMPLOYEE (BAKERY)	ANGELA CHANDRA
GABE	JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL
BONGO	FRED ARMISEN
REALTOR	BETH THOMPSON

LOCATIONS

INTERIORS

WILL'S HOUSE  
 KITCHEN  
 THE THORN  
 BULLPEN  
 AMADI'S DESK  
 GABE'S OFFICE  
 ANNIE & FRAN'S HOUSE  
 SUNROOM  
 KITCHEN  
 ANNIE'S BEDROOM  
 ANNIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE  
 LIVING ROOM  
 BAKERY

EXTERIORS

ANNIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE  
 DRIVEWAY - NIGHT  
 BAKERY  
 PARKING LOT - DAY  
 PORTLAND APARTMENT HOUSE - DAY  
 PORTLAND BRIDGE  
 BENCH - LATE DAY

PICTURE CAR INT./EXT.

ANNIE'S CAR

FRAN sits on the couch and ANNIE, holding an overnight bag, lays completely across it with her arms around Fran. They sit for a long beat, then...

FRAN

Now, we can't make a habit of this every time you leave the house.

ANNIE

I know. But even though you told me a month ago, I just feel like I have to savor it.

FRAN

I'm not dying, I'm moving out. And you stay at Will's most nights anyway. I'm trying to be on board with this.

ANNIE

I know, and I really am happy for you. Alright, I'll go. But can we do our goodbye?

FRAN

Yes. Who's my baby forever?

ANNIE

Me. And who is forever my baby?

FRAN

Me.

They hug.

FRAN (CONT'D)

(lovingly)

You are so stupid.

TITLE CARD: SHRILL

A2 OMITTED.

A2

2 INT. WILL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

2

Annie and Will in the kitchen of his modest house. Things are mismatched after his divorce. Will scrambles eggs and tries to make toast on the George Foreman Grill.

WILL

I don't know how you get away with this. First you seduce me, now I'm forced to make you breakfast.

ANNIE

How's that going over there?

WILL

Great. There's nothing shameful about the Foreman Grill. He's a world champion and he brings that same ethic to his grill.

\*

ANNIE

It's still impressive, I've never had a boyfriend who gets up with me before 9am.

WILL

Well, the children have to learn science at dawn.

ANNIE

That's beautiful! God, everything is still so fucked up at the Thorn.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
(hugging Will)  
Just let me be your full-time  
housewife.

Will laughs.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
I'm serious! Just stay home, vacuum  
naked every day. It kind of sounds  
like the dream right now.

WILL  
No, I think that's actually MY  
dream. Hell, you can power-wash the  
siding naked, re-shingle the roof  
naked...

ANNIE  
Sorry, if we ever get married I'm  
gonna be naked a lot. You can't  
stop me.

WILL  
In my experience marriage is mostly  
fighting about how I peed on the  
toilet seat.

ANNIE  
Well, I've never sat on your pee,  
so that's something to be proud of!

WILL  
Buckle up, baby. It's gonna happen.  
My pee is your future, the rest of  
your life.

Annie perks up at this. Is Will implying that they're going  
to get married eventually?

ANNIE  
You still want to meet at my  
parents' house later?

WILL

Oh, yeah. I can't wait. My hope is to see a picture of you with chicken pox or no teeth. So I'll be there.

He kisses Annie on the head and makes his way to the door. Annie smiles: Will is it.

3

INT. THE THORN - DAY

3

The office is quiet. People stand in clusters, whispering and gossiping, a weird vibe. Annie approaches MAUREEN and ANDY.

ANNIE

Guys, what's going on?

MAUREEN

People are saying Sheila found a buyer for the Thorn. Some massive news conglomerate.

ANDY

Neutral Source News.

MAUREEN

All their articles are just medical fear clickbait. Like, "99 Ways Sugar Is Child Cocaine."

ANNIE

What does Gabe think?

MAUREEN

I don't know. And Ruthie said he's not coming in today.

ANNIE

What? This is a nightmare.

AMADI enters the office and is immediately mobbed by FREAKED-OUT EMPLOYEES demanding answers.

ANDY

Amadi, are we really being sold?

ANGUS

Do I have to write clickbait?

AMADI

Everybody, calm down. Yes,  
unfortunately, I can confirm that  
the Thorn is being sold.

Maureen screams.

AMADI (CONT'D)

But just hang tight, okay? This  
might mean a big change or it might  
not.

MAUREEN

It's gonna be a big change. My  
dad's company got sold and he  
changed from a pharmacist to a full-  
time sad man.

AMADI

Again, there is no need to freak  
out.

QUICK CUT TO:

4

INT. THE THORN - AMADI'S DESK - DAY

4

AMADI

Annie, I'm freaking out. This is  
bad. I got pretty drunk in my  
basement last night.

Annie leans over Amadi's desk, talking quietly.

ANNIE

Oh no, I'm sorry.

AMADI

Man, I just started a college fund  
for my girls. Now I have to pray  
they end up stupid. But they're  
not! They're so smart! It sucks!

ANNIE

God, this is bad.

AMADI

But, maybe it's for the best.  
(MORE)

AMADI (CONT'D)

The Thorn isn't what it used to be.  
Gabe's been phoning it in for a  
while now.

ANNIE

I know, the Thorn used to be so  
cool. Remember all those themed  
issues they used to do?

AMADI

Yeah, I keep the one that was  
completely hand-lettered on my  
wall.

He gestures to an old copy hanging by his desk.

ANNIE

I wish we could start our own  
thing. Where we had creative  
control. We could do that, right?

AMADI

For sure. All we need is a few  
hundred thousand dollars in seed  
money.

(losing steam)

The Thorn is hard to replace.

ANNIE

Yeah, this place gave us a lot.

(getting an idea)

Amadi, what if I write, like, a  
eulogy for the Thorn?

AMADI

Sheila's selling it, Gabe's up in  
book heaven, I don't know who could  
possibly get mad at you. Do it.

5

INT. ANNIE & FRAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

5

FRAN and EMILY sit on the bed in the sunroom. Em is enthusiastically scrolling rental listings on a laptop.

FRAN

Too blue. I'm not going to sleep in a blue house.

EMILY

I just think you need to have an open mind toward some of these places. Be reasonable.

FRAN

I don't want to settle for something worse than where Annie and I live now.

EMILY

Okay, fine. Honestly though, you moving out might be the best thing for both of you.

FRAN

What's that supposed to mean?

EMILY

Fran... You and Annie have kept your vibe from college alive for a lot longer than any adults I know. It might feel good to grow up a bit.

Fran nods, but she doesn't seem convinced. Em scrolls.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Oh my god! This one is amazing! It has a garden and a tiny porch.

FRAN

Honestly, I'd rather live in Henry's horse stable!

EMILY

Wow, throwing my horse in my face.

EMILY (CONT'D)  
(jumping on this)  
There's an open house tomorrow!

FRAN  
Fine. We're going.

6

INT. ANNIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

6

Annie and Will pass through the kitchen to the living room.  
Will looks around.

WILL  
This really is a slice of Annie  
Easton history.

She points to an antique lamp.

ANNIE  
Yeah, this is where I used to hide  
candy wrappers from my mom! Because  
in middle school she was putting me  
on diets all the time.

WILL  
Wow, devastating psychological  
sorrow disguised as a childhood  
anecdote!

ANNIE  
(sexily)  
Just the tip of the iceberg, baby.

Annie plops down on the couch.

WILL  
Well, when we go to my parents'  
house I'll show you my childhood  
collection of "t-shirts to swim  
in."

Will sits and she cuddles up laying her head on his chest.  
They both are content.

ANNIE  
This is kind of my high school  
dream: my parents are gone and my  
boyfriend is on our couch.

WILL  
This is pretty much all I ever want  
to do.

Annie looks up at him, beaming. On the table, Annie's cell phone begins to ring: a FaceTime call with her parents. She answers. They are intercut.

ANNIE

Hi guys!

VERA

Hi! Oh, Will is there too! Hi Will!

WILL

Hi guys! Very weird that now I've been in your house but still haven't met you in person.

BILL

Ha! Well we'll be back soon enough and then you won't be able to get rid of us.

VERA

Yes! Is everything ok there? I think this is the longest we've ever been away!

WILL

Don't worry, I'm keeping an eye on her.

BILL

This is a good man!

VERA

Aww!

ANNIE

Yeah, everything's good. I have a drawer in Will's dresser now, so...

WILL

So she'll probably just sleep in that drawer.

Annie takes this joke and their mornings together to heart...

ANNIE

Yeah, we're actually thinking about moving in together! So when you get back you can come over for dinner!

BILL

Oh great!

VERA

That's wonderful! Oh that just makes me so happy! The best news!

WILL IS STUNNED, THIS IS THE FIRST HE'S HEARING OF IT. He is SHOCKED, but PLAYS ALONG, as the family fawns in celebration.

7

OMITTED.

7

8

EXT. ANNIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

8

Annie locks the front door.

ANNIE

Ok, let's go.

And they turn to walk down the driveway.

WILL

(beat)

So... I didn't realize we were moving in together...

ANNIE

I know! Sorry. It's just we've been staying together so much. And I knew it would make them happy.

WILL

Yeah, sure. It has gotten intense fast.

ANNIE

And honestly, so much is changing but the one thing that feels completely solid is you and me.

WILL

I know, it's all really taken me by surprise. This is the happiest I've been in a really long time, Annie.

At the end of the drive way, Annie stops and goes for it.

ANNIE

Okay, so don't you think we should just do it? Be my roommate who I have sex with?!

She smiles, excited. He gives her a PAINED LOOK.

WILL

Annie, I-- I'm still legally married. I can't just rush into... It's not a good idea. And it wouldn't be fair to Mikayla.

This hits Annie like a ton of bricks.

ANNIE

Mikayla? Yeah... sure, I didn't really think about... her. Sorry. I guess I thought it was more over with Mikayla than it really is...

WILL

Whoa whoa, no. We are splitting up, we don't even talk. I want to be with you. But I was with Mikayla since I was fifteen. You and I have been together two months. If I found out she was moving in with some guy this fast, I'd be hurt by that.

ANNIE

Ok. I'm just selfishly annoyed we have to consider someone I don't know and who... knows you better than I do.

WILL

Annie, being sensitive to her will only make it better for us in the long run. Do you understand?

ANNIE

Yeah, I do I guess.

Will kisses her. Annie then smiles. When she looks away, we see that she is NOT OKAY.

9

INT. ANNIE & FRAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

9

Annie and Fran talk as they make dinner. Annie has her face buried in her phone.

ANNIE

There's like 400 Mikayla Nolan Instagram accounts. I just have to find the one who's fucking my shit up.

FRAN

I've never known a good Mikayla, they're all little fucking smilers.

ANNIE

Oh my god, here she is!

ON HER INSTAGRAM, there is an old photo of Will holding an armful of pastries. Fran rushes over.

FRAN

Wow, I actually admire Will for breaking up with someone with an endless supply of baked goods.

ANNIE

I bet this bakery sucks. Whatever, I'm a human muffin, fuck her.

Annie TAKES A SCREENSHOT of the BAKERY INFO.

FRAN

(fully lying.)

Good. You're handling this really well.

Fran opens the fridge and takes out a BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE.

ANNIE

No, don't drink that! We gotta save it. I stole it from work for your last night in the house.

FRAN

My little klepto! Remember when we moved in? We unpacked, then walked to the river and got wasted by that bridge.

ANNIE

I love that bridge! I hate that this has to end.

FRAN

Yeah... me too. Do you think we've kept our college vibe too long? Like that we use each other as crutches to not move on?

ANNIE

What? No, a crutch is a good thing, we like help each other walk with broken feet.

FRAN

But Em's saying that's a bad thing,  
like we run from shit and tell each  
other that's fine. It just bugged  
me.

Annie nods. Fran seems to be deep in thought. Annie lets her  
be.

10 INT. ANNIE & FRAN'S HOUSE - ANNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT- LATER 10

On the floor is THE BOX OF ANNIE'S THORN issues from 306,  
some are spread on the bed, including issues with HER OWN  
ARTICLES.

Annie, on her bed, works on her LAPTOP. She looks at one of  
the OLD ISSUES. The cover is a photo of GABE screaming.

ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN-- We see the HEADLINE of the article  
she is writing: "RIP: THE THORN WAS MY ROSE." Annie gives a  
small, sad smile, then finishes the article.

When she is done, she looks at Mikayla's Bakery's Instagram  
picture.

11 OMITTED. 11

12 INT. BAKERY - CHECK OUT COUNTER - THE NEXT MORNING 12

Annie stands in line at a bakery, but seems shifty. Her gaze  
is focused on a WOMAN behind the counter. Annie studies her.

Finally she is at the front of the line. She approaches the counter but doesn't speak, just stares at her name tag, "MIKAYLA." This is Will's ex.

MIKAYLA  
(after a long pause)  
Can I help you?

ANNIE  
Uh yeah, what's... this?

Annie points down randomly, just stalling.

MIKAYLA  
Uh, those are napkins.

ANNIE  
Right! Yeah, can I get an iced coffee and a muffin...

MIKAYLA  
Sure, and your name?

Annie freezes. Shit! She didn't think of this. LONG PAUSE.

ANNIE  
(quietly, unsure)  
...Simone.

MIKAYLA  
Sorry?

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
Simone. My name is Simone.

MIKAYLA  
Oh, I had a friend in high school named Simone.

ANNIE  
It's a very common name. Most women I know are named, of course, Simone, and because of that my life has been hard. Thank you.

Annie pays and stands to the side, studying Mikayla. A DIFFERENT EMPLOYEE with Annie's coffee begins calling.

EMPLOYEE  
Simone? Simone...

Annie doesn't realize she's Simone. She stares at Mikayla.

EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)  
COFFEE FOR SIMONE?

Annie keeps staring. Suddenly Mikayla looks right at her.

MIKAYLA

Simone? That's your coffee.

Annie panics and IMMEDIATELY TURNS ON HER HEELS AND RUNS OUT without ever getting her coffee.

13

INT./EXT. ANNIE'S CAR IN PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

13

Annie seated in her car, SMASHES THE MUFFIN BAG on the passenger seat and sits in her car hyperventilating.

ANNIE

Oh, fuck. Fuck!

Suddenly there is a KNOCK on her window. IT'S MIKAYLA! She's holding the coffee. Annie rolls down the window.

MIKAYLA

Hey, you left your coffee in there.

ANNIE

Oh, yes, yes, thank you, that was very nice and thank you.

There is a silent pause.

MIKAYLA

...I think I know who you are.

Annie freezes. She thinks about lying but doesn't.

ANNIE

I'm going to get out of the car so I'm not so low and weird in my car.

MIKAYLA

Okay...

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Well, I'm-

MIKAYLA

You're Will's girlfriend, right?

ANNIE

Yeah. I'm sorry, you are clearly very nice. But I wanted to know - because I really like Will so much.

MIKAYLA

(weirded out)  
Okay...

ANNIE

And I've dated a lot of bad guys.  
And I'm only here because Will is  
so special.

MIKAYLA

Will is special. Don't be sorry.

ANNIE

Thank you so much. I'll leave you  
alone, I really- I'm so fucking  
stupid for this it's insane.

MIKAYLA

It's ok.

Annie gets back in her car. As Annie drives away, Mikayla  
takes one last look at her car before she goes back inside.

14

INT. THE THORN - MORNING

14

Andy and Maureen talk in the kitchen area, pouring coffee.

MAUREEN

I don't care who the new owner is.  
As long as I'm still allowed to  
feed the rats by the dumpster.

Annie walks in, still frazzled, carrying her "SIMONE" coffee.

ANDY

Annie! Thanks for mentioning me in  
your eulogy. I also see myself as  
the "sad prince of the Thorn."

MAUREEN

And when you called me "all the  
others." I sobbed.

ANNIE

Thanks, guys.

Suddenly, GABE enters, looking heavy-hearted. He is trailed by BONGO.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Gabe! And Bongo?

People gasp, the entire Thorn goes silent and stares at Gabe.

GABE

I know you all want answers. They are coming, I promise.

(beat)

You all know Bongo. One of the other founding fathers of the Thorn.

BONGO

Whoa, it looks so clean in here. I used to piss in a bucket right there.

Andy walks up to Bongo, arms outstretched, smiling.

ANDY

My man Bongo...

BONGO

Horse Cock? Is that you?

GABE

I need to see Amadi and Annie in my office right now.

Gabe is followed by a nervous Annie and Amadi. Bongo takes a TAB OF ACID from his jeans pocket and puts it in his mouth. He turns to Maureen.

BONGO

This is pure grade 1963 LSD. The kind they tested on soldiers.

MAUREEN

I might need some later.

BONGO

Ok, nice... so we got some cool down ass girls here to hang with. I love that.

15 EXT. PORTLAND APARTMENT HOUSE - DAY

15

Em stands in front of an apartment with a REALTOR.

EMILY

Sorry, she's almost here.

REALTOR

That's okay. Maybe I'll get in there and show these other clients first.

EMILY

Thanks.

The Realtor goes inside. A Lyft pulls up. Fran gets out and rushes over, excited. Emily is annoyed.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Finally. The open house is almost over.

FRAN

Em, forget the open house. I have an amazing plan.

EMILY

Okay, go.

FRAN

So, it's been pretty near perfect these last few months with us. Right?

EMILY

Yeah. I mean, definitely.

FRAN

Then why change things? Because of some pre-written rules about how relationships should evolve? Why don't we do things our own way!

EMILY

Which means...?

FRAN

You give up your apartment and move in with me and Annie! Problem solved.

EMILY

(hurt, pissed)

I didn't realize there was a problem. I don't want to get a place with you to check some heteronormative box. I want to do it because I love you.

FRAN

I love you too. But to be honest, you just came up with this idea out of nowhere, like a tornado --

EMILY

Okay...

FRAN

And I said yes because you were so happy and it was this romantic beach moment, but I felt like you cornered me into it, a bit.

EMILY

You never said that. And why are you making me feel like our relationship is happening at you and not with you?

(then)

You know what? I think I'll stay at my place tonight.

FRAN

Uh, okay.

Em gives Fran a quick, awkward kiss. Fran is UPSET and walks away. That did not go as planned. The Realtor pokes her head out of the door and calls out to Emily.

REALTOR

Ready?

EMILY

(embarrassed)

Yeah, never mind. Sorry.

Emily walks away in the opposite direction of Fran.

16

INT. THE THORN - GABE'S OFFICE - LATER

16

Annie and Amadi in chairs in front of Gabe's desk. He reads.

GABE

(reading)

"If you were any kind of misfit, you could pick up this paper every Wednesday and see something beautiful and defiant."

Gabe turns to Annie and Amadi.

GABE (CONT'D)

Now that's a eulogy. It actually echoed a lot of things I had been thinking myself these last few days.

(matter-of-fact)

So I bought it.

AMADI

What?

GABE

I bought the Thorn.

AMADI

Holy shit, what??

ANNIE

Gabe! Really?

GABE

Sheila gave me a deal. Which I needed. I used my book money, everything I had... and my mom's boyfriend chipped in like half a mil, he's like 90. Anyway, I'm the new owner!

AMADI

Gabe, Jesus. You're an actual hero!

ANNIE

Truly. I can't believe this!

GABE

And I'm bringing Bongo back in. Like the old days.

Through the window they see Bongo, now tripping, walking through the office, throwing pens at people, screaming.

AMADI

Bongo?

GABE

Yes, but nothing has to change. Amadi will handle the management shit and Annie can write all her Fat Yaas Kween articles. And I'll do owner stuff. Perfect, right?

Annie and Amadi AREN'T HAPPY. They lock eyes and get an idea.

ANNIE

Gabe... maybe things should change... And Amadi and I have some ideas.

AMADI

(backing her up)

Yeah, yeah we, we think there could be a stronger approach to the creative.

Annie and Amadi don't exactly have a concrete plan but they're going to find it in the moment.

ANNIE

(takes a breath)

Yes, which is why you, Amadi, and I should really do this together, the three of us.

AMADI

You're too good of an editor to be a figurehead. Let's be an actual team.

GABE

I can see Miss Teapot boiling with ideas over there. What else?

ANNIE

I want a leadership position. Where I can build an editorial team and have actual radical marginalized voices in the paper.

AMADI

And I want to work with artists again, so that we can make something special.

ANNIE

If we want the Thorn to feel risky again, let's take some risks. Let Amadi and me take some real control.

Gabe is quiet for a long time.

GABE

Okay. Why the fuck not? Let's get to work. I'm very lucky to have you.

AMADI

Really?

ANNIE

Oh my god!?

GABE

Come on. Let's go talk to our group.

Gabe heads out towards the Thorn staff, who are still gathered.

GABE (CONT'D)

Everyone, I have some news...

Annie and Amadi low high five. Annie SMILES.

17

INT. WILL'S HOUSE - DAY

17

Annie enters Will's house, totally THRILLED!

ANNIE

Hello! The new editorial director of the Thorn is home!

She finds Will in the kitchen and gives him a huge hug.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Can you believe it? I went to work thinking I had no job and I left the fucking boss! Well, one of the bosses.

Will isn't smiling. A beat of quiet. Annie's smile falls.

WILL

(stern, not himself)  
Did you go to Mikayla's bakery today?

Annie is totally busted.

ANNIE

I... Well- Yes, but I know it was totally idiotic and I'm really sorry.

WILL

I just don't understand why. Why would you do that?

ANNIE

I just wanted to see who Mikayla was! I'm sorry.

WILL

Annie, I hadn't spoken to Mikayla in four months, she was really freaked out! And how do you think I felt when I saw her calling me?

ANNIE

I know, but you haven't told me much about your relationship, and yet it's dictating our life together. And I just felt insecure.

WILL

Maybe I could've shared some of this sooner, but I just feel like you didn't consider me at all.

It's quiet again. He's not softening. Annie can feel it.

WILL (CONT'D)

Between this and you telling your parents we were moving in together... I just think we should slow things way down.

ANNIE

Okay... Yeah, I'm sorry... I don't know what I'm supposed to do right now.

\*  
\*  
\*

WILL

Me neither. I just need some space.

\*

ANNIE

Do you want me to go?

\*  
\*

WILL

Maybe. Maybe you should.

\*  
\*

ANNIE

Okay, I'll go.

\*  
\*

Annie, DEVASTATED, grabs her bag and LEAVES. Will looks completely exhausted. He sits down and looks at his phone.



FRAN

Well, I think if we want to let them in we might have to change.

ANNIE

I know, but how? It's been the two of us for so long... We're actually both very good at our relationship.

Annie slides over to sit very close to Fran.

FRAN

Well, this is the single greatest love of all time.

ANNIE

Absolutely. This is true romance.

They look out at the view in front of them.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

God, we used to get wasted here because it was so abandoned. Now It looks like the kind of place a startup would play kickball.

Fran pulls the champagne bottle from earlier out of her backpack. Fran opens it, takes a swig, then hands it to Annie.

FRAN

To us.

ANNIE

To us.

FRAN

(unsure)

So we'll just fix everything, right?

ANNIE

Yeah. We will.

FRAN TAKES A LONG SIP FROM THE BOTTLE. SHE PASSES IT TO ANNIE. They go quiet, and stare forward, contemplative about the work they have to do.

THE CAMERA PULLS BACK, LEAVING THEM TINY ON THE BRIDGE.

END OF EPISODE.