

SECRET CEO

A Five Part Vertical Series

Written By

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Power. Betrayal. Revenge.

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EPISODE 1: THE RETURN

INT. PRIVATE JET - NIGHT

ETHAN (36) - A brilliant, composed tech genius.

He sips champagne.

A DIAMOND RING glints in his hand.

A friendly STEWARDESS leans in.

STEWARDESS

It's beautiful, sir. Anyone special?

ETHAN

My wife Victoria.

(beat)

Now that I built my company overseas,
I can finally give her the ring I
promised her all those years ago.

The stewardess smiles. Walks past him.

ETHAN looks out the window. Hopeful.

ETHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Daniel always thought he'd get her
first.

He types a TEXT MESSAGE: "Landing soon. Big surprise."

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The door opens quietly. Lights off.

ETHAN steps inside. An eager smile. Holds his ring box.

Dark. Still. Then— LAUGHTER.

A MAN and a WOMAN.

ETHAN freezes, heart pounding. Light from the next room.

ETHAN

That laugh.

(beat)

It can't be...

He moves forward slowly. The giggling and talking louder.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ethan FREEZES.

His wife VICTORIA (33) – Beautiful, ambitious, status-driven.
Sitting on the couch with:

DANIEL (40) – Arrogant tech executive. Entitled. His arm
around Victoria. Victoria SMIRKS.

VICTORIA
You're back early.

ETHAN
(angry)
DANIEL?!! What are you doing here?!!

DANIEL
You didn't get the memo, Ethan...you
always were second best, you know.

ETHAN
Victoria...my heart is breaking.
Why HIM?

Daniel and Victoria share a laugh.

VICTORIA
Obviously, I've moved on. You should
too.

ETHAN grips the ring. Raging.

ETHAN
You **always** had your eye on her. To
take her from me.

DANIEL
I've got more than my **eye** on her
now, buddy.

ETHAN
That's MY wife you have your arms
around...**buddy**...

VICTORIA
Correction, Ethan.

She pulls papers from the end table and hands them to Ethan.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
I am your EX...wife. As of now.

ETHAN stands. Frozen.

The ring box drops in slow motion to hit the floor.

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 2: DISPOSABLE

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

DIVORCE PAPERS land in ETHAN's hands.

VICTORIA

I've found someone much better than you. Daniel. A **real** man.

ETHAN

What are you talking about? We've loved each other for YEARS! How can you do this to me? Humiliate me like this?!!

VICTORIA

He's a better man. Better provider. He gives me what I want. What I need.

DANIEL

I told you I'd take her from you.
(beat)
You always played **small**, Ethan.
That's why you're a **loser**.

ETHAN

We built our **lives** together, Victoria. I was finally going to give you the ring I promised when we first got married! The ring I couldn't afford!

VICTORIA laughs—sharp, dismissive.

DANIEL places a hand on her waist. Territorial.

VICTORIA

You built nothing. I carried you. Your dreams were empty. I got tired of waiting.

DANIEL

Your dreams were never enough for her, Ethan.
(beat)
She deserves a man who's **more** than you are. More than you could ever be.

ETHAN clenches his fists.

ETHAN

You're making the biggest mistake of your life, Victoria.

VICTORIA tilts her head. Almost amused.

VICTORIA

No.

(beat)

I'm correcting the biggest mistake
of my life.

She taps the papers. Like a metronome.

Tap.

Tap.

Tap.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Sign them. Let's end this pathetic
charade. Now.

ETHAN doesn't move.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Oh—I forgot. I just got the biggest
promotion of my life too. Another
reason you're useless to me.

ETHAN looks up.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

The new CEO signed off on it
personally.

DANIEL grins.

DANIEL

Big bucks, buddy. She's working
with *me* now. We're building our
lives together.

(beat)

Guess you picked the wrong side.

ETHAN absorbs that.

ETHAN

(whispers)

You'll regret this.

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 3: THE SECRET

INT. OPULENT OFFICE - DAY

ETHAN sits at his computer. Scrolls through data. Calm. Controlled. Determined.

ETHAN
You thought you broke me, Victoria.
Now watch me rise. Time to seal the
deal. They won't know what hit them.

He hits enter. Picks up the phone and dials.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
(into phone)
It's done. The sale of the company
is complete.

INT. CORPORATE OFFICE - DAY

VICTORIA and DANIEL laugh with co-workers.

VICTORIA
With this promotion?
(beat)
We'll be set, Daniel.

DANIEL
And, we can finally spruce up this
office. Get rid of dead weight.
(beat)
I'm talking about you, Jenkins.

JENKINS (55) older, fat and balding, flinches. Gulps.
Everyone laughs.

INT. OPULENT OFFICE - DAY

Ethan's assistant enters. She's attractive.

ASSISTANT
Sir. Your car is ready.

ETHAN
Good. I should arrive at the gala
right on cue.

ASSISTANT
Shall I tell them before you arrive?

A beat. ETHAN smiles.

ETHAN

No.

(beat)

I want to see their faces.

He stands. Adjusts his diamond cufflinks. She hands him his overcoat. He puts it on.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I can't wait. This will be the
biggest bombshell of their lives.
Tonight, everything changes.

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 4: THE SETUP

INT. COMPANY GALA - NIGHT

Elegant. High-end. Packed. Formal. Guests mingle.

Energy buzzes.

VICTORIA and DANIEL stand together.

VICTORIA
We finally get to meet the new CEO.

DANIEL
Whoever he is, he just made **us** much
more powerful.

They clink their champagne glasses confidently.

VICTORIA
We **earned** this. You and I, Daniel!

ACROSS THE ROOM—

ETHAN enters with his ASSISTANT. He removes his overcoat
and gives it to her.

No one notices. Ethan watches. Calm. Observing.

A SERVER passes. ETHAN takes a drink off the tray.

He spots Victoria and Daniel together.

ASSISTANT
Everything is ready.

ETHAN doesn't take his eyes off those two.

ETHAN
Good.
(beat)
Let them enjoy the moment.
(beat)
For now.

VICTORIA laughs across the room. DANIEL leans close to her.

They look untouchable. ETHAN watches.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Laugh while you can.

Unblinking.

Lights DIM.

A hush falls over the crowd.

A male HOST (60s), steps up to address the crowd.

HOST
Ladies and gentlemen!
(beat)
It gives me great honor...Please
welcome--

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 5: THE REVEAL

INT. GALA STAGE - NIGHT

Spotlight. ETHAN steps into the light. The room goes silent.
The Host continues.

HOST
Our new Chief Executive
Officer...Ethan Kane!

The audience is surprised and applauds. Ethan waves.

VICTORIA freezes. DANIEL squints—confused.

Ethan looks at Victoria and Daniel.

ETHAN
Miss me yet?

Shock ripples through her face.

VICTORIA
What...? You? You're the new CEO?

ETHAN
In the flesh. Surprised?

She steps forward. Daniel hangs behind, confused.

VICTORIA
I can't believe this! You set me
up! To take me down in front of
everyone and humiliate me!

ETHAN walks calmly across the stage. In control.

ETHAN
You betrayed me. You betrayed our
love. You were wrong. You called me
nothing.
(beat)
But I built an empire while you mocked
me.

DANIEL
You think being CEO will win her
back?! You think you can beat me?!!

ETHAN
I already beat you, Daniel. You're
not as smart as you think you are.

Ethan makes a gesture. Security appears subtly behind DANIEL. Daniel doesn't notice.

DANIEL
Who do you think you are?!!

ETHAN
I'm the man who ***bought*** this company.
The man who ***owns*** everything ***you***
thought you took from him.

DANIEL turns—sees security. Too late.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
By the way.
(beat)
You're ***fired***.
(to security)
Get him out of my sight.

DANIEL is taken away, shouting in protest.

DANIEL
You won't hear the last of me, you
bastard!

VICTORIA stares. She's Shaken.

VICTORIA
What have you done to me?!!

ETHAN steps closer to her.

Calm. Dominant. He's taller. More powerful.

ETHAN
I stopped playing small, Victoria.
He holds her gaze.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
And now...
Her wide eyes stare into his.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
You answer to me.
Her breath catches.

CUT TO BLACK.