

Treatment

TITLE: I AM NORAH FIELDS!

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Logline

The world of a renowned feminist and social activist is undermined in the wake of allegations of sexual harassment levied against her beloved father and so she is compelled to opt between family and principles.

Synopsis

Philadelphia PA, post **#Me_Too** era.

Norah Fields is a well-known character in the intellectual community of Philadelphia. As a successful, feminist & social activist lawyer, her actions and statements, driven from deep feelings of social justice & gender equality values, often generate waves. She has become the urban flagbearer for these issues. Considering her devotion to feminist issues, romantic relationships with men, are challenging.

Norah and her revered and beloved father **Ethan**, respected president at prestigious college, maintain a close and caring relationship. Since her mother passed, many years ago, Norah's deepest fear, is losing her father.

Following an announcement that President Fields is about to receive a prestigious award, at a ceremony with the governor presenting the award, Ethan is approached by a journalist, asking respond to sexual harassment allegations by co-worker. Ethan denies. Distressed, he turns to his friend **Brody**, who arranges for thugs to persuade the accuser to withdraw her accusations. Norah, tipped about the allegations, confronts her father immediately. Following their conversation, Norah finds and confronts the accuser, who by now, has withdrawn her accusations and claims to having fabricated the charges. Norah supports her father.

A dramatic series of events unfolds that undermines Norah's world. The story leaks and a media storm break out. The college conducts an internal inquiry which results in an announcement of support for president. Norah is denounced and accused of hypocrisy by acquaintances. **Tia**, Norah's best friend and colleague, becomes uncomfortable with the events. **Sammy**, administrator of law firm Norah works for, befriends Norah. Ethan and Norah become targets and their reputation is under attack. Norah, bravely fights back, utilizing her assertive character. She confides in Sammy who helps her uncover the answer to the key question - "What if?"

Additional news reporting, suggests added sexual misconduct complainants have come forward to accuse Ethan. The governor cancels his participation in the ceremony. The law firm where Norah & Sammy work, receives angry phone calls from clients. The firm's partners hold meeting with Norah, and she is directed to take leave. College donors withdraw their donations, as respond college delays ceremony. Ethan requests leave and hides at one of Brody's apartments.

Norah again discusses the matter with her father during yet another emotional confrontation but she continues to support him.

Norah feels need for escape in response to events and travels to remote hotel. In need for emotional support, she calls Tia and asks that she comes to the hotel. During the heartfelt discussion, Tia reveals to Norah that her father misbehaved towards her several times and sent her rude messages that she shows Norah, who is now devastated.

Norah has one last confrontation with her father, who continues to deny having ever behaved inappropriately towards women. Norah withdraws her support from her father.

Norah represents her father's victims, who have filed civil suits against him and wins. After trial, Norah gives a feminist victorious speech.

Norah and Sammy become a couple.

END

Main Characters

NORAH FIELDS, 29 – the only child of Ethan Fields, the esteemed and reputable president of Felix W. Donovan College, and the late Ann Fields. Norah has the neighbor's daughter look however, it is only her determined gaze that sets her apart and makes her stand out. Norah is single and works for a successful law firm where she heads the intellectual property department. Her job description, among other things, also entails meeting with high-profile individuals in the world of film and literature and indeed, she has made quite the name for herself in in those circles. Some celebrities will often seek her counsel in private on a range of private matters and do consider her a friend.

Norah runs a Facebook community with a huge following and is a frequent guest on various TV shows. She has also been known to write the occasional newspaper op-ed. Norah is famous for being a staunch feminist and an uncompromising, vocal advocate of women's rights who often gives Pro Bono, legal advice to feminist NGOs.

Norah graduated with distinction from Felix W. Donovan prior to getting her law degree at Harvard. She is intellectually broad-minded and well-read, with her interests spanning a variety of fields.

Norah lost her mother, an eminent lawyer in her day, in a car accident when she was just three years old and therefore has very few memories of her. She has always been very close to her father who made sure her upbringing was filled with nothing but harmony, affection, and mutual love. As such, her greatest fear is losing him too.

ETHAN FIELDS – Widower 65 years old. Acclaimed President of Felix W. Donovan College. Since appointed, all statistics have improved significantly. Ethan is an example of an educator with management & financial skills who knows how to motivate students and college staff. He has been in the education system his entire career.

Ethan is due to receive a prestigious award in honor of the 15th anniversary of an outstanding successful leadership, in a large ceremony in the presence of the governor.

Ethan recognizes his abilities however finds it difficult to pass on his managing methods as a result of deep believe that it's the character that counts, not skills.

Ethan loves his daughter, supports her and talks to her on a daily basis. He brought her up with values of social justice, gender equality and altruism and is proud of her reputation regarding those qualities. They consult each other regarding almost everything going on with themselves.

Since his wife's death, Ethan has never got involved in a new relationship and discretely uses escort services for intimacy.

Ethan's only real friend is Brody. They grow up together, stayed in close touch, and often go out for a friendly chat.

BRODY DALE, 66 – A divorced real estate businessman who never really made the big bucks. Most of his property is in the old part of town. His businesses tread the fine line between respectable and shady. Brody has ties in the city council and police department and is generally very well-connected. An arrogant man, Brody is someone who likes to talk up and brag about his financial successes and sexual conquests. In a way, he is Ethan's alter ego.

TIA COLEY, 30 – Afro-American, single. Tia is an attorney who works at the same firm as Norah. She has been Norah's best friend ever since Norah joined the firm. The two are very close and are often seen out together.

Tia grew up in a family with a lot of issues but it was her brains, stubbornness and perseverance that got her through law school with flying colors. At work, she is considered a bright and brilliant legal talent.

Although she is no less a feminist than Norah, Tia likes to keep her politics to herself. Therefore, she admires Norah for being so determined to adhere to her convictions. However, Tia's frustration is real when Norah fails to behave in a manner expected of her while experiencing the phenomenon of sexual harassment in her family.

SAMMY GARCIA, 35 – Latino, single. A talented lawyer who was made Administrative Head after demonstrating strong leadership and management skills. Sammy is interested in Norah however, a combination of her image and workplace codes of conduct have thus far stopped him from making a move. Outside the office, Sammy is a mild-mannered man and a bona fide conversationalist with vast knowledge of many subjects. And while he was raised in a loving home, Sammy did grow up poor which is why he knows to appreciate the status he has achieved in life. Sammy, a man of broad-mindedness who grew up in a poor neighborhood, is not innocent. He is aware of the injustices of life and knows how to navigate his life and the lives of those around him to self-awareness.

MR. ERICSSON, 71 – Head of the Board of Trustees at Felix W. Donovan College. A pleasant, married man with a flair for wit and sarcasm. He has a British sense of humor that is not always understood by others. As someone who has worked in education his whole life, he has tremendous respect for Ethan's work as President and as such, tries to accommodate all his funding requests for the many college activities he organizes and spearheads.