

# GABRIELLA 1

Rev. 7/14

NASHVILLE - Ep. 402 - Gabriella Scenes

1.

9

EXT. HOTEL - N.Y.C. -- DAY (D2)

9

Flanked by SECURITY, LUKE navigates a SWARM OF FANS as he exits his hotel. Matching his stride is GABRIELLA MANNING -- 30s, sleek, confident -- an image consultant who means business.

start →

GABRIELLA

The metrics were conclusive.

She extends a prepared report. But Luke doesn't take it, preferring to stop and sign autographs for a moment.

WILL

How 'bout giving me the CliffsNotes.

GABRIELLA

It's not what you want to hear, but much like Hollywood and pro sports...

They've arrived AT HIS WAITING SUV. Security keeps fans back, finally allowing them the privacy to have this conversation.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)

Country's not ready for a gay star.

LUKE

You're right, Ms. Manning. Not what I wanted to hear.

GABRIELLA

Gabriella. And my professional opinion -- since you've paid for it -- drop Will Lexington.

LUKE

The kid's a helluva performer. His new demos are outstanding. Even my seventeen-year-old son liked 'em, and he doesn't give a rat's ass about anyone's sexuality.

GABRIELLA

He's not Luke Wheeler's demographic.

LUKE

Any chance you could you stop referring to me in the third-person?

GABRIELLA

Number-one album, successful label, sold-out tour -- you're uniquely positioned in the market. With our help, you could be to country what Jay Z is to rap -- an industry.

NASHVILLE

1/5

LUKE

If I'm all that, why I can't be the  
one who kicks open doors for Will?

He issues the challenge, an electric chemistry between them.

GABRIELLA

The road to success doesn't allow  
for missteps -- and your audience  
isn't that progressive. Or forgiving.

LUKE

Small town don't always mean small-  
minded. Fly down, see for yourself.

/End

# GABRIELLA 2

Re 7/14  
3.

NASHVILLE - Ep. 402 - Gabriella Scenes

39 INT. RECORD RELEASE PARTY -- NIGHT (N3)

39

ANGLE ON Luke NEARBY, looking pleased. Gabriella steps up, stunning in a cocktail dress.

start →

LUKE

Well, well, well. You can take the girl outta the city...

GABRIELLA

Honestly, I thought I'd be the only one here without rhinestones.

He can't help but enjoy the banter. She scans the press line.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)

No Will Lexington, I see. Change your mind?

LUKE

More than one entrance. Not everybody needs to hit the press line.

He gives her a playful wink. She's impressed.

GABRIELLA

You're smart for a country boy. Maybe you don't need my help after all.

With that, Luke offers her his arm, escorts her inside.

End

3/5

# GABRIELLA 3

Rev. Fly  
NASHVILLE - 6/30/15 1.

1 INT. HOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

1

Luke finishes signing a contract and slides it across the table to Gabriella. She puts it in her case, eyes him.

Start →

GABRIELLA  
Mind if I ask you something?

LUKE  
Shoot.

GABRIELLA  
How's it feel to be the official  
voice of Anheuser-Busch?

A big grin spreads across Luke's face.

LUKE  
I tell you what -- it feels pretty  
damn fantastic.

GABRIELLA  
Good. Because my day's never over  
until my clients are happy.

Gabriella gets up to go.

LUKE  
In that case, I'd say you're still  
on the clock.

GABRIELLA  
How's that?

LUKE  
If you want me to be happy, you'll  
stay and have a drink with me.

As Gabriella considers his invitation, Luke reads her to see  
if the attraction he feels is mutual.

GABRIELLA  
Luke, I'm flattered, but I can't.

LUKE  
Come on. One drink. Why not?

She holds his gaze for a beat.

GABRIELLA  
Because the way you're looking at me  
now... I'm not sure I'll want to  
leave after just one drink.

(CONTINUED)

4/5

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CONTINUED:

1

Attraction confirmed.

LUKE

Something wrong with that?

GABRIELLA

Yeah. There are lines I don't cross  
when it comes to my clients.

LUKE

Fair enough.  
(then)  
You're fired.

A laugh escapes Gabriella.

GABRIELLA

Really? After the deal I just landed  
for you?

LUKE

Only for tonight. I'll hire you right  
back first thing tomorrow.

Gabriella can't seem to avoid his charm anymore.

GABRIELLA

Fine. One drink.

LUKE

Good. Now what can I get you?

GABRIELLA

You got Budweiser?

LUKE

You drink Budweiser?

GABRIELLA

No. I just think the guy who does  
their commercials is sexy.

Off Luke, on the verge of smitten...

**/End**