

Producer: Angus Llewellyn XXXXXXXXXX

ENVIRO SCRIPT PART I
VERSION # 1

SCHEDULED TX DATE	
SUGGESTED INTRO KEY	
PRESENTER	
MUSIC	

STUDIO INTRO

Parliament House, Canberra. At its official opening in 1988 the Queen described it as the "embodiment of the democratic principles of freedom, equality and justice."

Now one staffer is speaking up about the appalling abuse she suffered in that building – and the betrayal of those founding principles.

SCRIPT

Who Brittany is	B: (BIG sigh and steadies herself)
	26-year-old Brittany Higgins has worked as a media adviser to three Liberal ministers over the last two years. First, Steve Ciobo [cho-bo], the Minister for Defence Industries..but he lost that portfolio.
	0:03:01.7 Brittany: ... So on the basis of Steve being demoted, I immediately lost my job.
	But Brittany was one of the fortunate few who found a place with the new minister, Linda Reynolds.
	0:04:13.7 Brittany: ... I think three of us out of a team of 20 made it into Minister Reynolds existing team.
The alleged rapist	0:07:12.3 Lisa: can you describe how you were treated professionally by one of the senior male advisors to Minister Reynolds? 0:07:23.2 Brittany: Yeah, so immediately it became clear that this person was quite, had a special bond with the Minister. it was very clear that was her go to person, he was quite territorial of that position.

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	<p>0:08:36.1 ...And so, it was, it was difficult. And it got to the point where it was reported to sort of our Acting Chief of Staff at the time that he was bullying me. ...</p> <p>0:08:57.3 And you know, I was just grateful to have a job, I didn't really care how they treated me, I was just grateful.</p> <p>0:09:05.3 Lisa: So, he was a bit of a favourite of Minister Reynolds?</p> <p>0:09:08.0 Brittany: Yeah, very much so. He had been advising her in the Home Affairs portfolio prior to that ...He had a lot of friends everywhere 0:09:39.0...he was considered one of the sort of rising stars.</p>
	<p>On the 22nd March 2019, less than 3 weeks after she'd started in Linda Reynolds office, Brittany organised Friday night drinks with contacts and colleagues in Defence.</p>
	<p>0:12:48.3 Lisa: So, how did this senior male colleague act towards you?</p> <p>0:12:54.4 Brittany: He was nice to me. I think he was grateful that I invited him. I was kind of happy that I had an opportunity to show my expertise in the space, to kind of demonstrate some value to the team I guess ... I noticed that he was buying me a lot of drinks and I was kind of, I just sort of, job well done, I thought I was kind of broadly being rewarded in a weird way.</p>
	<p>0:15:54.6 Lisa: So, would you say you were drunk when you decided to go home?</p> <p>0:15:57.9 Brittany: Oh absolutely. I, the sort of the thing that pre-empted me deciding that I had to go home, I fell over in front of people. I pretty much face planted, I had scuffed my knee and at that point I was like, ok I'm really, I have to leave.</p>
	<p>0:18:54.1 Lisa: Did you at any point in that evening to the best of your knowledge indicate to him that you were in any way interested in him romantically or sexually?</p>

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	0:19:04.3 Brittany: No, not at all. I started that night with a different date. I wasn't there for him at all. And I invited him in a professional context. So I just, no.
	<i>breath - cab pulling up at night in Canberra</i>
Parliament House	<p>0:16:27.2 Brittany: My senior male colleague ... And he was actually quite helpful in terms of sort of just getting me into a cab on the basis that I really couldn't walk.</p> <p>0:16:55.8 ... I mean I don't specifically remember the exact conversation, but I just remember sort of the general tone was, we live in the same direction but I've got to stop somewhere first.</p> <p>Lisa: where was that somewhere?</p> <p>0:17:26.3 Brittany: Parliament. So he wanted to go to Parliament House.</p> <p>Lisa: Why?</p> <p>...0:17:30.0...He just had to pick something up. Some vague non-descript something.</p> <p>0:20:43.9 ...he paid the fare, he got out ... it felt better to go into the building than stand outside in the dark by myself.</p>
	<p>0:21:09.0 Brittany: ... I just remember we went through the Ministerial Entrance which is the back entrance. And it's the only entrance you can get into Parliament out of hours. ...</p> <p>0:21:27.9...And then you go through to another checkpoint. And this is where physical security guards are. And it's like, airport security, you've got to sort of take off all your metal things, take off your shoes, go through.</p> <p>0:21:53.6 And I think at this point I remember him saying something to the effect of effect just, just be quiet....</p>
	0:24:22.7 Lisa: So, once you passed through security, where did you go?

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	<p>0:24:25.8 Brittany: We went up the lift into Minister Reynolds' suite. ...</p> <p>0:25:30.9 Brittany: I remember that he was sort of taking a really long time with something. ...And so, I got to the point where I don't know if he guided me there, or if I went there myself. But I ended up laying down and passing out on the Minister's couch.</p>
The alleged rape	<p>0:28:05.1 Lisa: So, what's the next thing that you remember happening?</p> <p>0:28:08.3 Brittany: The first thing that sort of awoke me was I was in a pain. My leg was kind of being crushed ... the senior staffer was on top of me. He was clearly almost finished.</p> <p>0:28:42.0 Lisa: Sorry, was there sexual intercourse going on?</p> <p>0:28:44.9 Brittany: Yeah, I was, I woke up mid-rape essentially. I don't know why I knew he was almost finished but I felt like it had been going on for a while. Or that he was almost done, he was sweaty, I couldn't get him off of me, at this point I started crying ...</p> <p>0:29:15.2 Lisa: What did you say to him?</p> <p>0:29:16.3 Brittany: I told him to stop.</p> <p>0:29:18.4 Lisa: Did he?</p> <p>0:29:19.5 Brittany: No.</p> <p>0:30:38.1 Lisa: How many times would you estimate you said to him to stop?</p> <p>0:30:43.0 Brittany: I felt like it was on a loop endlessly. At least half a dozen. I was crying the whole way through it.</p> <p>0:30:05.7...And he didn't speak to me the entire time. I just remember him eventually, he stopped, and he got up and</p>

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	he looked at me and I kind of looked at him and I couldn't get up. And then he left.
GFX - we may need a highlight here after legal check. Photo of the bruise	<p>0:32:42.3 Lisa: You have a photo that you took of a bruise that developed from that night. What does that photograph show?</p> <p>0:32:50.7 Brittany: ...It's quite a large bruise and it's just the weight obviously of his leg pinning me down.</p>
	<p>0:45:14.2 Lisa: So, you've since learned that a security guard did come into the room after the allege rape took place.</p> <p>0:45:20.7 Brittany: Yeah.</p>
	<p>0:47:46.6 Lisa: Can you understand how someone whose job it is to keep Parliament House secure, would not call for medical help?</p> <p>0:47:57.7 Brittany: No, I wrestle with it myself all the time, yeah, I don't know.</p>
	<p>0:35:59.6 Lisa: So, when you finally woke up. ...</p> <p>0:33:40.8 Brittany: ...they were sort of yelling out into the office just checking. Because they broadly sort of had an understanding that something had happened.</p>
Sunday	<p>0:35:59.6 Lisa: ... Can you describe what state you were in?</p> <p>0:36:05.4 Brittany: My dress was up around my waist, the straps were kind of down. I was pretty dishevelled. ... I was scared that I was at work. My first thought was, oh my God I'm at work.</p> <p>0:38:04.9 Lisa: How many security guards did you see on your way out?</p> <p>0:38:08.7 Brittany: I saw the two gentlemen at the Ministerial entrance on the way out.</p>

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	<p>0:38:36.8 Lisa: Did any of those security guards ask if you were ok?</p> <p>0:38:39.8 Brittany: No, no.</p>
	<p>0:40:15.7 Lisa: What happened when you got back to your apartment?</p> <p>0:40:17.6 Brittany: my roommate thought it kind of weird and I was acting weird. But I just sat in my room all day and cried.</p>
	<p>Monday morning Brittany went to work as usual.</p> <p>So did her senior colleague, the alleged rapist.</p> <p>But no one raised the weekend's security breach.</p> <p>That came on Tuesday morning.</p>
Meeting with COS	<p>0:53:03.2 Brittany: Yeah, so immediately sort of the tone in the office had changed and we had an Acting Manager, or we call them Chiefs of Staff named Fiona Brown. And she had been sort of seconded from the Prime Minister's office and she is the Director of Operations.</p> <p>0:54:23. So, she came in on the Tuesday morning and asked if the senior colleague and I would go into the office and speak with her. So she originally brought in the senior colleague and they were probably in there for about forty-five minutes.</p>
	<p>0:55:43.7 Lisa: So this colleague came out?</p> <p>0:55:45.5 Brittany: Yeah. ... so he immediately walked out of the office and started packing up his things.</p>
	<p>0:57:23.9 Lisa: So, what was her tone towards you ... until you told her that you had been raped?</p> <p>0:57:31.0 Brittany: It was very procedural, it felt like a disciplinary meeting. ...it was,</p>

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	we'd been made aware of the events and that you guys were here after hours and you know that's not acceptable. ...
	0:57:53.6 And then she made me re-sign this thing called the Ministerial Code of Conduct. 0:58:00.2 Lisa: Why was that? 0:58:01.1 Brittany: I don't really know. I think I guess because we were acting in a way that was out of, not in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
	0:56:21.4 ... and she asked me to sort of recount the events of the night ... 0:56:54.2 I started from the start and I went all the way through. And that was sort of the first time I'd vocalised that I'd been raped. And I think as I was telling it, it was the first time I'd sort of pieced it together myself, what had happened was an assault.
	0:58:28.4...and then that was when the entire sort of tone changed, I think. Yeah, then she sort of moved into sort of, a different hat came on and she wasn't disciplining me, it was more about managing a situation. 0:58:48.0 Lisa: What does that mean? 0:58:51.1 Brittany: I think it felt like I became, this was like immediately became sort of like a political problem. It felt like that immediately. It wasn't a staffing problem, it wasn't a HR problem, it wasn't a human problem, but immediately it was like, ok, we have an issue.
	END PART I

BACK ANNOUNCE

SUPERS

NAME	SUPER	SUPER POSITION

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VISION

SYDNEY MAM ROUGH CUTS

SYDNEY MAM RAW VISION

ATV MAM ROUGH CUTS

ATV MAM RAW VISION

GRAPHICS NOTES

LEGAL NOTES