

Book Synopsis Chapter by Chapter

The Scandal Clause

Chapter # And pages	Story line chapter by chapter
1 9-13	Sees \$700,000 job application on computer; memory of Saturday seduction attempt w/ hospital lawyer; fills out application
2 14-20	Mails application; intense work week makes her forget it; memory of NYC job rape; introduction of Laura's nightly de-stress exercise routine
3 21-26	Friday phone call at work 2 weeks later. She's finalist for the Job—must complete documents arriving special delivery next day and mail back Monday. After work, encounters good friend Sam at local hang out, drinks too much; oversleeps; almost misses mail delivery; spends weekend filling out case studies; delivers to post office under mysterious circumstances
4 27-32	Two weeks later, Friday, receives special delivery letter at work from the Job. Must guard packet. Taxis home, instructions prepare her for same day 2:00 phone interview goes for run, thinks she's missed call but hasn't, answers very intrusive questions, celebrates.
5 33-36	Receives reimbursement check for case studies; celebrates with Sam; he goes home with her for chaste night; AM call from the Job asking for full interview.
6 37-39	She agrees to full interview process, explained in bed in front of Sam. They make love first time. Next scene—on her way to DC for interview in private plane. At hotel, receives instructions for next day.
7 40-46	Limousines to clinic and administrative offices in Virginia mansion. Meets lawyers. Confidentiality and most of contract explained. Is told Dr. John Russell, the neurosurgeon for whom she'd work, lives upstairs. Realizes she's in the 'big time.'
8 47-52	Meets Eva, the Job's executive officer. Explanation about working with President and how Russell became Presidential Neurosurgeon. Psychological testing.
9 53-59	Staff luncheon at mansion. Russell attends. They meet for 1 st time. In pm goes to hospital for tour. Charmed and annoyed with Russell. Next am goes to hospital to help in surgeries under special permit. Exhausted by 1:00. Returns to hotel to rest.
10 60-66	Message at hotel to meet Russell for dinner. Goes to his upstairs residence. Discussion about job. She pushes for answer to why such high salary.
11 67-69	He says "I asked my lawyers about sex." Has memory of what lawyers told him concerning sex and politics in DC. He reveals last part of contract: will she be his sexual partner.
12 70-76	She freezes up. He suggests walk in garden. She reflects. Eats dinner. He's charming. She accepts Job with trepidation. Will meet in AM to discuss details and sign contract.
13 77-85	Next am meets with Russell—he reviews issues while recording everything—confidentiality, license, non-disclosure rules, duties, start date, pregnancy, jobs' intrusiveness into private life. Scandal Clause mentioned first time. Leaves her to review contract and call his lawyers when done.

14 86-91	Signs contract in meeting with lawyers; selects lawyer George Penunos to represent her in work issues. Details of contract reviewed; signed. Meets Mee Sue, Team health coordinator, has first massage. Learns about special “End Dinner,” for Laura’s predecessor
15 92-94	Laura attends “End Dinner;” meets her predecessor, Ansonia
16 95-100	In am returns to Somerville. Next day tells boss she’s leaving. Connects with Sam. They discuss their future. Tells friends, family about new job. 2 trips with Sam to DC to find apt.
17 101-107	Travels to DC. Begins 3-day orientation at hotel. In morning, follows Russell in his hospital surgeries. Exhausted. Encounters first “Massage Friday” routine. Dinner with staff.
18 108-110	Massage evening ends. Startled by strange man in her room. It turns out to be Russell who explains how room arrangements work. She wonders when and how sex will happen.
19 111-117	Next morning orientation meeting at hotel. Has reverie about buying ‘dress-for-success’ clothes with catalog sent by Russell’s company. 12-hr. orientation incl. 4 client lunches. Impromptu meeting discusses trip to Russell’s Costa Rican medical Villa where Laura will accompany emergency client. She returns to room late, showers, Unknown hand grabs her as she gets alcohol from frig.
20 118-122	Drops towel, stands naked in front of Russell first time. Next morning preps w/ Eva for accompanying emergency client to Costa Rica.
21 123-132	At DC airport w/ clients, Eva shows how to distract reporters. Flight to Costa Rica and drive to Russell’s medical Villa. Russell arrives separately. Dinner together. He invites her to sleep with him—no sex. Next day is rest day at Villa.
22 133-138	Afternoon siesta together ends in first, and good, sex. Surgery next day, is exhausting. Afterwards, Russell demands fast, abrupt sex standing up in hallway of their suite, then goes to own room.
23 139-143	Leave Costa Rica separately. Russell gives her 3-day break. She visits Sam. Mentally re-views distressing trip to Costa Rica. On return to DC, is called directly in to work. Arrives home 9 pm, texts apology to upset Sam for not returning his texts, falls asleep.
24 144-155	Eva’s early call for gynecological physical. Realizes lack of privacy about sex with Russell. Mandatory evening cocktail party. Meets Arlo Stephanopoulos, neurosurgeon, first time. Stays late. Forgets to text Sam; apologizes in a.m. Shadows Russell at clinic. Eva explains Russell’s patient philosophy over lunch. Arlo texts for drink Friday after work. She accepts. She arranges to talk to Sam Sat. am. Dinner and drinks with Arlo last very late. Stays at his apt.-no sex. Sam angry about being ignored.
26 ²⁵ missng 156-163	Monday, finishes orientation with Eva—includes replacement of IUD which annoys her. Receives month’s work schedules. Asks if Eva was ever Russell’s lover. Packs for Shenandoah weekend with Russell who is extremely rude to her.
27 165-175	Shenandoah cabin; Laura still furious. Weekend discussions cover his rudeness, whether job makes her a prostitute, his perceptions of her job. Problems to face on return to city creates stress—Sam’s upset; dealing with Arlo when also sexual with Russell. Sam visits. They rearrange their relationship.
28 176-185	Saudi Arabia. Guidelines for female travel; Laura makes diagnosis in car; King Faisal Hospital; possible honor killing in future; Haddiyah’s examination; Russell extracts Laura from women’s dormitory after sexual encounter and leave hospital confines.

29 186-191	Khalid's invitation to stay at Ritz Carlton. Sex. Midnight dinner. Breakfast invasion by Khalid's father demanding genetics results stay in Saudi. Laura returns to USA a changed person.
30 192-201	White House day—President's doctor asks for help with VP's daughter's pregnancy problem—Zika fetus? Laura asked to do a second opinion. Works late on this; stays overnight with Russell—discuss stages of job acclimation. Next morning insists she finish pregnancy review, then works her hard in surgery.
31 202-204	Returns home exhausted. Arlo tells her to open his special delivery package. Invitation to meet Queen of England in two days as Arlo's father's guest—needs to choose clothing from special catalog. Stays up late ordering. Works all next day. Clothing delivered
32 205-213	Morning meeting with VP's daughter goes well. Russell interferes with Laura's plans to leave work early to prep for trip. Sleeps on private plane to England. She and Arlo arrive at Taj Mahal Hotel near Palace. Luncheon with Queen and Arlo's family. Realizes how much she likes Arlo
33 214-221	At work, Russell wants her in Shenandoah that weekend. Laura, overwhelmed, learns to say 'I'd rather not.' Russell arranges Mee Sue to visit Laura on weekend for massage. Arlo brings a chef's dinner to her house. She invites him to sleep with her. Russell's early morning phone call interrupts them in bed.
34 222-230	Excessive work week incl. a Costa Rica trip. Laura's realizes more and more how intrusive the Job is. Special weekend date with Arlo cut short by emergency surgery—stresses their relationship. Russell states she's no longer in training and will get even more responsibilities. She and Arlo smooth out disagreements
35 231-233	VP's daughter, Anika, calls with distressing pregnancy symptoms. Laura assesses on her own.
36 234-243	Appreciative Anika invites reluctant Laura to important family dinner two days away. Russell advises on political dinner etiquette. Catering accident occurs to which requires Laura to completely change clothing change. Attempted rape takes place while changing. She overpowers rapist but returns home devastated, calls Russell. He goes to get her.
37 244-250	Wakes in Russell's home. He's gone. Wonders why she called Russell instead of Arlo. Takes unannounced weekend trip to family in Cleveland. Emergency occurs calling her to Costa Rica. Everyone upset. Overnight flight. Expresses her anger to Russell.
38 251-267	Difficult same day surgery. Patient almost dies. She demands explanation about the emergency surgery. Russell explains operation was on very prominent world leader. Profoundly shocked, she becomes wildly sexual with Russell throughout the night. In a.m. demands to know what happened to cause such intense sex. He describes how extreme sexual desire releases extreme work pressures. Relates story of Kendra and how Scandal Clause contract developed.
39 268-272	Return from Costa Rica. Laura acknowledges she can't juggle sex in her job and relationship with Arlo. Decision difficult but breaks up with Arlo. Russell notices she's 'grown into' the job.
40 273-278	Life continues at work. No longer sees Arlo. Laura discovers 'contract' is not digitalized--only on paper kept in a safe. Summer: Russell swears he would not interrupt Cleveland 4 th of July family weekend but does. For first time Laura refuses to comply until after her visit. She forces an apology from Russell when they return from So. Africa.

41 279-283	First nausea—in cab. Falls asleep in Eva’s office asking for time off. Takes a home pregnancy test. She reviews how much sex she and Russell have had in last months. He is her only partner. Test is positive.
42 284-291	Tells Eva she’s pregnant and Russell is father of baby. Eva incredulous b/c of all precautions, says Russell will refute it and any paternity tests. Decide to do more accurate hospital testing—but results inconclusive and must wait. She returns to work while waiting to re-do pregnancy test. Laura researches DNA testing.
43 292-297	Russell confronts Laura about her withdrawn behavior, insists on talking over dinner. She tells him she’s pregnant. He explodes, refuses to believe child is his, tells her to ‘get rid of it,’ and exits.
44 298-301	Next day, Laura works several scheduled surgeries with Russell. When done, invites her to talk more over dinner, but he only reiterates his position. Infuriated when she won’t give in, he leaves. She takes a napkin into which he coughed sputum.
45 302-313	That night Laura calls lawyer Penunos to her house, tells about pregnancy, and that she is going to quit—to be prepared for arranging paperwork. --Next day: cancels clients, removes IUD, drops napkin with sputum at DNA lab, sees Eva to arrange termination papers. --Day after signs papers at Penunos office; retrieves DNA labs results which show 75% probability of paternity due to sample degradation. --Experiences stomach cramps. Faints in taxi; ends up in hospital. ER doctor says miscarriage averted.
46 314-322	--Laura, as a ‘clean patient’ admitted for overnight observation to neurology unit cause hospital overfull. She wakes, decides to leave at 3:00 a.m., bumps into Arlo visiting a patient, blurts out she’s pregnant. He guesses it was Russell. Laura refuses his request for further contact. --Spends a week wandering around in depression. Anika (VP’s daughter) calls asking Laura to be nurse for next baby and suggests getting job at White House medical unit Vice President might arrange. --Arlo calls same day—wants to talk. Laura agrees to meet. Arlo guesses what happened around sex contract and pregnancy. She tells him about White house job but refuses further contact with him
47 323-328	Laura composes letter to Russell about DNA results and gives it to Eva. Begins orientation under White House Doctor one month after Anika’s call
48 P329-335	Laura realizes she misses Arlo. Russell begins to harass Laura, ending in emotional eruption at White House meeting, where Laura accuses Russell of paternity. She quits White House job then and there, flees DC with two days preparation. Does not contact anyone.
49 336-342	Russell finally decides to read DNA report Laura gave him. He calls lawyers to evaluate situation. Laura has miscarriage on plane to Cleveland; ends up in hospital. Arlo finds out Laura left DC. She finally picks up one of his calls, describes her miscarriage. He flies to Cleveland, spends overnight in hospital with her. She feels defeated and goes to her parents. He encourages her to fight back; returns to DC.

50 343-350	Weeks later, Laura feels stronger physically/emotionally. She applies for nursing job, realizes Russell has been in touch with the hospitals. Panic attack ensues. The experience pushes her into her anger and strength. A plan springs to mind. That day she returns to DC hoping to talk it over with Arlo. --Arlo meanwhile attends special lecture by Russell. Afterwards, public confrontation in hallway shows Russell that Arlo knows about the sexual terms of the contract.
51 351-355	She stays at Arlo's. Describes plan. Arlo approves. Next a.m. he leaves for work and she implements beginning of her plan.
52 357-363	Laura goes to Russell's clinic. In high tension confrontation they discuss DNA and contract confidentiality. She requests he endow two-and-a-half million dollars to a non-profit she's going to develop— <i>Sexual and Legal Wellness in the Workplace</i> . After the meeting, she gives in to exhaustion and emotional volatility.
53 364-375	Arlo confronts Laura's mood swings. That evening they create a plan—need lawyer and journalist to implement it. Russell calls his lawyers for a counter plan to Laura's visit. Next day Laura researches harassment specialist lawyer, Johnson. At same time one of Russell's lawyer shows up at Arlo's apartment. Laura, angry at Russell's harassment, sends her away and makes an emergency appt. with Johnson for that same afternoon. Enlists Johnson to help get endowment and eliminate Russell as a threat to Laura's career. A persuasive phone call from Johnson schedules a meeting for the next morning between their lawyers, Russell & Laura
54 376-385	At hotel lounge, Laura and lawyer present their demands—endowment and removal of other threats to Laura. Russell and Penunos, (now acting as Russell's counsel), go back and forth but are outmaneuvered by Johnson who requires they decide by Monday. At office, Penunos cautions Russell about how dangerous Laura can be. As Russell becomes more belligerent his lawyer walks out. Russell relents.
55 386-398	Still resistant, Russell accepts Monday after work meeting. Angry back and forth exchanges. Laura explodes, says she's going ahead and shows of how she can ruin him in the media. Leaves and returns to Arlo. Johnson arrives late at night; contract signed. Tight deadline to create non-profit or return money. Johnson agrees to work for Laura to create the non-profit in 9 months. Laura ecstatically happy. Back at his office a rude and arrogant Russell wants Penunos to stop Laura. Lawyer refuses, resigns, and walks out. Russell calls his newest nurse for comfort. She declines. He then calls last resort—Eva—and admits now he has a big problem.