‘SMOTHERED”
Screenplay by Rachel Feldman & Susan Nanus
Coverage by Michael Santner

THEME

B.S. Bernstein, a sexy, top female journalist for one of New York’s leading magazines, is about to meet her mother, Lee Bishop, a middle-aged but sultry singer and entertainer, when she moves in for a visit.

B.S. will learn passion, compassion and fashion with the help of her nit-picking mother and a desperate but suave, debonair restaurant owner, Artie Thermodopoulus. Artie needs a good review from B.S., or his spoiled ex-wife will take half of her own investment and put Artie out of business.

Desperate to rid herself of her mother, B.S. strikes a deal with Artie to exchange three dates with Lee for one of her restaurant reviews. However, along the way, B.S. realizes her hidden love for her mother and also starts falling for Artie.

SYNOPSIS

B.S. Bernstein is a sexy, top female journalist for Metropole, one of New York’s leading magazines. When her mother, Lee Bishop, a middle-aged but sultry singer and entertainer, shows up unexpectedly at her journalist awards ceremony singing to her, she is surprised that Lee wants to spend a short visit with her in her apartment. B.S. and Lee have never come to know each other as well as they would have liked since Mr. Bernstein died years ago. To make matters worse, Lee is very critical of her daughter’s dress, lifestyle and attitude. B.S. resents it, and she would do anything to get rid of her.

Artie Thermodopoulus, a handsome, late-thirties prince in pauper clothing and persona, has a fledgling restaurant that is being buried by newer, trendier competition. He becomes desperate when his spoiled, immature ex-wife Kim says she wants half of her investment in the restaurant to stay alive, now that her father has disowned her for being impregnated by a slimy musician. The banks won’t give him a loan for the other half of the money due to the restaurant’s reputation, so his only alternative is to drum up major new business. He resorts to pleading with B.S. for an immediate review. However, B.S.’s staff informs her the wait is extensive.

B.S. breaks up with her doctor boyfriend, Miles Dodd, since he he has no time for her. Lee wants to spend as much time with B.S. as possible, but she is driving B.S. crazy. She has no desire to go out with her mother, since Lee constantly cuts B.S. down. At an art show that Lee convinces B.S. to take her along to, Lee charms two young journalists from London right out from under her. B.S. confides in her two best friends, telling them how insignificant her mother makes her feel. They both agree Lee needs a date to get her life back in order. However, B.S. does not have time to find dates for her mother.

Artie has a burly Puerto Rican deliveryman send a huge bouquet of flowers to B.S. at a staff meeting. However, much to the disapproval of the deliveryman, she refuses them. Her yuppie editor-in-chief, Elliott, assigns her to write a cover story on condoms. B.S. is appalled, but her off-the-cuff suggestion for the story’s title, “What am I supposed to call it, the Leotard of Love?” interests Elliott, and he won’t take no for an answer.

B.S. is having no luck playing Cupid for her mother. At a video dating service, the best specimen she has seen either has a cowboy hat or looks like he has been riding a Harley Davidson thirty years too long. Max, Kim’s lawyer, tells Artie Kim is serious about suing. Artie is at the end of his rope and visits B.S. at her apartment. He won’t leave until she agrees to give him a review, no matter what he has to do to get it.

Suddenly, a light bulb goes off in B.S.’s head. B.S. says Artie has to take Lee on three dates, all expenses paid. He reluctantly agrees, not knowing what a knockout Lee is.

Later, during the date, Artie is constantly on the phone checking on his restaurant. He seems disinterested, even though Lee is doing her best to turn on the charm. Lee suggests they end the date, and Artie panics, realizing his review is history if he doesn't live up to his end of the agreement. He convinces her to date him again.

The next day, B.S. arrives at Artie's restaurant and finds a construction crew ripping up the street in front. Artie, harried and distraught, apologizes for the cancellation of her review since the power and electricity has been shut off. She is booked for some time, and now the review is going to be indefinitely delayed. Artie pleads for a new appointment as B.S. is uncontrollably swept into the restaurant by arriving relatives who talk her into drinking wine with them. B.S. agrees to give Artie another appointment, and he goes on a second date with Lee.

Lee and Artie, bored out of their skulls at an opera, end up at the hard Rock Cafe where they have a much better time sitting in formal clothes eating juicy hamburgers with young kids.

B.S. visits her ex-boyfriend, Miles, only to find he is engaged and about to elope. Later, Elliott tells B.S. he wants the condom story by the morning print.

B.S. visits Artie's restaurant again for the review, and in the middle of it, Kim shows up, demanding a settlement. B.S. doesn't hear the conversation and mistakes his attention to Kim for passion. He leaves B.S. with an assistant and runs off to console Kim. B.S. tells him he doesn't have to date Lee again, but Artie truly likes Lee and sincerely wants to date her again. Lee's former talent agent, Larry, screams at her that she is too old to work as a dancer-entertainer, anymore. Devastated, she leaves with Coco, a tough black woman client of Larry.

B.S. tells Jody and Peter how Artie fawned over Kim when he says he wants to date Lee. Jody comes back saying maybe 8.5. really likes Artie and that she should tell Lee about the deal.
B.S. goes to the club Artie and Lee are at for their third date and cant get past the doorman. She sees them dancing and enjoying themselves in the background.
Lee asks Artie to take her home with him, and he agrees. When they get there, Artie falls asleep, Lee looks at herself in the mirror and hates what she sees. She leaves without waking him.
Lee and 8.5. have a huge argument about each other, how Lee left her when daddy died, how she never cared about her, never called her and now suddenly wants to be friends, and Lee leaves into a rainstorm in tears. When B.S. goes to Arties and finds shes not there, they search for her together. B.S. discovers Lee sold the house she lived in and is no longer working on the cruise ship she entertained on. At the house, the old woman living there gives her a mysterious trunk Lee wanted B.S. to have. Artie and 8.5. discuss Lee, how each feels about her and they end up talking about how B.S. estranged Lee and Artie estranged his father. Artie goes to see his father for the first time in what looks like many years.
B.S. calls Elliott and tells him her story isnt finished and that she wants a few days of f. 93Hey, personal problems. Now I know youre human94 and grants her requests. She looks through the trunk and finds it is full of memoirs Lee has collected of B.S. that she didnt know about.
A picture inside shows Lees agent, Larry, and B.S. camps on his doorstep until he shows up. He tells her Lee is with Coco and she goes to Cocos rundown tenement apartment. 93Shes not here, I gave her my job at the Kit Kat Club for a few days.94 B.S. arrives at the club to find Lee hustling drinks in a g-string and asks her why she never told her about the trunk. They come to understand their misunderstandings while Lee is sworn at by her bartender boss. B.S. tells the bartender of f and drags Lee out.
Artie tells B.S. he has to have another review, since the last one was bad save for the food. She tells him hed have to redo everything, and he agrees. B.S. asks the help of her friend, Irma, to make Arties restaurant the talk of the town.
Artie, in the midst of renovation, finds movers at Kims orders taking out half of the