

SCENE EXERCISE-COURTYARD

By

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EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - COURTYARD PATIO AREA

There is a table with a few chairs. There are also a couple of lawn chairs. There is also a bar setup. A coffeemaker is brewing. A sign on the bar says, "NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED"

It is a mild early evening in June. COLEMAN (32) is sitting in a lawn chair typing away on a laptop computer. He is wearing a bathrobe, a red fez and sunglasses.

TANK (53) walks on to the patio. He is dressed like a biker.

TANK

Coleman how are you today?

Coleman points to his fez and remains quiet.

TANK

Sorry. I forgot.

Tank walks behind the bar on the patio and pulls out a bottle of beer from a mini fridge. He quietly sits down.

JEFF (28) dressed business casual and carrying a satchel briefcase walks in.

JEFF

Evening guys.

Tank points to Coleman then to his own head.

JEFF

Sorry, did not notice that the bright red writing cap was on.

Jeff goes to the bar and grabs a beer.

JEFF

Since Tank is not wearing his writing cap I will talk to him. So Tank what is new?

TANK

Not a thing. So nothing is bad either. And yourself.

JEFF

Another day of selling radio ads for things I do not care in the least about.

(CONTINUED)

TANK

So why do you do it?

JEFF

The side deals is what it is all about. This week I got a deal on a set of golf clubs. Just cost me a couple of concert tickets and a hand full of t-shirts. If I make my numbers all is fine. The boss is happy. Which allows me to make special deals. It is all just about the benefits.

TANK

You sound like some sort if legitimate dealer to me.

JEFF

Word up.

They both laugh.

OFF SCREEN a car door slams.

TANK

She's baaaccck.

JEFF

I bet you she is texting like a mad woman.

TANK

You're on. She's talking to... I don't know...Brad...Charlie...All right...boyfriend du jour.

JEFF

She's dating a French guy now? But I tell the fast fingers of her must be able to do something special. If you know what I mean.

Tank shrugs his shoulders.

HEATHER(22) walks in. She is wearing business style clothing. She is texting on her cell phone. Jeff smiles and puts his hand out to Tank. Tank shakes his head and points to the sign.

HEATHER

I know the rules.

(CONTINUED)

She hangs up the cell phone and goes to the bar. She makes herself a gin and tonic.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

I cannot wait for this internship to be over. This is a bullshit way to spend the summer.

JEFF

Wait. When college is over. And you have to work everyday for real. That is when the bullshit begins. You're just in the batter box for now.

HEATHER

I spent the whole day at the copier machine collating reports. This is what my college education is prepping me for.

TANK

Sleep with the boss if don't want to do anything.

HEATHER

There isn't enough soap in the world for me to do that. Besides he is really creepy.

JEFF

No one said it was the easy option. But another day is done. Do drink up.

TANK

So when is Pam joining us?

JEFF

She is starting her month long night rotation at the hospital today.

TANK

So what does mean?

JEFF

I get to watch the game tonight without any interruptions.

HEATHER

You'll miss her.

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

That's right. So tonight. Every ten or fifteen minutes I am going to hit the mute button and pretend I am listening.

Tank laughs. Heather is not amused.

JEFF (CONT'D)

And of course I am just joking. SO Heather don't repeat that joke to Pam. I am still paying for last month's joke about the dishes piling up.

TANK

Dishes piling up?

JEFF

Me and Heather were out here and she asked how Pam was doing. I said I thought Pam was dead.

HEATHER

That is so disgusting.

JEFF

Let me finish. It is an old joke. I said I thought Pam was dead but I wasn't sure. I mean the sex was the same but the dishes were starting to pile up in the sink.

TANK

Funny. So what did Pam say to you.

JEFF

Nothing. But guess who has been doing the dishes for the last month.

TANK

It could be worse.

JEFF

I could be forced to bring back my carpal tunnel again.

HEATHER

That's gross.

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

That's really in the hand of the beholder now. Isn't it?

HEATHER

Why do I put up with you? And speaking of putting up with you. Pam told me you finally picked the date.

TANK

Date?

JEFF

The big day. The end day. Labor Day 2009. I have to finally say I really do this time. No more faking it.

TANK

Why did you pick that day?

JEFF

Her family being so large it seemed like a Holiday weekend would be a good idea in terms of logistics. I tell you the Irish Catholics are good for mass breeding. They should have outnumbered the Chinese by now.

TANK

The drinking is what brought the number down. Nature does have checks and balances for a reason now.

JEFF

You know my mom said that you remember the dates that your life really changes. I think it is bit of shit. Dad never seems to remember their anniversary date. It seems a bit arbitrary to me.

TANK

August 9 1995.

HEATHER

What happened that day?

(CONTINUED)

TANK

The young have no idea about history. That is the day the long strange trip came to an end. Jerry left us that day.

JEFF

Ben must have been really sad.

TANK

No idiot. Jerry Garcia died that day.

HEATHER

Who?

TANK

Kids have no sense of history. The Grateful Dead was no more that day.

HEATHER

Oh them. I think my Dad liked them.

JEFF

So what did that mean to you?

TANK

The trip was over. Who was I was going to follow for 100-200 days a year?

JEFF

No shit you did that. How did you ever pay for that?

TANK

I just got odd jobs where ever I was at the moment I needed some cash.

HEATHER

So how did you end up here?

TANK

The girl I was seeing at the time lived here and it did not seem to be a bad place to be. So why not? It was just time to do something new.

JEFF

Best career planning I ever heard. But maybe you could have followed Phish.

(CONTINUED)

TANK

It just was not the same. You see you cannot assign the replacements to legends. It is something that happens and you know when you feel it. The world is still waiting for the next Micheal Jordan and Elvis. Legends like everything else only have so much time.

Tank goes for another beer.

A cellphone on the bar rings.

Coleman signals for Tank to throw it to him.

Heather frantically points to the "No Cell Phone" sign.

TANK

Rule is a rule.

COLEMAN

Who's on the ID?

TANK

Tasmanian Devil?

Coleman gets up and grabs the phone.

COLEMAN

She's my agent.

Coleman pours himself a coffee. Tank points to the sign.

COLEMAN

Yeah Yeah Yeah

Coleman answers the phone and walks away.

COLEMAN (CONT'D)

Good afternoon Stephanie. I thought...I was...Hold on I am not in my office...

Jeff watches Coleman walk into the building.

JEFF

He is such an odd fellow.

TANK

Keeps things here interesting.

(CONTINUED)

HEATHER

I look at his website and listen to his podcasts. Interesting and funny. He has a lot to say. But around here it is hard to get anything out of him. I don't know how Erica handles him.

TANK

She doesn't anymore.

Jeff goes over and starts to look at the display on Coleman's laptop.

HEATHER

What are you doing? And what do you mean she doesn't anymore?

TANK

She left for California or was it Oregon about three weeks ago.

HEATHER

You're kidding? And you should not be looking at his computer.

JEFF

I am curious about what his latest project is about. He never talks about anything. Besides everyone knows the coming attractions are the best part.

HEATHER

And what is coming?

JEFF

He is calling it. "Strangers with DNA: The Dinner Table at the Fork in the Road"

HEATHER

Stop looking. He will get pissed off if he catches you.

TANK

Wonder what that is about?

HEATHER

So am I the last to know Erica is gone? I liked her. I thought she was good counter balance for him. God knows he needs it.

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

Yep. I liked her too. Better than the last...

Jeff and Tank are counting on their fingers.

TANK

Three.

JEFF

Four.

TANK

Four? There was Melissa, Nicole and Amy

JEFF

Roxanne.

TANK

Right. How could I forget her. She was always wearing the tight mini skirts.

HEATHER

That wasn't her name.

JEFF

I know that but I am pretty sure a red light was in her past.

HEATHER

You men are such pigs for what you notice on a woman.

JEFF

Please women are just as superficial as men.

HEATHER

How so?

JEFF

It is like the other night Pam is watching Sex in the City. I tell her to me that the show is nothing but women being bitchy and horny in over priced clothing.

HEATHER

That is so not true. Sports are just as stupid.

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

True. But Pam says I should understand such shows to get a better insight into women. That's coming from an OB/GYN intern. Talk about your insights there.

TANK

Why do I have feeling this let to another argument?

JEFF

A disagreement. I said if I have to understand a dumb show like that then she has to understand football spreads.

HEATHER

That is so stupid to compare the two.

JEFF

Agree. But Pam would more willing to know how the spread works if she understood how much of role it played in our 401k.

Coleman walks in. He is no longer wearing his fez. He goes to the bar and pours Irish creme into his coffee.

COLEMAN

The world would be so much better if men and women accept the fact in the great scheme of things that what they like is indeed stupid as far as the universe is concerned. There is a thin line between a hobby or anything else that interests you and a mental illness. And Tank can I use the August 9 1995 reference somewhere.

TANK

Why not? As long as I get some credit.

COLEMAN

Did I not credit you with the moving truck porta-bar challenge.

JEFF

So now that the cap is off. I have a question for you. Why do you call your agent Tasmanian Devil?

(CONTINUED)

COLEMAN

Because she talks at 300 miles an hour. It is the equivalent of being verbally smacked with a dictionary. She does a good job but she can be crazy at times.

TANK

Watch out for the crazy ones.

HEATHER

I must be sad to listen to this stuff.

JEFF

Admit it. You like it.

HEATHER

Sadly I must.

TANK

Why don't you find a new agent?

COLEMAN

She may be crazy. But she is damn good at her job. She sells my work in ways that I would never imagine. But when she talks she never seems to come up for air...Her husband is a lucky man.

TANK AND JEFF

Lucky bastard.

HEATHER

Why are blow jobs the be all and end all with guys?

JEFF

Because we can't do them to ourselves.

TO BE CONTINUED... MAYBE