

Drinks

A Screenplay

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Drinks — Pilot (2020)

Titles fade in from black reading

June 26,2020.

4:46 PM

High Point, North Carolina

FADE IN:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AFTER HOURS ENTRANCE — DAY

Outside the entrance to the bar, Robbie stands talking to a girl who he is selling a vape pen to. He's explaining how to use it.

ROBBIE

Yeah, dude, you want to put the tip to your mouth and then hold the button and slowly inhale. Not too fast, okay? If you inhale too fast your lungs might melt or something. Good luck.

He hands the girl the vape pen.

INT. AFTER HOURS TAVERN — DAY

Inside, Danny and Lloyd are sitting next to each other at the bar. There are signs pasted against the wall that read "Bar Closing Permanently Today at 5PM." Danny takes a swig of his beer and puts it down on the bar.

DANNY

Why did it have to be today?

LLOYD

I know. I really thought they would wait until after July 4 to lay us off.

DANNY

No not that. Why did Joan have to leave me today? The same day that I got laid off.

LLOYD

But wait, i thought you said Joan left you this morning?

DANNY

I did. Right before I left for work.

LLOYD

Well we didn't get laid off until noon, so how could she have known? I have been involved with my fair share of vindictive women, but I've never been with a vindictive woman who was also psychic before. Is Joan psychic?

Danny thinks about this for a second, looks sideways at Lloyd.

DANNY

I don't know. I'll ask her when we go to court. Right after I ask her what percentage of my fucking money she wants!

LLOYD

That would be a good time to ask her, yeah.

The owner and bartender Joey steps over to Danny and Lloyd.

JOEY

Guys, please watch the language, okay? I don't want everybody to think they can get crazy in here.

Danny points toward one of the signs hanging behind the bar.

DANNY

Joey, did you put those signs up there?

Joey glances back at the signs and then nods.

JOEY

Of course I did. It's my bar. I'm closing it.

Danny looks at the clock next to where one of the signs is hanging as he talks:

DANNY

Well, if you are in fact closing your bar in eleven minutes from now, what does it matter how crazy we get? You worried about repeat business? Bad Yelp reviews? You need to keep your customers in line Joey, because if you don't, word may get out and you might have to reopen this bar just so you can fucking close it again!

LLOYD

You know, Joey, I was just curious why you're closing. You know the cops probably wouldn't notice for weeks if you kept this place open.

JOEY

I don't maybe it's the law, Lloyd? You know I could go to jail for two years?

Danny looks at Lloyd.

DANNY

Oh he's a real rule follower, Lloyd — that's why he lets Jasmine give blowies in the bathroom, and Robbie sell vape pens to the customers!

Joey calls the bar's bouncer, Thurman, over to where he is standing. Thurman stands behind Danny and Lloyd.

JOEY

I think these two need to leave, Thurman.

Thurman puts his hands on Danny and Lloyd's shoulders.

THURMAN

Come on, guys. Let's not do this.

DANNY

Yeah, Thurman let's not do this. I've been coming in here for seven years and I've never been a problem before. This bar is closing forever in eight minutes, can't we all just get along?

Thurman looks at Joey.

THURMAN

He kind of does make a good point.

JOEY

Let them finish their beers.

Thurman turns around and walks away.

JOEY

(CONT'D)

You know what I love about you two? You only think about yourselves. You lost your wife? You lost your jobs? I lost my fucking business, man. Fifteen years and I'm done.

DANNY

We're both sorry about that, Joey. I mean where are going to drink now that we're not working?

LLOYD

Yeah, for real. I need this place, man or I'll have to spend more time, or any time, with my wife!

Lenny walks out of the bathroom, and approaches the bar, standing next to Lloyd.

LENNY

Can I please get a beer?

Danny and Lloyd are staring hard at Lenny, who has just had an encounter with Jasmine in the bathroom. After Joey serves Lenny his beer, Joey begins giving Lenny a long look, until Lenny finally notices.

LENNY

(CONT'D)

What the fuck, guys? Can I just drink my last beer in this bar in peace?

Danny jumps in, and says:

DANNY

I never saw somebody come back from the bathroom so happy, Lenny. Did you find a pot of gold in there?

LENNY

No I had to hold it in on the drive over here, so it felt nice to relieve myself, okay?!

LLOYD

You can tell he's gotten some relief alright.

All eyes at the bar quickly turn to Jasmine as she walks out of the same bathroom Lenny came from, composing herself quickly. She walks up to the bar and makes the choice to stand next to Danny, not Lenny.

JASMINE

I'll take my last drink in your bar please, Joey.

Joey pours a rum and Coke quickly and puts it in front of Jasmine. She grabs it and starts sipping.

JOEY

And what are you going to do without my bar, Jasmine?
Stand on street corners?

JASMINE

You never had any respect for me, for what I did for your bar. Did you ever consider for one minute how many men came into this bar because of me?

Jasmine slams her drink down on the bar.

JOEY

No, but I've given considerable thought to how many have cum in this bar because of you.

JASMINE

Fuck you! I'm glad you're losing your bar, Joey!

Jasmine walks out of frame, but just a second later, returns, picks up her glass, and downs the rest of her drink in one gulp. She walks out of frame again.

JOEY

That will be five dollars.

Jasmine walks back into frame, throws a five dollar bill onto the bar, then leaves frame again. Danny looks at Joey.

DANNY

Jesus Christ, Joey! And you're bitching at us about raising hell!

JOEY

It doesn't matter. Because time is up. Get the fuck out of here. All of you people, get the fuck out of here! We're closed! For good! But thanks so much for your business!

All of the patrons in the bar get up and begin to make their way out of the bar. Thurman follows them to the door, and closes and locks it behind them.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR — DAY

Outside the bar, Danny, Lloyd, Lenny, and Jasmine stand in front of the entrance for a moment.

JASMINE

I need another drink.

LLOYD

I think that we all do.

DANNY

You know, I've got a case of beer chilling in my fridge. My house is only a mile away. You guys want to head back there and have a few?

JASMINE

I'll go.

LENNY

I'll go if she goes.

LLOYD

You know me. I'm a follower not a leader.

DANNY

Okay then. Everybody follow me.

Just then George, another former regular at the bar, hurries up the group.

GEORGE

Oh shit! Am I too late for a last drink?

DANNY

Yeah, but you're better off, believe us.

LLOYD

Come with us, we're going to another place.

GEORGE

Okay, sounds good!

Danny, Lloyd, and George start walking to their cars. Jasmine turns to Lenny.

JASMINE

I didn't drive here. Can you take me? I'll get a ride home, I promise.

LENNY

Of course. Let's go.

Lenny and Jasmine start to walk off toward Lenny's car, but are stopped by Thurman, who has opened the front door and left the bar.

THURMAN

Where are you guys going?

LENNY

We're going to Danny's house. Do you want to come?

THURMAN

Yes!

Thurman starts walking toward the parking lot with Lenny and Jasmine. Just a few moments later Robbie walks out of the bar, clearly stoned, looks around, and asks a question no one is there to answer:

ROBBIE

Where did everybody go?

Cut to a wide shot of the entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. LENNY'S CAR — DAY

Inside Lenny's car, Jasmine is sitting in the front passenger seat playing with her iPhone as Lenny drives. Lenny tries to get her attention by saying:

LENNY

I just wanted to say thank you, for what you did back at the bar.

JASMINE

Oh, that's sweet of you, Lenny.

LENNY

Could we do that again sometime? Not now, I mean some other time?

JASMINE

Well it might be hard since After Hours is closed, but I can give you my number, and, sure, we'll figure something out.

Jasmine lowers the mirror from the visor and checks her makeup.

JASMINE

(CONT'D)

As long as you have the money, of course.

LENNY

Of course, sure.

Jasmine goes back to looking at her phone, and Lenny continues driving.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD — DAY

Extreme wide shot of the front yard of Danny's house, as Danny's car leads everyone else up to it. Danny jumps out of his car and starts guiding everyone into parking spaces. Lloyd joins Danny as he's doing this. Danny takes out his keys and hands them to Lloyd.

DANNY

Do me a favor and take everyone to the basement entrance, okay? I'd like to keep everybody out of the top if possible, especially Jasmine. I'll start bringing booze down from the kitchen.

LLOYD

Got it, boss. Does this bar have a cover charge?

DANNY

This bar isn't a bar and it doesn't have any charge. Yet. But that might be a good idea. Let's think about it.

LLOYD

You got it, buddy. If we do start charging, I'll be happy to watch the money if you want. I was the class treasurer in high school!

Danny shoots Lloyd another sideways look, then walks off without saying anything.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN — DAY

Danny walks into the kitchen. He grabs a box from the recycling can, then walks to the refrigerator and starts filling the box with beer. As he is doing this, we flashback to an earlier time:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN — DAY

In happier times, Danny and his wife Joan are having a cookout on the deck. We can see their nine friends outside socializing. Danny is getting beer from the refrigerator, when Joan steps beside him and points to a salad on the middle shelf of the refrigerator.

JOAN

Can I please have that?

Danny edges closer to her, and looks her in the eyes.

DANNY

That's funny. I was thinking the same thing.

Danny lifts his left hand, and runs it through Joan's long hair.

DANNY

(CONT'D)

Can I have... you?

Danny leans in and gives Joan a quick kiss. She allows this, but then reaches into the refrigerator and grabs the salad she wanted.

JOAN

You have me. And we have nine people outside, waiting for us to feed them. Later.

Joan closes the refrigerator door and walks off as Danny watches.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN — DAY

Back in the present, Danny finishes filling up the box with beer, closes the refrigerator, and walks toward the basement door.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT — AFTERNOON

Music plays as the camera follows Danny from behind as he walks into the basement carrying the first load of booze. When he gets downstairs he sees that Lloyd, Jasmine, Lenny, George, and Thurman are standing waiting for him. Danny walks over to an old dresser, leans down, and blows on top of it, scattering dust everywhere. Then he puts the box of booze down on the dresser, and says to Lloyd:

DANNY

Hey, Lloyd, I think there are some plastic cups in the cabinet behind you. Can you grab them?

Lloyd doesn't say anything, but turns to get the cups.

LENNY

I hope the cups don't have dust in them.

Danny starts pulling cans of beer and bottles of rum and vodka out of the box and putting them on the dresser.

DANNY

The bar is open! What's everybody having?

THURMAN

Beer.

LENNY

Yeah beer, me too.

GEORGE

Sounds good to me.

JASMINE

I'll take a shot of that vodka, if you don't mind.

Danny looks at Jasmine, as Lloyd approaches with the plastic cups.

DANNY

Sure, no problem.

LENNY

Maybe we should say a toast in honor of Joey and After Hours.

THURMAN

Or maybe we shouldn't.

Danny pours three beers and a shot of vodka. Lloyd hands out the drinks. Lloyd opens two beers, one for him, one for Lloyd. Danny raises his beer.

DANNY

But we should say a toast, I think.

Everyone raises their drinks for a toast.

DANNY

(CONT'D)

Here's to trying to forget the year 2020. A year when many people lost their lives, Lloyd and I lost our jobs, we all lost our favorite bar, and some of us lost other things. Cheers.

Everyone takes a sip of their drinks. Lloyd leans toward Danny and says:

LLOYD

I think I just got a great idea.

DANNY

Why don't we just have another beer?

Lloyd motions to Danny to walk outside, and then he turns and leads the way.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD — AFTERNOON

Lloyd has taken Danny outside to discuss his big idea.

LLOYD

We should totally open a bar in your basement.

DANNY

I think that's what we just did.

LLOYD

I don't know but I'm talking permanently. And for a profit. After Hours charges \$5 a beer, if we charge \$2.50 we'll still make a fortune. We hire Thurman to be our bouncer and to make sure there are only 10 people inside at a time. We'll have a line out the door!

DANNY

Has it ever occurred to you that somebody lives here? And that somebody is me!

LLOYD

We make it an ironclad rule that nobody ever goes upstairs.
If they do they're banned for life! Well maybe not life if
they're a good customer.

DANNY

I'll think about it. But if I didn't mention this, my wife
left me today, so I've sort of got a few other things on my
mind, okay?

LLOYD

Okay, man, I understand. I was just throwing it out there.

Danny turns around and walks back into the basement.

INT. BASEMENT — AFTERNOON

Back in the basement the camera moves slowly, first focusing on Thurman and George, who is racking up the pool table for a game. George says to Thurman:

GEORGE

T-man, should we just play for fun, or would you like to
make this interesting?

THURMAN

I've seen you hustle enough college students over the years,
so we'll play for fun.

GEORGE

I never hustled anybody, man! Those kids, they begged to
play me.

THURMAN

I just lost my job, George. I don't need to lose any money.
You don't want to see me angry, do you?

George doesn't say anything and continues racking the balls up. The camera then pans over to Jasmine and Lenny, who are sitting in two chairs nearby. Jasmine is texting her friend Ashlay on her phone, we see her screen: Ashlay: "What are you doing?" Jasmine: "Got kicked out of AH, hanging out at this guy's house, it's cool." Ashlay: "Can I come by?" Jasmine: "Yeah, I'm sure he won't mind. And I need a ride later." Ashlay: "Okay, drop a pin." Jasmine: "Here you go." Jasmine then shares her location with Ashlay. She puts her phone down and goes over to Lenny.

LENNY

You know, Jasmine, I understand you need to make money
and all that, but I was thinking, since we're hanging out,
and I gave you a ride, and we got free drinks... do you
think this one time you could give me a two for one
special?

JASMINE

Now, sweetie, you wouldn't have any respect for me if I did that. And besides, do you really think you have enough juice left in your box?

LENNY

Oh, I have enough juice in my box. My box is like three quarter's full. Really. It's a big box.

JASMINE

Well, now you just need \$40.

LENNY

I have \$15.

Jasmine finishes her drink and says:

JASMINE

Meet me at your car in two minutes.

Jasmine gets up and walks off. Lenny looks around, then gets up as well.

CUT TO:

INT. JOAN'S CAR — AFTERNOON

Inside Joan's car as she turns into the driveway of the house. She stops for a second when she sees the line of cars parked in the driveway, then slowly begins driving toward the house. She pulls past Lenny's car.

Lenny is sitting in the passenger seat, as Jasmine, sitting in the driver seat, is bent over into Lenny's lap. As Joan pulls by, Jasmine lifts up her head for a moment, and seeing Joan, cracks a smile. Lenny forces a smile as well. Jasmine leans back down, and Joan continues driving, pulls up to the house, and puts her car in park.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT — AFTERNOON

George and Thurman are still playing pool and Danny and Lloyd are standing at the makeshift bar, when Joan steps into the basement.

JOAN

Is there a really good reason why some woman is giving a guy head in a car in the driveway?

DANNY

Joan, please let me explain...

LLOYD

Joan, if Danny doesn't mind, I think I can handle this one.... The reason she is giving head in the driveway is

because we have a strict policy in this bar that no one goes upstairs. I guess they thought they had no other choice.

JOAN

You guys are running a bar in this basement?

LLOYD

Well, we were thinking about it.

DANNY

Lloyd. Stop talking. Please. Joan, can we talk upstairs, please?

Danny and Lloyd walk off to talk. George has noticed.

GEORGE

BJs in the driveway? Can I call dibs on the next one?

LLOYD

George, that activity is not currently sanctioned by the bar owners, and if it was it would cost extra.

GEORGE

Well I've paid nothing so far, so I'll gladly pay twice that much!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN — AFTERNOON

Joan opens the door from the basement, followed by Danny, and they stand in the kitchen and talk.

DANNY

You moving back in?

JOAN

Very funny. I forgot my laptop. Are you going to even attempt to explain what the fuck is going on here?

DANNY

I got laid off today. The bar closed for good. So I decided to ask a few people over for drinks. That's all.

JOAN

And the act of fellacio that just happened in the driveway?

DANNY

Jasmine and Lenny just met. I think they're hitting it off.

JOAN

But neither one of them has their own place to go to?

DANNY

Come on, we did that kind of shit when we were young.
You don't remember? Now, can I just ask you one question?

JOAN

No. Because you're going to ask me why I left. And the answer to that question is downstairs and in the driveway. Sure I may have been stupid enough to do that when we were in our 20s. But you're 34 years old. You never grew up, Danny. The rest of us did. Goodbye. My lawyer will be in touch. Joan grabs her laptop bag from the kitchen table, throws it over her right shoulder, and walks to the back door. She opens the back door and Jasmine is standing there as if she was about to knock. Joan looks at her.

JOAN

(CONT'D)

Hey, if he's your next customer, at least keep it in the house this time, okay, honey? This isn't the Playboy mansion. We do have neighbors.

Joan walks past Jasmine who doesn't say anything. Danny walks to the door to talk to Jasmine.

DANNY

I'm sorry about that. She's mad at me. Come in.

Jasmine walks inside and Danny closes the door behind her.

JASMINE

Your wife is very pretty. Is she always so angry?

DANNY

Well it's nothing a good divorce lawyer can't fix.

JASMINE

Wow you lost your wife and your job on the same day?
That's really sad. Do you want to go in the bathroom? I'm told I do my best work in there.

DANNY

No thanks, Jasmine. After all I am still legally married. And you never know, she might come back to me, right?

JASMINE

Sure, she might. You know, I really don't like lying to people. Even though it is kind of what I do for a living.

DANNY

Was there something you wanted to talk to me about?

JASMINE

Oh yeah. Is it okay if my friend Ashlay comes by? She's going to give me a ride home.

DANNY

You don't ask me before you perform a sex act in my driveway, but you do me ask if your friend can come pick you up?

JASMINE

You're right. I should have asked you about that first thing too. So, is it okay?

DANNY

Yes, Jasmine.

JASMINE

Thanks, Danny!

DANNY

But Jasmine — one more thing.

JASMINE

Yes?

DANNY

That really wasn't cool what you guys did in the driveway. I would blame Lenny, but it's been so long since he had a woman, I'm kind of surprised you two even made it to his car.

JASMINE

I'm really sorry, Danny. I promise it won't happen again. Well, tonight anyway. Lenny doesn't have any more money.

DANNY

Well I know Lenny doesn't get paid until next Friday, so I suppose that apology is acceptable.

Jasmine turns around and walks out the door to wait for Ashlay. Danny walks to the kitchen cabinet and pulls out a bottle of rum. He also takes out a glass and pours himself a large shot. Danny reaches into the refrigerator, grabs a bottle of Coke, opens it, and pours a small amount of Coke over the rum. He replaces the Coke bottle and holds up the glass, taking a long swig.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAR — NIGHT

Inside Danny's car at some point in the past, Joan has just finished performing oral sex on Danny. As he zips up his pants, Joan pulls down the visor on the passenger side and opens the mirror to check her makeup.

JOAN

We shouldn't have done that.

DANNY

I asked and you said fine.

JOAN

That doesn't mean I wanted to do it.

DANNY

You unzipped my pants!

JOAN

That was a reflex action. Men ask for a BJ, and woman reach for their pants zipper.

DANNY

I wish we had met when I was 16. Back then I couldn't beg a woman to reach for my pants zipper.

JOAN

It's my fault. I should have said no. But don't ask me for that again in public, okay?

DANNY

Message received. No pleasure in public. Probably private from now on either, I'm guessing.

JOAN

Not at the rate you're going.

Neither of them says anything as Danny starts his car.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROBBIE'S CAR — AFTERNOON

Robbie is driving along slowly in his car, taking hits off his vaporizer as he searches for where everyone went. He sees all of the cars in Danny's driveway, including Thurman's that has a personalized license plate that reads ThurMAN. He pulls into the driveway and finds a spot, then gets out of the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY — AFTERNOON

As Robbie gets out of the car, and instantly encounters Ashlay, who has parked her car in front of Robbie's, and is approaching the back door to the house.

ROBBIE

Hey, do you know if this is Danny's house?

ASHLAY

I think so. We're both about to find out.

Jasmine comes walking up the driveway, and waves to Ashlay.

JASMINE

Hey Ash, thanks for picking me up. Hi Robbie, did you get lost?

ROBBIE

You can't get lost if you don't know where you're going in the first place.

JASMINE

Okay then. Come on you two, we're drinking in the basement.

Jasmine, Ashlay, and Robbie start walking toward the basement.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT — AFTERNOON

Back in the basement Danny and Lloyd are talking at the makeshift bar. Lenny is sitting down watching the pool game that George and Thurman are playing.

LLOYD

How did it go with Joan?

DANNY

She thinks I'm less mature than a teenager. She's getting a lawyer. She's moving forward with the divorce. And she's pissed about the BJ in the driveway.

LLOYD

So nothing's changed?

DANNY

Pretty much.

LLOYD

So have you given any more thought to the bar?

DANNY

We'll talk about it in a minute, okay?

Just then Jasmine, Ashlay, and Robbie enter the basement through the back door, and approach Danny and Lloyd at the makeshift bar.

JASMINE

Hey guys, this is my friend Ashlay. And Robbie finally found his way here.

DANNY

I don't remember inviting him.

ROBBIE

Dude, I freaking love your house, man. It's so... private man. The perfect place for a party!

DANNY

Some people like the driveway too. Thanks, Robbie. Would you like a beer?

ROBBIE

Yeah, man, thanks.

LLOYD

Ladies, would you like a drink? Jasmine? Ashley?

ASHLAY

Thank you, yes I would. But my name's Ashlay, okay?

LLOYD

That's what I said. Ashley.

ASHLAY

No, it's Ash-lay. Okay?

LLOYD

Ash-lay. Okay cool. I guess.

Lloyd gets the three their drinks. They step over to where Lenny is sitting, and sits near him.

LENNY

Hi guys. Whose your friend, Jasmine?

JASMINE

Her name's Ashlay, got it?

ROBBIE

Why don't you just call her Ash? It might make things easier.

LENNY

Okay, I will. Nice to meet you Ash. I'm Lenny.

ASHLAY

It's my pleasure. Jasmine, is this the nice guy you told me you met tonight?

JASMINE

I don't remember telling you that but sure.

ASHLAY

You always were lucky, Jasmine.

JASMINE

Ashlay, just to let you know, Lenny's juice box is empty. Trust me. So is his wallet too.

Ashlay looks at Lenny.

ASHLAY

Maybe next time.

Robbie looks at Lenny.

LENNY

Dude, I hope you make like, a lot of money.

The attention shifts back to Danny and Lloyd.

DANNY

Yeah, this is going to work out great. We already have two sex workers and one drug dealer hanging out here, and no liquor license.

LLOYD

We'll work it out, man. Maybe get Jasmine and Ashlay to come in alternate nights. And we'll make Robbie direct

traffic upstairs in exchange for doing his thing. It can work, man!

DANNY

You take the money in, but I decide who gets what, and that's nonnegotiable. This is my house and I'm putting what little I have left on the line.

LLOYD

Agreed. You decide how the money is divided. So, are we going to do this?

Lloyd extends his right hand toward Danny. Danny takes it and they shake. Danny turns to the crowd and says:

DANNY

Hey everybody, I just wanted to say something, okay?

Thurman and George stop playing pool, and Lenny, Robbie, Jasmine, and Ashlay stop talking and look toward Danny.

DANNY

(CONT'D)

Listen, this has been real fun having everybody over tonight. And Lloyd and I have been talking, and like I said before, we've all lost a lot lately, but if we lose the bar, then we're going to lose each other, and I don't know about you but I can't lose that too. So, if you guys want, Lloyd and I think you should make this your new bar. We haven't figured out all of the details, and we will have to start charging you guys something for drinks starting tomorrow, but if you guys want to come back, then we'll be opening at 4 p.m. Bring a friend, maybe two, but we need to keep the crowd intimate in here, and we will have to watch that. We want everybody to be safe, of course. So, what do you guys think?

They all respond, one by one:

GEORGE

Sounds great, guys!

THURMAN

I'll be here.

LENNY

Sure, why not?

JASMINE

I'm in.

ASHLAY

Works for me. This place is cool.

ROBBIE

Man, I was going to come back even if you didn't ask me!

Finish on a wide shot of the basement, as music swells.

CUT TO BLACK.

ROLL END CREDITS.