CHEERS
"Showdown"
Part II
#60591-740
Episode 22

Written By
Glen & Les Charles

Created and Developed By
James Burrows
Glen Charles
Les Charles

ON

FINAL DRAFT
February 11, 1983
CHEERS
"Showdown"
Part II
#60591-740
Episode 22
CAST

SAM MALONE ............................................. TED DANSON
DIANE CHAMBERS ....................................... SHELLEY LONG
COACH ERNIE PANTUSSO ................................. NICK COLASANTO
CARLA TORTELLI ......................................... RHEA PERLMAN
CLIFF ....................................................... JOHN RATZENBERGER
NORM ....................................................... GEORGE WENDT
CHUCK ...................................................... TIM CUNNINGHAM
ALAN ....................................................... ALAN KOSS
PAUL ......................................................... PAUL VAUGHN
LOIS ........................................................ LOIS de BANZIE
HELEN ...................................................... HELEN PAGE CAMP
CINDY ....................................................... PEGGY KUBENA

SETS

INT. BAR

INT. SAM'S OFFICE
FADE IN:

INT. BAR – AFTERNOON

SAM IS SERVING A BEER TO CHUCK AT THE BAR.

SAM

Hey, Chuck. How's the job search goin'?

CHUCK

I got something Sam, but I'm not crazy about it. I'm a janitor at a biology lab where they do DNA experiments, making mutant viruses and stuff.

SAM

Hey, that sounds like a good job.

CHUCK

I dunno. Makes me a little nervous, all that weird stuff floating around.
CARLA

Hey, don't worry about it. I'm sure it's safe.

SAM

Of course. I'm sure they take every precaution.

CLIFF AND NORM JOIN IN REASSURINGLY.

CHUCK

Yeah, I guess you're right. I'm getting a little paranoid, huh?

(HE FINISHES HIS BEER) Well, see you all later.

CHUCK EXITS. CARLA PICKS UP HIS MUG CAREFULLY WITH A DIRTY APRON; SAM SPRAYS THE BAR AND STOOL WITH DISINFECTANT. AS EVERYONE JOINS IN THE CLEAN-UP, WE:

FADE TO:

MAIN TITLES
FADE IN:

INT. BAR - AFTERNOON

EVERYONE IS THERE EXCEPT SAM, DIANE AND NORM.

CLIFF

Coach, it's clear we've reached a philosophical impasse here. It's much like the question of a tree falling in the woods.

COACH

A what, Cliff?

CLIFF

A tree falling in the woods.

COACH

Ah.

CLIFF

The question is, if a tree falls in the woods and there's no one there to hear it, is there a sound?
COACH

If there's no one there, how do you
know it fell?

CLIFF

Coach, we assume it fell.

COACH

But you don't know.

CLIFF

Okay, okay. I went into the woods
the next day and saw it lying on
the ground.

COACH

That doesn't mean it fell. A bunch
of beavers could've chewed through
it and gently lowered it to the
ground.

CLIFF

You got me there, Coach.

COACH

You're usually better prepared than
this, Cliff.

CLIFF

Sorry, Coach. I fell asleep last
night when I was going over my notes
for our conversation.

COACH

Oh, you do that, too?

PAUL

Say, where's Diane today?
COACH
It's her day off. She's probably out with Derek again. They've been out together every day.

CARLA
Y'know, I'm sick of hearing about her. Ever since Lady Dye-Job arrived, she gets all the attention. Nobody cares about me anymore. Nobody asks anymore what Carla's doin'.

SHE TURNS AWAY EMOTIONALLY. THEY ALL GATHER AROUND HER.

CLIFF
Hey, come on, Carla. You know that's not true. We weren't that interested in your life before she came here.

ALL THE GUYS AGREE COMFORTINGLY.

CARLA
That's true. Thanks, guys, for reachin' out.

SHE PATS THEM ON THE BACK.

SAM ENTERS WITH A GORGEOUS GIRL NAMED CINDY.

CINDY
Well, Sam, thanks again.

SAM
Thank you for dropping me off. Sure you can't come in for a drink?
CINDY

No, I'm in kind of a hurry. See you later.

SAM

Sorry I shrieked the wrong name.

CINDY

That's okay.

THEY KISS AND CINDY EXITS.

SAM

Hi, everyone.

CLIFF

Wait a minute, Sammy. You mean that gorgeous girl not only went out with you, she also drove?

SAM

No, no, she didn't drive. Carried me.

CLIFF

Woof.

CARLA

I'm proud of you, Sam. You took my little wimp speech to heart. Good to see you back in action.

SAM

Yeah, and I wanna thank you for it. It's taken my mind completely off my brother and your skinny co-worker.

(MORE)
SAM (CONT'D)
I don't care where they are. Where are they?

CARLA
Bobby and Susie saw 'em at the drive-in sharin' a cherry coke and fries. Welcome back to Wimp City, Sam.

NORM ENTERS.

NORM
Afternoon, everybody.

EVERYONE
Norm!

SAM
Norman.

COACH
How're you doin', Norm?

NORM
I'm on top of the world, which is a dismal spot in Greenland.

PAUL
How's the new job working out, Norm?

NORM
Don't bring that up. I'm no longer in the employ of Goldstein, Borman and Kawakami.

CARLA
What happened?
NORM
I discovered that so-called medical corporation is a polite term for "den of thieves." They're in the business of cheating on taxes.

CLIFF
So you resigned in protest, Norm?

NORM
No, they fired me 'cause I took too long for lunch.

SAM
The last angry man.

NORM
They were also annoyed 'cause I was taking too long to hire a secretary. I thought I was doin' okay. In just two days I had it narrowed down to the top ninety-four. So, where's Diane today? Out with Derek again?

SAM
Y'know, we used to have interesting talk in this bar. There was a time I looked forward to our conversations. Now, there's so much gossip in here, you should all have dryers on your heads. I'll be in my office.

SAM EXITS TO THE OFFICE.
TWO MATRONLY LADIES LOIS AND HELEN ENTER AND SIT AT A TABLE. CARLA GOES TO WAIT ON THEM.

CARLA
What can I get you?

LOIS
I'll have a cup of tea.

HELEN
And I'll have a small sherry.

CARLA
Fine.

LOIS
Well, sherry does sound nice, and it is late afternoon. Give me a glass of sherry, too. No... make it a glass of wine. White wine.

HELEN
Wine. I haven't had a glass of wine in ages. (TO CARLA) Is your wine dry?

CARLA
Yeah, it's okay.

HELEN
Then give me some wine, too.

LOIS
You know what sounds like fun to me all of a sudden?

HELEN
What?
LOIS
A beer. I haven't had a beer since
I don't know when.

HELEN
I used to have half a beer on a hot
day.

LOIS
Well, it's kind of cold out today.

HELEN
Then put a shot of whiskey with it,
and it'll be perfect.

LOIS
(TO CARLA) Two boilermakers. Wild
Turkey and Bud.

CARLA
I'll run a tab.

LOIS
Good.

COACH
(HANGING UP THE PHONE) Que lástima.

NORM
What's wrong, Coach?

COACH
I didn't get the job in Venezuela.
They decided on somebody else.

CLIFF
They didn't like your Spanish?
COACH

No, my Spanish was fine. They didn't like my English.

CLIFF

That's too bad, Coach.

COACH

Well, que so what, so what.

DIANE ENTERS.

DIANE

Hello, everyone.

EVERYONE SAYS HI.

CARLA

What're you doin' here? It's your day off.

DIANE

I felt like I had to be in a place where I had a few friends.

CARLA

That's your next stop?

DIANE

Not today, Carla, please.

SHE SITS DOWN AT THE BAR.

COACH

Hey, Diane. What can I get you?

DIANE

I want a sympathetic shoulder, Coach.
COACH

Extra tobasco?

DIANE

You mean there's a drink -- ?
Forget it, give me a soda water.

COACH

Diane, what're you doin' here on your day off?

DIANE

I just decided to come in. By the way, Coach, you never take a day off.

COACH

No, my day off is Thursday.

DIANE

But you work every Thursday.

COACH

Yeah, but I go a little slower.
So, how're you doing today, Diane?

DIANE

Not very well, Coach.

COACH

What's wrong?

DIANE

It's Derek.

COACH

(CONCERNED) What about him, honey?
DIANE
He's flying to Paris today. He wants me to go with him. He's a charming man and he's everything I've been looking for and I think he's interested in me.

COACH
Of all the lousy breaks. Wait a minute, Diane. That sounds good.

DIANE
It is good, Coach.

COACH
I mean, the second I saw you and Derek together I thought, now there's a cute couple.

DIANE
Yes, But what about Sam?

COACH
Sam and Derek are a little cuter, yeah.

DIANE
Coach, let me ask you a question. Am I crazy to even think of letting Derek get away?

COACH
Diane, you're talking to a guy who's taken a lot of footballs in the head. Are you sure you wanna ask me this question?
DIANE

Yes, I am.

COACH

Okay, then ask it.

DIANE

(SHAKES IT OFF) Coach, do you think I'm a smart person?

COACH

You're the smartest person I know.

DIANE

Well I, Diane Chambers, bred and educated to walk with kings, once offered a scholarship to the Sorbonne, have allowed myself to become attracted to a six-foot, three-inch bubblegum card.

COACH

Diane, I may be able to help you with the sore buns, but the rest of it is way over my head.

DIANE

I'm making a confession here, Coach. Not only to you but to myself. In fact, maybe I'll feel better after I say this. You see, I... I...

COACH

You're hot for Sam's chile?
DIANE
I think Keats might have said it better, but I'll accept that.

COACH
Diane, if you like Sam, I don't understand what the problem is.

DIANE
Derek is making a commitment. All I ever get from Sam is adolescent flirtation. I'm not hanging around for that. If Sam would give me something, anything, I'd stay.

COACH
Gee, Diane. Sam's a guy who keeps his feelings to himself. The more he cares about something the less he shows. I've been with him through his divorce, his boozin', the end of his career... And the worse things get the cooler he gets. So if he's not sayin' anything to you, it's a darn good bet he's nuts about you. Either that or he couldn't care less.

NORM COMES OVER.

NORM
Hey, Diane, Mind if I say something?
DIANE

Of course not, Norm.

NORM

Sometimes a man and a woman are so afraid of being vulnerable to rejection, neither of 'em will take the first step of admitting their true feelings.

DIANE

Why, Norm, that's beautiful. Where did you hear that?

NORM

Read it on a bumper sticker. Damn near killed myself.

NORM RETURNS TO HIS STOOL.

DIANE

Well, I have no choice but to force the issue. Where is Sam?

COACH

He's back in his office.

DIANE

I'll tell him I'm going away with his brother and we'll see what he does. If for once in his life he's honest and doesn't hide behind that tough jock facade, I'll stay.

(MORE)
DIANE (CONT'D)

But if he does one of his blithe,  
gratuitous jokes, I'm leaving,  
I swear it.

DIANE HEADS FOR THE DOOR OF SAM'S OFFICE. CARLA GOES  
OVER TO COACH.

CARLA

Why did you do that? We could've  
gotten rid of her once and for all.  
Are you crazy?

COACH

Crazy, Carla? (POINTS TO HIS  
FOREHEAD) Crazy like a door knob.

CLIFF STOPS DIANE.

CLIFF

Wow, Diane, You're putting your whole  
future on the line in this one moment.  
You're allowing your whole life to  
turn on this one response.

DIANE

In a way, that's right.

CLIFF

Can it wait 'til I use the head?

DIANE

No.

CLIFF

I'll hear about it.

CLIFF EXITS TO THE MEN'S ROOM.
DIANE GOES TO THE DOOR OF SAM'S OFFICE, PREPARES HERSELF, AND KNOCKS. SAM COMES OUT.

SAM

Oh, Hi, Diane.

DIANE

Sam, your brother Derek wants me to go to Europe with him, so I came to say goodbye.

SAM

Oh, dammit. I didn't need to hear that.

DIANE

What? What's wrong?

SAM

It's too late to get a help-wanted ad in tomorrow's paper.

HE GOES BACK INTO HIS OFFICE AND CLOSES THE DOOR. FREEZE ON DIANE'S REACTION.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. BAR - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

FREEZE FRAME OF DIANE STANDING AT THE DOOR. WE COME OUT OF THE FREEZE AND DIANE HEADS FOR THE FRONT DOOR.

DIANE

Good-bye, everyone. I'm leaving now.

I'll miss all of you very much.

EVERYBODY RESPONDS SAYING GOODBYE, SHAKING HER HAND, A FEW HUGS. SHE THEN GOES TO THE DOOR, TURNS AND LOOKS BACK AT SAM'S OFFICE.

DIANE (CONT'D)

No. No, no. No, no, no.

SHE CROSSES BACK TO SAM'S OFFICE AND GOES IN.

CUT TO:
INT. SAM'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

SAM IS AT HIS DESK. DIANE ENTERS.

SAM

Sorry, honey. I'm not interviewing 'til Monday.

DIANE

Get this straight. I am going away with him.

SAM

Good. Have fun.

DIANE

This could lead to marriage, you know. Probably will.

SAM

Oh?

DIANE

"Probably" nothing. Will lead to marriage.
SAM

Great.

DIANE

We'll be Diane and Derek Malone. We'll buy a spread somewhere and call it "The Double D".

SAM

That'll make a nice brand.

DIANE

...Children. We'll have blonde, blue-eyed children everywhere.

SAM

Have them brush after every meal.

DIANE

Don't worry. I will be your sister-in-law, Sam. You'll come over for dinner and say, "She sets a nice table, and she keeps herself up, too." I will send you Christmas cards every year... "To a wonderful brother at Christmas."

SAM

It'll be nice to be remembered on the holidays.

DIANE

The card will have a picture of us. Derek and me, the kids, the dogs...
SAM
And the blonde ones will be the kids?

DIANE
This is okay with you?

SAM
If you're happy.

DIANE
I'm ecstatic. Goodbye.

SAM
See you at the wedding. Do I get to kiss the bride?

DIANE
I think you know what you can kiss.

DIANE EXITS.
INT. BAR - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

DIANE COMES OUT OF SAM'S OFFICE AND MAKES A BEE-LINE TOWARD THE DOOR. SHE STOPS.

DIANE

This is it, everyone. I bid you all
a fond farewell. I've enjoyed knowing
you. You've brought a lot to my life.

EVERYONE GETS UP AND HALF-HEARTEDLY REPEAT THEIR GOODBYES. SHE GOES TOWARD THE DOOR, CHANGES HER MIND, AND STARTS BACK TOWARD THE OFFICE. SHE GETS TO THE DOOR, CHANGES HER MIND AGAIN, AND GOES BACK TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Goodbye, everyone.

THE BAR GRUMBLIES GOODBYES AT HER. SHE STOPS AT EXACTLY THE SAME SPOT, GOES BACK TOWARD THE OFFICE. THEN BACK TOWARD THE DOOR.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Farewell...

EVERYONE YELLS AT HER: "GET OUT," "WHO CARES," "LEAVE ALREADY."
DIANE (CONT'D)

No. I won't let it end like this.

DIANE HEADS BACK FOR SAM'S OFFICE.

CARLA

I've had warts that went away quicker.

DIANE PUSHES THE DOOR TO SAM'S OFFICE OPEN AND WE HEAR THE SOUND OF THE DOOR SMASHING SAM'S NOSE AGAINST HIS FACE.

CUT TO:
INT. SAM'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

SAM IS HOLDING HIS NOSE. DIANE ENTERS.

DIANE

What did I hit?

SAM

My dose.

DIANE

Your what?

SAM

Dose. You're supposed to dock.

DIANE

I'm sorry. Next time I'll dock. You were coming out to say something to me, weren't you? What was it?

SAM

I wasn't going to say anything.

DIANE

Yes you were. Say it.
SAM
Go to the airport.

DIANE
Say it!

SAM
No!

DIANE
Okay, wait here.

DIANE EXITS. WE HEAR THE SOUND OF EVERYONE SAYING GOODBYE AGAIN. SAM RUBS HIS NOSE. DIANE RE-ENTERS CARRYING A SMALL BLACKBOARD.

SAM
What're you doing with the blackboard from the poolroom?

DIANE
Tell me what you were going to say or you'll be sorry.

SHE HOLDS HER FINGERNAILS TO THE BLACKBOARD.

SAM
Don't do that.

DIANE
Sing!

SHE HOLDS THE BLACKBOARD TOWARD HIM, HE BACKS OFF.

SAM
I hate that! Please don't.

SHE MAKES A LITTLE SCRATCH.

SAM (CONT'D)

All right! All right. Don't go.
DIANE
You want me to stay?

SAM
Yes.

DIANE
Ask me nice.

SAM
Oh, come on.

DIANE
I mean it. I deserve that much.

SAM
Okay. Would you please stay?

DIANE
Why should I?

SAM
Get out.

DIANE
I'm not sticking around here just
on the hope that maybe something
will happen between us.

SAM
What is it you want, Diane?

DIANE
I want you to tell me what you want.
SAM
I'll tell you what I want. I'll
tell you exactly what I want. I
want to know what you want.

DIANE
Don't you see, this is the problem
we've had all along. Neither of us
is able to come out and state the
obvious.

SAM
You're right. So let's state the
obvious.

DIANE
Okay, you go first.

SAM
Why should I go first?

DIANE
We're doing it again.

SAM
Diane, just explain one thing to me.
I really wanna know this. Why
aren't you with Derek?

DIANE
Because I like you better.

SAM
Really? Well, I like you better
than Derek, too.
DIANE

(LOSING PATIENCE) Sam...

SAM

Hey, Diane.

HE TAKES HER HANDS.

SAM (CONT'D)

All the jealousy I ever felt for my brother is nothing to what I've felt in the last five minutes.

DIANE

Oh, Sam. I think we're about to start something that might be kind of great, huh?

SAM

Yeah. Yeah. You're right. I guess we oughta like...kiss, huh? (TAKES A STEP FORWARD)

DIANE

Well, no. We're not going to just kiss.

SAM

Hey, we're about to start something, right? A kiss is where you start.

DIANE

Yes, but you don't make an announcement when you're gonna kiss someone romantically.
SAM

It wasn't an announcement. I just didn't want to catch you off guard.

DIANE

Well, on our first kiss it's okay to be off guard. You should be swept away.

SAM

I was.

DIANE

Nobody is swept away if they have the presence of mind to say, "Maybe we should kiss."

SAM

Okay. Okay, fine. When I do it I won't say anything.

DIANE

Good.

HE WAITS A BEAT, THEN HE LUNGES FOR HER.

DIANE (CONT'D)

No, see that's not right either.

SAM

Hey, I didn't say anything. I was swept away that time.

DIANE

Let's face it. This moment's not right. We're too aware of what we're doing.
SAM
You're right. Absolutely right.
This isn't happening the way it should. Maybe we should forget
about kissing and just hit the sack.

DIANE
This is the dumbest conversation we've ever had, which makes it the dumbest conversation that's ever been.

SAM
Maybe this whole thing's a mistake.

DIANE
What whole thing?

SAM
What we're doing here. Every time we try something together it goes wrong. Just 'cause I'm a neat-lookin' guy and you're kinda hungry doesn't mean --

DIANE
Hungry?

SAM
Okay, look. Here's what I'm trying to say. You've been here a long time. If something was gonna happen it would've happened. It's silly for us to have to make it happen.
DIANE
Oh, now you say this. After I let Derek go.

SAM
Don't throw Derek in my face. You never cared for Derek. You used him to trap me.

DIANE
Trap you? I'm the best thing that could have happened to you, and you're too stupid to realize it.

SAM
You're the worst thing that could've happened to me. Before you came here I was happy.

DIANE
You can honestly say you were happier before you met me than you are now?

SAM
Of course I can. How do you think it feels to be attracted to someone who makes you sick?

DIANE
I could write a book on the subject.

SAM
You can't shut up long enough to write a check. In fact, you can't shut up at all.
DIANE
You're trying to change the subject.

SAM
The subject is you can't shut up long enough to kiss. I'll bet to save your life you couldn't be quiet for thirty seconds. Make it ten seconds.

DIANE
I most certainly could.

SAM
Okay. Let's see. (LOOKS AT HIS WATCH)

DIANE
You're going to time me?

SAM
That's right, I'm timing you. Ten seconds. Starting... now.

DIANE
Sam, that's moronic.

SAM
Wanna try again?

DIANE
Okay. Time me.

SAM
Start... (CHECKS WATCH) ... now.

DIANE
I don't see the point, but...
SAM

I knew it.

DIANE

I wasn't really trying. You want
to see me do it? Here.

DIANE TAKES SAM'S WRIST AND HOLDS IT UP SO SHE CAN SEE HIS WATCH.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Starting... now. (A BEAT. THEN, TO HERSELF) This is crazy.

SAM

Ah ha!

DIANE

Okay, I can't do it. Silence is
over-rated anyway. At least I have
something to say.

SAM

Meaning I don't?

DIANE

The last conversation I had with Derek
was about walking on the moors like
Heathcliff and Katherine, and I threw
it away for this.

SAM

Fine. Tell you what you do.

SAM ESCORTS DIANE TO THE DOOR. HE OPENS THE DOOR AND ALL OUR REGULARS ARE THERE, OBVIOUSLY LISTENING.

SAM (CONT'D)

Will you get outta here?
THEY ALL SCURRY AWAY.

SAM (CONT'D)

(TO DIANE) Why don't you go find Derek?

DIANE

Fine.

SAM

He shouldn't be hard to find. Just look where there's a crowd gathered.

DIANE

Maybe I will. Maybe I can still catch him.

SAM

Fine. (CLOSES THE DOOR) And while you're flying through the clouds, remember the time I said this. You are the dizziest, jerkiest, phoniest, nut job I ever met.

DIANE

And you, Sam Malone, are an arrogant, self-centered, son of a bi--

SAM

(POINTING AT HER) Shut your mouth.
Shut your fat mouth.

DIANE

Make me.

THEY ARE STANDING TOE TO TOE, FURIOUS.
SAM
Make you? I'll bounce you off every wall in this office.

DIANE
Try it and you'll be walking funny tomorrow. Or I should say funnier.

SAM
Y'know, sometimes I really feel like popping you one! This gonna be my day? Huh?

DIANE
You disgust me! I hate you!

SAM
Are you as turned on as I am?

DIANE
More!

SAM
Bet me!

THEY GRAB EACH OTHER AND KISS.

CUT TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK:

SAM (V.O.)
Now I'm gonna nibble on your ear.

DIANE (V.O.)
Sam, don't say you're gonna nibble on my ear. That ruins it.
WE HEAR A SLAP.

DIANE (V.O. CONT'D)

Don't you ever hit me again!

END OF ACT FOUR