CHEERS
"Coachie Makes Three"
#60592-035

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FIRST DRAFT
October 6, 1983
CHEERS
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CAST

SAM MALONE............................... TED DANSON
DIANE CHAMBERS........................ SHELLEY LONG
COACH ERNIE PANTUSSO.................. NICK COLASANTO
CARLA TORTELLI........................ RHEA PERLMAN
CLIFF..................................... JOHN RATZENBERGER
NORM...................................... GEORGE WENDT
BILL MORRISSEY.........................
WOMAN #1................................
WOMAN #2................................
KATHERINE..............................
ALAN...................................... ALAN KOSS

SETS

INT. BAR

INT. DIANE'S APARTMENT

INT. SAM'S OFFICE
NORM

What'll we say?

CLIFF

We'll use an opening line.

NORM

What line?

CLIFF

Any line. Those babes are hot for us.

COACH

That's it folks. Closing time.

THE GIRLS WALK OVER TO THE BOYS. CLIFF NUDGES NORM.

CLIFF

(SOTTO, EXCITED) What'd I tell you? Here they come for the kill.

WOMAN #1

Excuse me. My friend and I were wondering if you guys know a late-night spot to go to.

WOMAN #2

You know, someplace fun.

NORM AND CLIFF ARE INSTANTLY TRANSFORMED INTO GAPE-MOUTHEDE VEGETABLES. THERE'S A LONG BEAT OF SILENCE. NORM AND CLIFF LOOK AT EACH OTHER. FINALLY CLIFF, A NERVOUS WRECK, TURNS TO THE GIRLS, AND STAMMERS SOMETHING COMPLETELY UNINTELLIGIBLE.

WOMAN #2

What was that?
NORM

He said (REPEATS WHAT CLIFF STAMMERED)

WOMAN #1

Martians. Come on. They're nerds.

WOMAN #2

Their loss.

THE GIRLS SHRUG AND START TO EXIT. AS SOON AS THEY TURN, THE GUYS RECOVER.

NORM

Cliff, we almost took the midnight train to bow-wow city.

(HE BARKS)

THEY FOLLOW THE GIRLS TO THE DOOR, YELLING AT THEM AS THEY EXIT.

CLIFF

Hey, I've seen better legs on a pool table.

NORM

Yeah, and you can use your chest for a straight edge.

CLIFF

(CALLING UP THE STAIRS) If you ever come back, you better wear a bag on your head.
NORM

A bag's not thick enough. Make it a bucket.

THE BOYS LAUGH UPROARIOUSLY AND GIVE EACH OTHER THE HIGH FIVE, AS WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

MAIN TITLES
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DIANE'S APT. - NIGHT

IT'S THE DARKEST HOUR BEFORE DAWN. SAM, DIANE AND COACH ARE WATCHING T.V. DIANE IS SOMewhere BETWEEN BOREDOM, FATIGUE AND ANNOYANCE.

COACH

(RE T.V.) Watch this. Giant Robot's gonna fly over Tokyo while everyone looks up and points.

SAM

Oh yeah. There they go.

COACH

You know, Sam, Japanese science fiction movies seem better than ours, but I think it's because the monsters look bigger 'cause the people are shorter.
DIANE
Coach, that's a slur.

COACH
Sorry, Diane. My speech starts
to go at this time of night.
(HE RISES) Anyone want anything
from the bathroom?

SAM
No thanks, Coach.

COACH GOES OFF. DIANE WATCHES HIM.

DIANE
Sam, this has got to stop.

SAM
(LOOKING AT T.V.) I know. I
don't see how they can keep
their arms up that long.

DIANE
I mean the Coach. You know I
love him, but haven't you
noticed? He's been coming over
every night and staying later
and later.

SAM
(SHRUGS) I guess he has. So?

DIANE
Sam, it's become a habit. It's
starting to cut into our
romantic times together. I miss
my Sammy lambs.
SAM
Why didn't you say so, Diane?
I'm not gonna let that happen.
(GRABBING HER HAND) Let's go
into the bedroom.

DIANE
Sam, I don't feel like it when
there's someone else here.

SAM
Boy, it doesn't take much to get
you out of the mood.

SHE GIVES HIM A LOOK.

SAM (CONT'D)
Diane, Coach doesn't know
there's anything wrong. We've
always hung out together, when I
wasn't with a woman. This is
the longest relationship I've
ever had.

DIANE
This? What about your marriage?

SAM
I've had a couple of dates that
lasted longer than my marriage.
Anyway I thought you invited him.

DIANE
Once, weeks ago. I didn't mean
forever.
SAM

Well how was he supposed to know that?

DIANE

Sam.

SAM

If you want me to, I'll drop a hint, okay?

DIANE

Okay.

THEY KISS.  COACH RE-ENTERS AND SITS RIGHT NEXT TO THEM.

COACH

(RE T.V.) Oh good. They're still pointing.

SAM

Hey Coach, did you ever hear the expression two's company; three's a crowd?

COACH

Yeah. I never understood it.

SAM

Well, it means two people together are good, but three's too many.

COACH

I like that. But, you know what's even better? A stitch in time saves nine.
SAM

Yeah, yeah. That's great.

SAM GIVES DIANE A HELPLESS LOOK. SHE MAKES A FORCEFUL MOTION BEHIND COACH'S BACK.

SAM (CONT'D)

(RE T.V.) Hey, "The End." I guess that means the movie's over.

COACH

Yup. Oh, well.

COACH GETS UP AND YAWNS. SAM AND DIANE YAWN ALONG LOUDLY. COACH STRETCHES EXTRAVAGANTLY. SAM AND DIANE LOOK AT HIM.

COACH (CONT'D)

I guess I'll go pop some corn.

COACH GOES OFF INTO THE KITCHEN.

DIANE

Sam, if you just tell him the truth, it'll be a lot easier.

SAM

How's this? Diane needs a fix of my love drug. You're gonna have to leave.

DIANE

Sam, this isn't a joke.

SAM

I know. Weaker women have died from the need.

COACH (O.S.)

See what's on next, Sam.
SAM
Coach, I'm pretty tired.

COACH (O.S.)
You're lucky. It takes me hours
to wind down after work.
Sometimes it takes so long I
just stay up.

DIANE
Have you tried anything for it?

COACH (O.S.)
Just coffee.

DIANE
But coffee keeps you up.

COACH RE-ENTERS WITH POPCORN.

COACH
I know. But as long as I'm
gonna be awake, I might as well
be perky.

COACH HANDS THEM THE POPCORN AND PICKS UP THE T.V. GUIDE.

COACH (CONT'D)

(LOOKING THRU T.V. GUIDE)
What's it gonna be?
"Destination Big House" or
"Missile to the Moon"? Your
turn to pick, Sam.

DIANE LOOKS AT SAM.
SAM
Coach... (THERE'S A BEAT THEN HE BACKS DOWN) I don't care. You pick.

COACH
(EXCITED) Wait. Robert Mitchum is on in "Rampage". But darn, it's not until five fifteen.

DIANE
Yes. It would be a shame to become absorbed in "Missile to the Moon" and have to switch in fifteen minutes.

COACH
(SURPRISED) It's five o'clock already? Sam, I've been here all night! I should have left an hour ago.

SAM
Oh it's all--
DIANE PUTS HER HAND OVER SAM'S MOUTH.

COACH
(GETTING UP TO LEAVE) You kids probably want to be alone.

SAM
Yeah. We'll see you tomorrow-- at work.

THEY ALL GO TO THE DOOR AND SAY GOODBYE. COACH LEAVES AND STICKS HIS HEAD BACK IN.
COACH

Go ahead and eat the popcorn.
I'll make a fresh batch tomorrow.

DIANE SHUTS THE DOOR AND LOOKS AT SAM.

SAM

See? He never wears out his welcome.

DIANE

Oh Sam. I don't mean to harp on it. It's just that I had planned a romantic late supper for our anniversary and you showed up with Coach.

SAM

It's our anniversary?

DIANE

We've been going steady for three months.

SAM

Darn, how could I have forgotten? I'm sorry Diane.

DIANE

You're sorry? Carla wouldn't trade nights off until I kissed the soles of her sneakers.

SAM

And I kissed you after that.

DIANE

Sam, please talk to Coach.
SAM
But how do you tell that sweet, sensitive, lonely guy you don't want him around? I don't want to hurt his feelings.

DIANE
If Coach knew he was imposing he wouldn't want to be here. It's unfair not to tell him. The truth shall make us free, Sam.

SAM
I think I have an idea.

DIANE
What?

SAM
Never mind. We have something more important to do right now. We're gonna celebrate our anniversary.

DIANE
Oh Sam, it's so late...I'm exhausted.

SAM
Well, you sleep. I'm gonna celebrate. C'mon, Diane.

THEY GO TOWARD THE BEDROOM.
DIANE

I'll shut off the television.

THEY KISS. SAM EXITS INTO THE BEDROOM. DIANE CROSSES TO THE TUBE AND STANDS OVER IT.

SAM (O.S.)

You may have waited all night, but I'm worth it. (HE YAWNS)

DIANE

(TO HERSELF RE T.V.) Wow. Mitchum looks terrific. What, Sam?

SAM (O.S.)

Hm? Oh, I forget. (YAWNS AGAIN)

DIANE

(ABSORBED IN T.V.) Oh.

SHE SITS DOWN WITH THE POPCORN AND BEGINS TO WATCH.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Boy, was he sexy.

A BEAT LATER WE HEAR SAM SNORING.

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. BAR - THE NEXT DAY

IT'S EARLY AFTERNOON. CARLA IS BEHIND THE BAR. DIANE, CLIFF AND NORM ARE THERE.

NORM

Beer, Carla.

CARLA

Sure, Norm. You know, when I'm in charge of the bar, I know what God feels like.

NORM

How's that?

CARLA

It's like I'm in complete control of peoples' destinies.

(MORE)
CARLA (CONT'D)
I can make their drink real
strong so they'll get sick or I
can water it down so they're
paying for nothing, or if I
don't like their attitude I can
spit in it. (SHE LAUGHS
HAPPILY) I love it.

SHE DRAWS BEER AND SERVES IT TO NORM.

NORM
Carla, we're getting along,
aren't we?

CARLA
As a matter of fact, you've been
pretty testy with me lately.

NORM TAKES A LOOK AT THE BEER AND AT CARLA.

NORM
Some risks are worth taking.

SAM ENTERS WITH BILL MORRISSEY, A GUY AROUND COACH'S AGE.

SAM
Hey everybody. I want you to
meet an old friend of Coach's,
Bill Morrissey.

EVERYONE AD LIBS GREETINGS.

SAM (CONT'D)
Bill was equipment manager when
Coach was coaching the minors.
This is gonna be kind of a
reunion for them.
BILL
I haven't seen the Coach for what, fifteen years?

DIANE
What brings you here now, Bill?

BILL
Sam came down to Providence and got me.

SAM
Carla, give Bill whatever he wants.

BILL SITS AT THE BAR WITH THE GUYS. DIANE PULLS SAM ASIDE.

DIANE
Sam, you imported a friend for Coach?

SAM
Hey, he was the only name in Coach's address book with a functioning phone number. But, it's gonna work Diane. Those guys were tight. It's gonna make Coach see that it's much more fun to be with a friend like him than with us.

DIANE
Sam, this seems a very long way around when the truth is actually the shortest distance between two points.
SAM
There you go again. I like the truth too, but there's no point overusing it.

CARLA
Hey, here comes the Coach now.

SAM
Boy, he's gonna die when he sees his old buddy Bill after all this time.

BILL
Yeah.

COACH ENTERS. HE GREETS EVERYONE, SEES BILL.

COACH
Hi, Bill.

COACH EXITS INTO THE BACK, THEN RE-ENTERS QUICKLY.

COACH (CONT'D)
Bill Morrissey! Is that you?

(A BEAT) Boy, you got old.

BILL
You too.

THEY LAUGH AND HUG EACH OTHER.

BILL (CONT'D)
Coach, you old son of a gun.

COACH
What the hell are you doing here?

BILL
Sam invited me.
COACH
You did, Sam?

SAM
Amazing coincidence. Bill and I happened to be at the same place at the same time. And I thought how great it would be for the old partners to get back together.

COACH
We really were partners. A couple of cut-ups, huh, Bill?

BILL
We were. Remember when we wore each other's hats?

COACH AND BILL LAUGH.

COACH
And when we put the salt in the pepper shakers. It took the boys twice as long to shake it out.

COACH AND BILL Hoot.

CARLA
You guys were real hellcats.

COACH
They couldn't keep us down, Carla. Tell her what they used to call us, Bill.
BILL

Bill and Coach.

COACH

(NOSTALGICALLY) Everything was wilder then.

SAM

Hey, you two have a lot to talk over. Why don't you take the day off, Coach? Go tear up this burg.

COACH

Really? Thanks, Sam.

COACH AND BILL PUT THEIR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER.

BILL

Let's do like we used to in the old days -- walk around and pretend like we've got limps.

COACH

Always after my heart. (GETTING READY TO LEAVE) Boy Bill, when I think of the great times we had, I wonder why we ever broke it up. You remember, Sam?

SAM

Not me.
BILL
It was the silliest thing. I borrowed some money from the Coach and I paid him back but he claimed I never did.

COACH TURNS ON BILL ENRAGED.

COACH
You owe me fifty bucks, Morrissey.

BILL
Pantusso, I told you what happened.

SAM
Hey, either way, what does it matter now?

COACH
Keep out of this, Sam. (TO BILL) I know you have it. It's probably where you always kept your money, in your sock.

BILL
(ANGRY) You're nuts.

COACH
No, I'm not.

BILL
Oh yeah, you wanna look?

BILL PULLS UP HIS PANT LEG.
COACH

(POINTING, BESIDE HIMSELF)
Those are my socks.

BILL

Yeah, and you can have 'em.
They got more holes than your head. (HE STARTS TAKING THEM OFF)

COACH

Somebody better hold me back.

BILL

Thanks for the aggravation,
Malone. You always were an upstart.

BILL THROWS THE SOCKS AT COACH AND STORMS OUT.

COACH

(YELLING OUT THE DOOR) Don't think you're gonna get off this easy. You still owe me forty-nine fifty. (TO SAM AND DIANE) Thank God there's a Marx Brothers movie on tonight. It'll cheer me up. (STORMS OFF)

DIANE

Sam, I know what a dumb and useless failure you must feel like after that, so I won't make matters worse by mentioning it.
SAM

Thank you.

NORM

What was that all about, Sammy?

SAM

Coach is hanging around us all the time but I can't bring myself to tell him not to. I was trying to find something else for him to do -- or someone else to do it with.

CARLA

Don't look at me, Sam. If Coach hung around with me at home, he'd see that the Carla he knows is not the real Carla.

DIANE

What is the real Carla?

CARLA

Well, believe it or not, I have a dark side.

EVERYONE SHUDDERS AT THE THOUGHT.

SAM

Norm and Cliff, how about you? Got any plans for later?

NORM

You kidding? We're all filled up.
CLIFF
Yeah, Sammy. At six thirty, we're gonna go in the back and shoot a little pool, finish by seven thirty in time for a refill and Family Feud on the video here. Refill, take a whiz around eight fifteen. Refill, then a walk over to the juke box to play a few tunes at nine thirty. Refill, tell a few stories. Refill, and we'll be lamenting another evening's passage.

NORM
Don't forget your speech.

CLIFF
Ah yes, I will end the evening with my weekly foreign policy statement, and a refill.

(EXTENDING MUG) Sam, a refill.

SAM
Excuse me for asking. I didn't realize your schedules were so busy.

NORM
This conversation is putting us hopelessly behind.
CARLA
Sam, you know it's against my beliefs to help you make things go smooth with the squawk box here. But since Coach is involved, I can bend the rules. I happen to know he has a crush on one of the tellers at the bank.

SAM
At Boston Savings down the street?

CARLA
Yeah. Maybe if he was dating her, she'd take him off your hands.

SAM
That's not bad. Maybe I can set them up. Who is she?

CARLA
Either I don't know her name or I won't tell you.

SAM
Carla.

CARLA
You're lucky. I don't know her name.
SAM
Whaddya think, Diane? It's worth a try.

DIANE
Well...you know that saying you always hear from me.

SAM
You mean, "if brains were bus tickets you couldn't get out of sight"?

DIANE
No, the one about romance.

SAM
"Let's"?

DIANE
I mean, "Romance is the answer to almost every question."

SAM
I've never heard you say that.

DIANE
Well, I'm going to start.
Finding Coach a girlfriend would be wonderful.

SAM
I'll get her name from Coach and set up a blind date.
Diane

I think Coach would be too embarrassed to go on a blind date. I'd better pretend that she's a friend of mine. That way we can make it look like a chance meeting.

Sam

I like you when you're sneaky.

Thanks.

Coach re-enters somewhat calmed down.

Sam (Cont'd)

You okay now, Coach?

Coach

It just proves what my father always told me: Never trust a man who doesn't dust his shorts with cornstarch.

Norm and Cliff look at each other and exchange the okay sign.

Sam

Hey Coach. Maybe you can help me out. I'm shopping for a new bank. You like yours, don't you?

Coach

It's excellent.

Sam

Like the tellers there?

Coach

They're great.
SAM
Who do you think I should talk
to there? You know someone real
friendly, nice -- cute.

COACH
(THINKING A BEAT) Frank.

CARLA
No Coach. Who's the one you
always talk to?

COACH
The cheerful one with the nice
smile?

CARLA
Yeah.

COACH
That's Frank.

SAM
Isn't there a woman you like
there?

COACH
Oh. Edwina.

DIANE
Edwina at your bank? Isn't that
funny? She's a friend of mine.

COACH
Then you must know Frank too.
They're married.
CARLA
Coach, who was the one you said
was a nice lady last Thursday?

COACH
That's Stella.

SAM
Stella?

DIANE
Stella, that's my friend.

COACH
Not Stella. I hate Stella. I
meant Dorothy.

DIANE
Yes. Me too.

SAM
You like Dorothy?

COACH
She's nice.

SAM
Excuse me.

SAM RUNS OUT.

COACH
But not as nice as Julia.

CARLA RUNS OUT AFTER SAM.

COACH (CONT'D)
Wait a minute. That's my
grocery store. At the bank, no
one beats Sandra.

DIANE TAKES OFF. COACH SLAPS HIS HEAD.
NORM
Wrong name, Coach?

COACH
No. I was killing a fly.

ALAN ENTERS.

ALAN
Hey, what's going on? I just saw Sam, Carla and Diane chasing each other up the street.

NORM
They went to the bank.

COACH
Gee. They must be giving away toasters.

ON NORM'S REACTION:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. DIANE'S APT. - A COUPLE OF NIGHTS LATER

SAM, DIANE, COACH AND KATHERINE, A PLEASANT MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN, ENTER. THEY'RE ALL IN HIGH SPIRITS.

DIANE

Well, we're back. (POINTING AT KATHERINE) Coffee?

COACH

No, Diane, Katherine. You're usually so good with names. (TO KATHERINE) Although Coffee's nice. You might think about changing...

DIANE

Would you like some coffee?

KATHERINE

Yes, I would.
COACH AND SAM

Me, too.

KATHERINE

(TO DIANE) I'll help you.

THE WOMEN EXIT INTO THE KITCHEN. SAM AND COACH SIT DOWN.

COACH

Sam, I still can't get over it.
Diane is friends with Katherine,
my favorite teller at the bank.

SAM

Small world, isn't it?

COACH

And what luck that she should
happen to be here when I came
over.

SAM

Pure fate.

COACH

And on a night when we closed
the bar early.

SAM

Funny how things work out.

COACH

And that she would want to go
out with us and we all have such
a good time.
SAM

What can I say? It happens.

DIANE AND KATHERINE RE-ENTER FROM THE KITCHEN WITH COFFEE AND COOKIES.

DIANE

Here we are. Now what were you two talking about?

SAM

Coincidences.

DIANE

Ah.

COACH

I just thought of something else. Diane knows just about everybody at my bank.

SAM

Well, you know how friendly she is.

COACH

How did you and Katherine meet anyway, Diane?

KATHERINE

At the drive-up window.

DIANE

At the loan desk.

KATHERINE

At the loan desk.

DIANE

At the drive-up window.

THE WOMEN LAUGH.

COACH

Don't feel bad. Sometimes I forget things too. Or do I?
KATHERINE

Ernie, you tickle me. Are you always this funny?

COACH

(CONSIDERING) I doubt it.

KATHERINE LAUGHS AGAIN AND POINTS AT COACH. COACH LAUGHS TOO AND POINTS BACK, THEN SHRUGS AT SAM.

SAM

Well, Katherine, what's new and exciting in the world of high finance?

KATHERINE

I wouldn't know. I'm afraid the most exciting part of my day is trying to spot someone picking their nose on the closed-circuit T.V. (SHE GIVES SAM A CLOSER LOOK) I knew you seemed familiar.

DIANE

Well, I think banking is fascinating. It has so many facets. So many things I've always wondered about.

COACH

Me too.

KATHERINE

Like what?
COACH
Like why do they call them
tellers? They never tell you
anything, they just ask you
questions. And why do they call
it interest? It's boring. And
another thing, when they tell
you to go to the next window,
its not a window, its a little
door. And how come the Trust
Department has all their pens
chained to the table? You call
that trust? And another thing...

KATHERINE
(LAUGHING) There he goes
again. You're too much.

COACH
(SOTTO TO SAM RE KATHERINE) A
little giddy, but she's nice.

KATHERINE
(LOOKING AT HER WATCH) This
really has been a wonderful
evening, but I'm afraid I have
to get up at the crack of dawn.
I better go.

SHE GETS UP.

DIANE

Oh, too bad.
COACH
It is pretty late. Can I see
that you get home all right?

KATHERINE
Thank you, Ernie. I'd like that.

EVERYONE GETS UP AND GOES TO THE DOOR.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)
Thanks again, Diane, Sam.

COACH
We'll all have to do it again.

SAM GIVES DIANE A DISCREET OKAY SIGN. EVERYONE AD LIBS
GOODBYE. COACH AND KATHERINE EXIT.

SAM
Well, Diane, I think this proves
that a sticky situation is best
handled with lies, deceit and
trickery.

DIANE
Maybe it worked, but it bothers
me that we never really let him
know our feelings.

SAM
Come on. What difference does
it make? Coach is happy. I'm
happy and you're gonna be in
ecstasy momentarily.

DIANE
Oh, yes, Sam. We've waited so
long.

(MORE)
DIANE (CONT'D)

Let's not waste one second once
we've put this food away.

SAM
Okay.

HE STARTS SHOVING COOKIES IN HIS MOUTH. DIANE LAUGHS.

DIANE
(FONDLY) You lug.

THEY EMBRACE.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Isn't it wonderful? Just the
two of us.

SAM
Absolutely. I feel like I
haven't been alone with my
sweetie in months. But I'm
gonna make up for it all night.

DIANE

Oh, Sam.

SAM TURNS DOWN THE LIGHTS.

SAM

A little mood. Dim lights.

Soft music.

HE GOES TO TURN ON SOME MUSIC. THERE'S A KNOCK ON THE
DOOR. THEY GIVE EACH OTHER A LOOK.

DIANE

Who is it?

COACH (O.S.)

It's me.
SAM

(HOPEFULLY) Me, who?

DIANE OPENS THE DOOR. COACH ENTERS.

COACH

Howdy.

HE GOES TO THE T.V. AND PUTS IT ON AND STARTS TAKING HIS SHOES OFF.

SAM (CONT'D)

Coach. Did you forget something?

COACH

Nothing I can think of. (PICKS UP THE T.V. GUIDE) Hey, would you put on some lights? I can't read this.

SAM

Coach, I thought you were gonna show Katherine home.

COACH

I did. I showed her where the bus stop is. It didn't take long. (FINDING A STATION) Wow! "Attack of the Fifty-Foot Women!"

DIANE

Coach, how could you do that to her?

COACH

Frankly, Diane, I didn't want to give her the wrong idea.

(MORE)
COACH (CONT'D)

You may not have noticed, but that dame was hot for me.

SAM

So, what's wrong with that?

COACH

Nothing. It's just bad timing. Between my job, seeing you guys, and my movies, I just can't fit her in.

AS COACH RELAXES AND DIANE AND SAM LOOK AT HIM IN ANGUISH, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. BAR - THE NEXT NIGHT

IT'S NEAR CLOSING TIME. OUR REGULARS ARE THERE. COACH EXITS INTO THE BACK ROOM. SAM AND DIANE EXCHANGE A LOOK.

DIANE
Sam, do you want me to talk to him?

SAM
No, Diane. I was just on my way.

CLIFF
I predict tears followed by senseless violence.

NORM
So, having a hard time breaking poor old Coach's heart, Sammy?

DIANE
(ANGRY) Norm, you're not helping.

(MORE)
DIANE (CONT'D)

There are painful realities in this world. Masking and avoiding them only perpetuates the anguish.

CARLA

The Stick's right.

DIANE

Thank you, Carla.

CARLA

I've been in the same situation. This person just couldn't take a hint. Finally I just had to go up to him and say "Get lost. I don't want you around."

SAM

What happened?

CARLA

The police brought him back. They said I gave birth to him and I had to keep him.

COACH ENTERS, CLEANING TABLES AND SINGING HAPPILY; SAM WATCHES HIM.

SAM

Okay, Diane. Help me. I can't do this. Can you talk to him?

DIANE

Okay, Sam.

(MORE)
DIANE (CONT'D)

Maybe it would be better coming from someone who isn't as close to him as you are. Someone who can be firm yet tactful.

(WALKING AWAY) Coach, I'd like to see you in Sam's office.

COACH

Sure, Diane.

DIANE AND COACH START TO EXIT INTO THE OFFICE.

COACH (CONT'D)

But I can tell you right now, I don't look that much different in there.

CUT TO:
INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DIANE AND COACH ENTER.

COACH
Well, what do you think? The same, huh?

DIANE
Coach, we have to have a talk. It's going to be painful but it's necessary.

COACH
Okay.

DIANE
Coach, there's no use skirting this issue any longer.

(MORE)
DIANE (CONT'D)
You see, the fact is that the three of us, that is, you, Sam and I have been spending a lot of time together. Coach, Sam and I don't want you to spend so much time with us in the future.

COACH
(CRUSHED) I see.

HE SITS DOWN.

DIANE
I'm sorry, but I thought it best to just say it straight out.

COACH
(HURT) No, I'm sorry. I didn't know I was being a pest. I'll never bother either of you again.

DIANE
Coach, I didn't say never. We would just like it if we didn't see quite so much of you in my apartment after work.

COACH
I'll never come to your apartment again.

DIANE
No, no that's not right either.

(MORE)
DIANE (CONT'D)

There are times you can come to my apartment. Just not every night.

COACH

What nights can I come?

DIANE

Well, a lot of nights. When Sam and I invite you.

COACH

I'll wait for an invitation.

DIANE

No, no there are other times.

COACH

When?

DIANE

Well, if something really special is going on.

COACH

Like what?

DIANE

Like your birthday.

COACH

Okay, I'll come over once a year.

DIANE

No, no. There are other special occasions.
COACH

But not just a Robert Mitchum movie.

DIANE

Now there's a perfect example. If there's a Robert Mitchum movie, you're welcome to come over.

COACH

I hope no Robert Mitchum movies fall on my birthday, 'cause then I'll waste a night.

DIANE

Coach, Robert Mitchum movies are just an example. Any good movie is okay.

COACH

What if I think it's a good movie and you don't?

DIANE

Listen, if you think it's a good movie, then by golly, you'd better be there.

COACH

I don't understand. When is it you want me not to come?

DIANE

Well, you know.

(MORE)
DIANE (CONT'D)

Every now and then...or when the occasion doesn't warrant it.
For example, if you had an infectious disease.

COACH

I should just lay in my apartment and die?

DIANE

No, no, that was a bad example. You should be with friends that can help. Let's see...well, I don't think you should come to my apartment when I'm not there. And of course, if I move. Or if there's a fire, or the building collapses. And I've heard that in case of nuclear attack, my apartment would be a bad place to be.

COACH

Gotcha.

DIANE

Good. Now we're getting somewhere.

CUT TO:
INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

ALMOST EVERYBODY IS GONE. CARLA IS CLEANING UP. CLIFF IS FINISHING HIS WEEKLY STATEMENT.

CLIFF

...in summary, I think this focus of attention on the Middle East is forcing us to ignore the potential powder keg that exists with our Latin American neighbors to the south.

NORM APPLAUDS

CLIFF (CONT'D)

Thank you. Refill.

SAM

We're closed, guys.

CLIFF

Guess we'll be heading out, if you don't need us anymore, Sammy.
SAM
Go ahead. Why should I need support when my girlfriend is crushing the heart of the man who saved my life.

NORM
Okay, see you tomorrow.

CLIFF
Hey, Norm. I feel like a little exercise. Wanna race to the car?

NORM
You're on.

CLIFF
One -- two -- three -- go!

CLIFF RUNS UP THE STEPS. NORM FOLLOWS AT A LEISURELY PLACE.

NORM
(NORMAL VOICE) Winner buys tomorrow night.

CLIFF AND NORM EXIT. CARLA COMES UP TO SAM.

CARLA
I'm gonna go too, Sammy. Okay?

SAM
Sure, Carla.

CARLA
Look at it this way, Sam. Even if she's lying in there bleeding out of the mouth, you're the only one who's gonna care.
SAM

Thanks, Carla.

CARLA

Sure. And if it's that, call me. I wanna see.

SHE EXITS. COACH ENTERS FROM THE OFFICE, UP.

COACH

Sam, I just had a really good talk with Diane.

SAM

You did? Coach, I'm so relieved.

COACH

Yeah, and I'm gonna try to do like she says.

SAM

Thanks, Coach. I appreciate it.

COACH

Don't know if I can spend the whole weekend with you two, but I'll see.

SAM

Huh?

COACH

(PATTING SAM'S BACK) But the trip to New York is a definite yes.

SAM

What trip to New York?
COACH
I'll let Diane surprise you.

COACH STARTS TO EXIT.

SAM
Where're you going?

COACH
To get my photo album from the car. Diane wanted to see it.

COACH EXITS. DIANE ENTERS FROM THE OFFICE SHEEPISHLY.

SAM
What happened?

DIANE
I might have adopted him.

SAM
This is great. After the hell you put me through about honesty, you were too gutless to do it.

DIANE
But Sam, I laid the groundwork. I'll be a lot easier now.

COACH RE-ENTERS WITH HIS PHOTO ALBUM.

COACH
Sam, Diane, wait a minute. I smell something fishy.

DIANE
(TO SAM) I knew we should have been honest.
COACH

Maybe they got some bad mackerel at Melville's. But you know what happens when I smell fish? I think better, and I just put two and two together. I think I'm pretty close to an answer. Tell me if I'm wrong, but I think that date with Katherine last week was a set up.

DIANE

Coach, we don't want you to think...

COACH

Diane, quit your whining and listen.

DIANE

Yes, sir.

COACH

I also don't think you just happened to run into Bill Morrisey. You brought him here, and for a specific reason, Sam.

SAM

Coach, some things are just impossible to say.
COACH

Sam, when you couldn't throw a slider to save your life, I told you, didn't I. And, when you were a drunk, didn't I tell you that you were a drunk?

SAM

Over and over and over.

COACH

Well, you were really a drunk.

SAM

I know.

COACH

I mean you were really a drunk. I mean a sot. I mean a toss pot. I mean...

SAM

Coach, what are you trying to say?

COACH

You drank too much.

SAM

No, no I mean about tonight.

COACH

Oh. Sam, what kind of friendship do we have if it's so weak you can't just come out and tell the truth?
DIANE
See, Sam?

COACH
You too, Miss Priss. I don't want friends who can't be honest with me. Now, if you have something to say to me, just come out and say it.

THERE'S A BEAT.

SAM
Okay. Coach, we don't want you hanging around.

COACH
There. Now I know you care.

DIANE
We do care, Coach.

COACH
It hurts, but I respect you for it. Never?

SAM
No. Not never.

COACH
Great. You two are really my friends and I'll be there for you, whenever you let me.

SAM
Coach, we'll be there for you too.
COACH

I just don't want you to forget me.

DIANE

Forget you? Never!

COACH

I'm really gonna miss you guys.

SAM

We'll miss you too.

DIANE

Oh, Coach.

THEY ALL HUG EMOTIONALLY AND STAY THAT WAY FOR A LONG BEAT.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Wanna come over?

COACH

Sure.

THEY START TO EXIT.

DIANE

I got some new gourmet popcorn.

SAM

Hey, I think "Banditos" on tonight.

DIANE AND COACH

(EXCITED) Mitchum.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO