

ANY OPEN MIKE NITE

by Herbert M. Midgley

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TIME: Present

PLACE: In an East Texas Bar and Grill called Remo's.

CHARACTERS:

Tawny - A 19 year old female that is tall and attractive with bleach blonde hair about 110 pounds. She has many tattoos and body piercings. She is wearing an orange belly shirt with a punk rock logo on it. She is very friendly even though she doesn't look that way.

Mollie - A 21 year old female that is of normal height with brunette hair about 135 pounds. She has blue eyes and a perfect smile. She is wearing a white blouse with jeans and a jacket with imitation fur at the collar. When she talks to you, she dazzles you with her smile.

Cal - A 26 year old female that is a tall bleached red head about 125 pounds. She always has a cigarette in her hand. She is wearing jeans with a blue tee shirt and horn rim glasses. She is very smart and curses like a sailor.

Rachael - An 18 year old female that is a short brunette about 105 pounds. She is wearing a tight shirt and jeans all black with silver necklace. She is very shallow and likes herself the most when she is intoxicated.

Ben - A 19 year old male about six feet tall with black hair and about 110 pounds. He is very skinny and is wearing jeans and a white tee shirt. He is very friendly and loves music.

Tim - A 26 year old male about six feet two inches with long brown hair. He is wearing jeans with a plaid shirt. He is very laid backed with a hippy type attitude.

Chuck - A 22 year old male about five feet ten inches tall with short brown hair. He is wearing jeans and tee shirt all black with chains. He has many tattoos and body piercings. He is a stoner that gets into many fights.

Doug - A 28 year old male about five feet five inches tall with black brown hair and John Lennon type glasses. He is wearing a black jeans and a maroon tee shirt with a "I'm a Nerd" logo on it and a leather jacket. He is doesn't drink or smoke, loves to have a good time and is a computer nerd.

SCENE ONE

Doug is walking into a Bar and Grill restaurant carrying a guitar gig bag over his shoulder and a duffle bag. It is about 10pm, there is a lot of smoke and everyone in the bar is drinking, smoking and talking.

TIM

Doug! Man it's good to see you man! (TIM shakes DOUG'S hand)

DOUG

Tim, you know that I'm here every Thursday night. I love the open mike night! Do you have some room for me tonight?

TIM

Doug, I will always make time for you if it is at all possible.

DOUG

Awesome! Well Tim, let me know when you want me to go on. I'm ready at anytime.

TIM

Cool. (Beat) I better get another beer before we start.

DOUG

Cool. Rock and roll. I'll see you in a bit.

(TAWNEY walks in the front door.)

TAWNEY

Doug!

DOUG

Tawney! How are you doing girl. (TAWNEY hugs DOUG) Did your week go all right?

TAWNEY

I'm so tired of making burgers.

DOUG

I know. And you are a veggy, right?

TAWNEY

I know and that's what makes it worst. All of these meat eaters never stop coming in. And you know that on Wednesday after five, all the burgers are ninety-nine cents. Every ghetto meat-eater has to come in to get a cheap burger.

DOUG

Tawney, what's the most burgers that you've sold at one time on a Wednesday night?

TAWNEY

One Fat Albert customer, that's what I call the ones that are severely over weight, ordered twenty-five burgers. Twenty-five! No fries, no drinks only twenty-five ninety-nine cent burgers! He could barely waddle out the door with those five bags of burgers.

DOUG

Wow, twenty-five ninety-nine cent burgers. Man that's a lot. (Beat) Well it doesn't matter now, it's open mike night, it's time to rock and roll!

TAWNEY

Doug, you don't know how much I look forward to Thursday nights. If I could't get Thursday nights off from work, I would quit. This is the one fun thing a week that I look forward to.

DOUG

Me too. Every one wants to hear *Doug* sing.

TAWNEY

Well, I better get a beer before it's time to sing *sing*.

DOUG

Cool, I'll see you in a minute.

(DOUG walks over to CAL.)

CAL

Doug, what's up man?

DOUG

Cal, I'm keeping it *real* you know. (Beat) You ready to sing?

CAL

Yeah. (CAL hacks a smoker's cough.) I guess I'd better stop smoking.

DOUG

Cal, you know that one day you will stop for sure.

CAL

I know, but I love my cigarettes. It's one thing that gives me joy in this world.

DOUG

How's school going?

CAL

Man, I can't afford to buy the hundred dollar books. So I've failed a few tests. It sucks being poor.

DOUG

Well, it's hard to independently wealthy. All I do to take all the money I earn and throw it on the pile with the rest of my money.

CAL

All right! It must be hard to be so rich. (Beat) Well I better get a beer before I start to sing.

DOUG

Cool, I can't wait to hear you sing tonight.

(BEN walks in the door. And walks over to DOUG)

BEN

Doug, what's up?

DOUG

Not much! You ready to rock.

BEN

You know it man. I got a cool song that I wrote that I'm going to perform tonight.

DOUG

Rock and roll man! Hey man, how's school going?

BEN

Man Doug, it's rough. I'm in class all week, then I go to work. Then I go home and try and record.

DOUG

Man, that's a long week. Ben, I got a new song too. (DOUG looks away towards MOLLIE and RACHAEL that are sitting down at table laughing and drinking.) Ben, man check out those girls over there. Man they're fine!

BEN

Yeah man!

DOUG

Yeah man!

BEN

Well, I better go and get beer before I start singing.

DOUG

Cool, but you could be like old Doug and only drink water.

BEN

Not after this week. I want beer! And it better be cold!

DOUG

Alright Ben, I'll see you in a few. I can't wait to hear you sing.

(CHUCK walks in the front door.)

BEN

Man here comes Chuck. I better go get a beer before I hit him.

DOUG

All right, see you in a few.

(CHUCK walks over to the bar. DOUG walks over to him.)

CHUCK

Doug.

DOUG

Hi Chuck. Are you going to sing tonight?

CHUCK

I'm not sure. I got too drunk last night and I have a hangover.

DOUG

So you're going to get a beer to help your hangover?

CHUCK

No, I'm going to get a pitcher of beer to help my hangover. Doug be glad you don't drink, it's not worth it.

Yeah.
DOUG

(BEN walks by CHUCK and gives him an evil look.)

Drinking isn't worth it.
CHUCK

Man what's up between you and Ben? Is it the Tawney thing?
DOUG

I *guess*. I've tried to be cool with him. I have no reason to dislike him or anything.
CHUCK

Man, Ben is young. Can you remember when you were his age? Don't take it personally.
DOUG

I don't. I used to tell him hi, but he just scuffs and walks off with out saying anything.
CHUCK

Well, it's always the best to take the high road. He'll grow out of it one day. (Beat) You know since Tawney broke up with him, he has been feeling a bit down.
DOUG

I know. I felt so bad when it fell apart between me and Tawney. And you know what it was? It was the booze. I would get so drunk, I would do stupid stuff that I didn't remember. I couldn't stay faithful to her when I was on the road. Drinking is bad.
CHUCK

Man, why don't you stop then?
DOUG

I will one day. One day soon.
CHUCK

You can do it man. Look at me. I can kick it and have a great time and not drink one drop alcohol. I'm like Doc Holiday or was it Wyatt Earp that didn't drink?
DOUG

Doug I think that they both drank. You're the only one that doesn't drink.
CHUCK

Hey, maybe they'll make a movie about me one day...
DOUG

(TAWNEY and BEN pass by one another given each other the evil eye.)

Hey, Doug.
BEN

Hi Doug.
TAWNEY

That was tense.
CHUCK

DOUG

Yeah, I hope they will get over it soon. I don't want to have any drama here at the open mike night.

CHUCK

Yeah, well I better drink my beers before I sing.

DOUG

Cool, I can't wait to hear you.

(DOUG walks towards TIM. TIM is setting up a P.A. system.)

TIM

Doug, well I'm almost ready.

DOUG

Tim, do you have an idea when you want me to play?

TIM

Doug, it has been a few weeks since you have had top billing, so you are going on last tonight.

DOUG

Cool, maybe some more of my crew will show up. I keep hoping that a group of girls will come and rush the stage when I'm up.

TIM

(TIM stops to take a drink of his beer.) Yeah man! That would rock.

DOUG

Maybe one day.

(DOUG looks over at where TAWNEY is sitting, CHUCK walks over to her.)

CHUCK

So Tawney, how's it going?

TAWNEY

Fine. I don't have enough money to buy you and me beer, so you are on your own tonight.

CHUCK

No it's cool. My mom gave me a twenty to tie me over until my next tour.

TAWNEY

Well what about all that money you owe me?

CHUCK

What money?

TAWNEY

The money for the apartment that I'm being sued over!

CHUCK

Oh that. Tawney that wasn't my fault.

TAWNEY

Chuck they were *your* friends and you provided the weed, so that equals it being your fault!

CHUCK

So how much are you being sue for?

TAWNEY

The landlord is suing me for thirteen hundred dollars. Thirteen hundred dollars! Do you know how many burgers I have to make to earn thirteen hundred dollars! (Beat) A lot! And it wasn't my fault! And I hate smelling like hamburger!

CHUCK

Well you did let me crash with you.

TAWNEY

So since I dated you I deserve what I get?

CHUCK

Yeah. It was your own fault. You trusted me.

TAWNEY

Oh!

CHUCK

Now come on Tawney, there were some French benefits.

TAWNEY

Oh. What's a French benefit?

CHUCK

You know! Me buying you beer since you are under age. Free weed. And of course me. (CHUCK points to himself.)

TAWNEY

That's not a French benefit. That's a French nightmare!

CHUCK

(In a high pitched voice.) Oh Chuck, Oh Chuck. Oh Chuck you're my daddy!

TAWNEY

I never said that.

CHUCK

I think that you may have fainted after we did it. So you may not have remembered what you said. But you did say it. (Beat) Did old Ben ever make you scream out?

TAWNEY

Shut up your jerk! And FYI it's a *fringe* benefit not a *French* benefit, you idiot.

CHUCK

Tawney do you want me to get you a beer.

TAWNEY

Fine.

CHUCK

Could you spot me two dollars to get it for you?

TAWNEY

You suck. (TAWNEY pulls out two dollars from her purse.) Take it.

(DOUG walks TAWNEY by and looks over to TIM and CAL at the P.A. system.)

TIM

Well I have a feeling about tonight.

CAL

What is it you're feeling about tonight Tim?

TIM

I don't know Cal. It's something I can't put my finger on. I just feel something about tonight. Something special.

CAL

Well I got a feeling about tonight too. (CAL gulps down her glass of beer.) And it's going to be a great night as long as the bar doesn't run out of cheap beer. (CAL puts a cigarette in her mouth.) And I have cigarettes to smoke.

TIM

Yeah man. (Beat) Cal do you remember the first time you smoked?

CAL

Yeah, I coughed my lungs out. (CAL hacks a cough.) Kinda like that.

TIM

Yeah, but do you remember that feeling. The smoke going down your throat into your lungs. Man it was the greatest feeling in the world.

CAL

What about sex?

TIM

I was fourteen at the time. I still hadn't got laid yet. But it didn't matter because I was like the Marlboro Man. I was cool.

CAL

Well Tim you're still cool. I was twelve when I smoked my first cigarette. That was also the same time I got laid.

TIM

Let me guess, the guy that did you gave you the smokes.

CAL

Who said it was a guy. (CAL winks at TIM.)

TIM

Cool.

CAL

Yeah it was cool.

TIM

So how long did she get you smokes?

CAL

That was the only time. I got my older brother to get them for me. Or I stole them from my step dad. That was the one thing he was good for.

TIM

Yeah, I used to get them from my old man too. Sometimes I could buy them myself. I was about this height at fifteen.

CAL

Wow! Did you play basketball?

TIM

No. I played hockey.

CAL

Really?

TIM

Yeah. Me and my brother used to play all the time. I had a few scouts that took an interest in me in High School.

CAL

Man, that awesome! So what happen?

TIM

This happen. (TIM points to his cigarettes.) I smoked my way out of any scholarship I could've gotten.

CAL

Man that sucks.

TIM

It's all right. Who wants all that fame and money.

CAL

What about all those chicks?

TIM

Well, I guess I do miss that.

CAL

Right.

TIM

Ok, think it's about time to get started? What time do you have?

CAL

I got about ten o'clock.

TIM

Then it is time to start. Cal tune the house guitar for me will you.

CAL

All right, but get me another beer.

(TIM walks over to the bar. BEN and DOUG are standing near the bar.)

BEN

Tim, how you doing man?

TIM

Groovy man. It's going to be a great night.

BEN

Cool. Hey guess what? Me and Doug both have some originals to play tonight.

TIM

Cool.

DOUG

Yeah Tim, you're going to like mine. It's cool.

TIM

Cool.

BEN

Yeah man, I can't wait to play my song. It's going to be a great night.

TIM

I know, I can feel it.

(TIM Walks back to the P.A. with two beers.)

CAL

Thanks Tim.

TIM

No problem Cal. Is the guitar all tuned up?

CAL

You know it. Tim where is the capo?

TIM

Here it is. (TIM pulls a capo out from his front pocket.)

CAL

Cool, let's get this show on the road.

TIM

(TIM talks in the mike.) Welcome everyone to open mike night. We have open mike every Thursday night. It is an open mike night, that means that if you want to play, sing, chant or do anything creative you can come up to me and I will do everything in my power to get you twelve and half minutes on stage. I have the list, in my head so if you want to get on the list, let me know as soon as possible. Well I'm going to start off the night with one of my standards.

(TIM plays "I'm Too Good for You". After the song, the audience goes nuts.)

BEN

Doug, man Tim sounds great tonight.

DOUG

Yeah.

TIM

All right thank you all for your thunderous applause. Chuck is up next. Everyone give it up for Chuck.

(The audience claps for CHUCK. Lights out.)

SCENE TWO

CHUCK is setting up to play his set.

BEN

Doug, I think that I'm going to the bathroom for this set.

DOUG

Ben, man just be cool. Chuck is just doing the best that he can. (Beat) Like we all are.

BEN

Man I know that, but I can't help the way that I feel.

DOUG

It's ok man, but the old saying you don't know a man until you walk a mile in his moccasins is so true. We all have demons we are fighting.

BEN

Man that may be true, but I'm still going to the bathroom. I need to take a leak.

DOUG

All right, see during the next set.

(DOUG walks up to TAWNEY.)

TAWNEY

Dougy! (TAWNEY starts to dance in front of DOUG)

DOUG

Tawney! (DOUG echoes the dance back, but not as graceful as TAWNEY'S moves.)

TAWNEY

Doug it has been a hard week. I'm so tired of making burgers.

DOUG

Did you ever think about getting another job?

TAWNEY

(TAWNEY looks at DOUG weird, then shakes it off.) No, not really. I do clean old people's houses every once in a while, but it won't pay my bills.

DOUG

Well Tawney, I guess you're going to have to find a good man to take care of you.

TAWNEY

Maybe one day. I don't know. Every guy I go out with turns out to be a loser.

DOUG

Well did you ever think that you're picking losers to date?

TAWNEY

No.

DOUG

Well maybe you should. I would go out with you but I'm threaten by height. It's a terminal case of short man's disease.

TAWNEY

I could walk on my knees.

DOUG

Yeah I guess you could, but you'd wear out your jeans around the knees really fast and the eighties look is out right now.

TAWNEY

Doug when Chuck starts to play come back over and stand by me.

DOUG

Ok. By the way, what happen between you a Ben anyway?

TAWNEY

I don't know. It wasn't going no where. He is still a bit young for me I guess. I hate that he is mad at me.

DOUG

Well Tawney, look at what he had to give up. (DOUG points to TAWNEY figure.)

TAWNEY

Oh Doug, that's why I love you so much.

DOUG

You and Ben are going to be all right. Just give it some time.

TAWNEY

You know that Ben flicked me off last week as I was leaving open mike night. I chase him down and yelled that he wasn't to treat me that way. Dissin' me. He better watch out!

DOUG

Man that's not cool.

TAWNEY

No it's not. He had better grow up soon. Or he won't grow up at all.

DOUG

Just give him a few years. Time has a way to improve who you are. I'm a better person now than when I was his age.

TAWNEY

I bet you wouldn't have flicked me off for dumping you!

DOUG

No Tawney I would've. Because there's no way that you would've gone out with me back then.

TAWNEY

What?

DOUG

Tawney I suffer from the same disease now as I had back at nineteen. I have no *game*.

TAWNEY

(TAWNEY laughs.) What? I don't believe that.

DOUG

No Tawney it's true I have no *game* now, I had no *game* back then. I believe it's another terminal case.

TAWNEY

You can talk to girls.

DOUG

Tawney having *game* isn't only being able to talk to girls, it's being able to lie to girls. Girls don't want the truth. They want a world of make believe.

TAWNEY

What?

DOUG

No it's true. What about you? You knew that Chuck was a bad boy stoner that got in way too many fights, but you over looked that didn't you?

TAWNEY

Yeah.

DOUG

And Ben, you knew that he was too young for your maturely, but that didn't matter to you did it?

TAWNEY

No.

DOUG

See it's make believe. But girls don't want any part of my make believe world. 'So baby, do you dig Star Trek?' That's the truth and it is the biggest girl repellent you can find. A computer geek that lives his life as a Starship Captain.

TAWNEY

There is somebody for everybody. There's a girl out there for you.

DOUG

You know Tawney, I thought that at one time too. But there isn't. Not for someone that tells the truth. I don't want to play games. I don't want to be something that I'm not. That's why the divorce rate is over fifty percent. Guys that want to get laid have to lie. I'm not willing to do that.

TAWNEY

Wow you went deep on me all of a sudden.

DOUG

Yeah, sorry to vent on you. Tawney you are really a great person. I care about you a great deal and I want to see you happy. There's someone out there for you. I know it.

(DOUG puts his hand out for TAWNEY. TAWNEY grabs it.)

TAWNEY

There's a girl for you too.

DOUG

Tawney, the hero should never get the girl at the end of the movie. Look at all the great captains in Starfleet. None of them are married, because they are already married to their commands. It's a sad lonely life a Starfleet Captain has to live so that humanity can be safe.

TAWNEY

Oh Doug. You're so special.

DOUG

Now Tawney, I never did ride the short bus to school.

TAWNEY

Not that kind of special. Another type of special.

DOUG

A Starfleet kinda of special?

TAWNEY

Yeah.

DOUG

Cool. Tawney I'll come back in a minute, I need to say something to Tim.

TAWNEY

Aye aye Captain.

(DOUG walks away toward the stage.)

TIM

Doug, what's up?

DOUG

Man great set Tim. The crowd dug you tonight.

TIM

Man thanks. I'm feeling great tonight. It's going to be a great night. I can feel it in the air.

DOUG

So how's the country band working out?

TIM

Cool. We're getting so airplay on a few country stations in Texas.

DOUG

Man that's great!

TIM

Yeah, but we had to let Arthur go.

DOUG

What?

TIM

Yeah Arthur was dropping beats while on stage, as a bass player I couldn't let that go.

DOUG

No man, the drummer and the bass have to be a single unit on stage.

TIM

Yeah man. It was hard, but Larry told him he was out.

DOUG

So have you got a new drummer yet?

TIM

You remember Frank? He's the new drummer for us.

DOUG

Yeah man, I played some jazz with him a few years back.

TIM

He's going to be all right. He can stay in the pocket, plus he doesn't drink on stage.

DOUG

That helps.

TIM

Yeah at least one of us should be sober at all times. And since I drink when I play, the drummer can't.

DOUG

Cool. Great set again man.

TIM

Thanks Doug, I'm going to get another beer before the line to the bar gets any bigger.

DOUG

Cool. The more you drink...

TIM

The Better you sound.

(DOUG walks over to the wall in front of the stage. He looks over at the table in which MOLLIE and RACHAEL are sitting at. MOLLIE looks back at DOUG and smiles. DOUG smiles back. BEN walks over and stands by DOUG.)

BEN

Doug what's up?

DOUG

Ben, do you know that chick over there?

BEN

No man, but she is hot!

DOUG

Yeah, I know man. But I think that I know her.

BEN

Man I would like to get to know her if you *know* what I mean.

DOUG

Yeah man. I know that I know her from somewhere. I can't remember. That's what happens when you get old. Ben do yourself a favor and never get old.

BEN

Will do. Man I'm going to live forever. You dig man?

DOUG

I felt the same way when I was your age. I still feel that I may live forever, but I have a few more aches and pains now, that I didn't have back then.

BEN

Man you're not old. Now my dad, that's old.

DOUG

Yeah, I guess you're right. Man I want to go over and talk to her.

BEN

Hey man, maybe she'll come over to you. I am a bit clairvoyant.

DOUG

You are?

BEN

Yeah man, when I was a kid my mom dropped me on my head. Ever since then, I can see the future.

DOUG

Really.

BEN

Look man, she's getting up.

DOUG

Ben how did you know that?

BEN

Doug if you drink you would know that when your glass is empty, you get up and go get another one. I'll leave and let you work your magic.

DOUG

Ok.

(MOLLIE gets up and walks towards the bar.)

MOLLIE

Hi.

DOUG

Hello. Are you having a good time tonight?

MOLLIE

Yes I am. How about you?

DOUG

Oh I always do. I can't wait to go up and rock the house.

MOLLIE

Cool. I guess that I will see you play tonight. (Beat) Let me get a beer, I'll be right back.

(MOLLIE walks to the bar. BEN walks back.)

BEN

How's it going bud?

DOUG

Cool so far. She hasn't slapped me yet.

BEN

The night is still young.

DOUG

Yeah. Well Ben do you have any advice for me?

BEN

Keep it *real* man. Just keep it *real*.

DOUG

Keep it *real*. What's that suppose to mean?

BEN

Man I don't know. I just heard it on T.V. I think it was on the *Dave Chappelle Show*, guess it means something.

DOUG

Yeah man, he is funny. I loved the Rick James bit.

BEN

Yeah man, that was a riot.

DOUG

Keep it *real*. Maybe it means to tell the truth?

BEN

It could mean to not be fake.

DOUG

I guess it could mean to be genuine. What other synonyms are we forgetting?

BEN

I don't know. Well here she come again. Remember keep it *real*.

DOUG

Ok. I will keep it *real*.

(MOLLIE walks back to where DOUG is standing.)

MOLLIE

Well how are you doing?

DOUG

I'm keeping it *real*.

MOLLIE

What's that suppose to mean?

DOUG

I'm not sure but what ever it is, I'm doing it.

MOLLIE

Ok.

(MOLLIE looks at DOUG weird. DOUG sees this and reacts.)

DOUG

So do you like Star Trek? Because if you do, I'm a Captain of a Starship.

MOLLIE

I hate all that Star Wars junk.

DOUG

Not Star Wars, Star Trek.

MOLLIE

Is there a difference?

DOUG

Yeah!

MOLLIE

Really. I thought they were the same thing.

DOUG

Haven't you seen Star Wars?

MOLLIE

I think so.

DOUG

No, you don't think you've seen Star Wars. You've either seen Star Wars or haven't it. It's one of the most important things that happens to you during your life. I can understand if you don't remember the phone number you had when you were a kid, but everybody remembers seeing Star Wars.

MOLLIE

867-5309.

DOUG

What?

MOLLIE

867-5309. That was my phone number when I was a kid.

DOUG

That's from the song.

MOLLIE

I know. Do you know how many people called that stupid number?

DOUG

I don't know, a lot?

MOLLIE

Oh yeah, a whole lot is a better answer. After a month of having that number, we got it changed. My dad must've thought it would've been cool to have that number.

DOUG

Boy did he regret it.

MOLLIE

Boy did he ever. My mom didn't talk to him for week after that mess.

DOUG

(Snaps his finger) Your mom. That's how I know you. You came in one time when I was fixing your mom's computer at work.

MOLLIE

I thought that you remembered who I was.

DOUG

I do. Your Lauren's daughter.

MOLLIE

So you are going to call me Lauren's daughter?

DOUG

Well if you could tell me the difference between Star Wars and Star Trek, I might've remembered your name.

MOLLIE

Lauren's daughter. Ok, you can call me that.

DOUG

Does Lauren know that Lauren's daughter hangs out in bars?

MOLLIE

Yes she does. Lauren knows that Lauren's daughter is out in a bar tonight.

DOUG

Does Lauren know that Lauren's daughter drinks beer?

MOLLIE

Lauren knows that Lauren's daughter drinks beer. Who do you think gave Lauren's daughter her first beer?

DOUG

Lauren's daughter's mother?

MOLLIE

Bingo!

DOUG

Wow! How old were you when you first drank alcohol.

MOLLIE

I guess I was thirteen.

DOUG

Thirteen! Man when I was thirteen, I was playing with sticks in the front yard.

MOLLIE

Well Lauren's daughter was drinking baby.

DOUG

Do you smoke?

MOLLIE

Yeah, but not as much as I used to.

DOUG

So how many cigarettes do you smoke a day?

MOLLIE

Oh, you mean cigarettes? I only smoke cigarettes when I drink.

DOUG

What did you mean before?

MOLLIE

The other kind of cigarettes.

DOUG

You mean reefer?

MOLLIE

Yeah, but no calls it that anyone more unless you're from Jamaica.

DOUG

Mary Jane?

MOLLIE

Not that either.

DOUG

Pot?

MOLLIE

Sometimes.

DOUG

Weed?

MOLLIE

From time to time. I just call it marijuana.

DOUG

How much does that stuff cost?

MOLLIE

It doesn't cost me anything. I only smoke it at parties. I never buy it. That would be wrong.

DOUG

Wow. Does Lauren's daughter's mother know that you engage with the herb?

MOLLIE
Yes.

DOUG
Didn't she say anything to you about it?

MOLLIE
She said to be careful and not to drive when I do it.

DOUG
That's it? Don't drive. Man.

MOLLIE
Well what's she going to do? Kick me out for smoking reefer?

DOUG
I don't know. If you were my child, I would tell you to just say *no*.

MOLLIE
Well in my house it was just say *yes*. Well Doug, it was nice to see you again. I better get back to my friend.

DOUG
Ok Lauren's daughter. Maybe I'll come over later and talk to you.

MOLLIE
Ok. Bye.

(BEN walks back to where DOUG is standing.)

BEN
So what's up? Did you get her number?

DOUG
867-5309.

BEN
What?

DOUG
That was her number when she was a kid.

BEN
Man that's cool.

DOUG
Yeah it is.

BEN
Man her friend is super hot.

DOUG
Yeah.

BEN

I'm going to go score me another beer. See you in a bit.

DOUG

Cool.

(DOUG walks over to TAWNEY.)

TAWNEY

Dougy!

DOUG

Tawney! How are you doing?

TAWNEY

Great. I saw you over there talking to that hot chick. Did you get her number?

DOUG

Not really. But she's cool.

TAWNEY

There you go player. Hey it looks like Chuck is about to start his set.

DOUG

Let's see how loud he can get tonight. I better put in my ear protection. (DOUG wads up a tissue and puts it in his ear.)

TAWNEY

You gotta protect your ears.

DOUG

That's how I make my living.

(CHUCK starts to play "There You Are". The audience goes nuts and slams dances to the punk song. CHUCK finished with the song.)

TAWNEY

Doug, man Chuck sounds great tonight.

DOUG

Yeah. There seems to be a lot of punk rockers out tonight.

TIM

Thank you Chuck. Let's give it up for Chuck. Tawney is up next. Calling Tawney to the stage.

(The audience claps for CHUCK. He walks off the stage.)

TAWNEY

Well Doug, I'm up.

DOUG

Knock them out tonight.

TIM

Everyone let's hear some applause for Tawney.

(The audience claps for TAWNEY as she walks on stage. Lights out.)

SCENE THREE

TAWNEY is setting up to play her set.

BEN

Doug, there she is. The girl of my dreams.

DOUG

Hang in there man. Don't hate her because she dissed you. Man life goes on.

BEN

I know. But I still like her man. You know?

DOUG

I know. Tawney is very attractive.

BEN

No man. That's not it. I like her. I like her, *like her*, you know?

DOUG

I understand Ben. Tawney is great. My advice is to try and remain friends. Flicking her off in the parking lot isn't going to help a thing.

BEN

She told you about that?

DOUG

She said she chased you down. Whew, what a temper!

BEN

I know. That's what I like about her. She is so, so real.

DOUG

Yeah.

BEN

I want to be mad at her, but I can't stay that way.

DOUG

Just keep it *real* man. Keep it *real*.

BEN

Keeping *real*. I'll try that. (BEN looks at his glass.) I better go and get me another beer before she starts.

DOUG

Cool. *Real*. Keep it that way.

(BEN walks to the bar. CHUCK sees MOLLIE and RACHAEL and walks over to their table. DOUG is watching them.)

CHUCK

Mollie, what's up?

MOLLIE

I liked your set.

CHUCK
Hello Rachael, how are you today?

RACHAEL
Baked man. Baked.

CHUCK
Man where's my invite?

RACHAEL
I was over at Dave's apartment right after school. He had just gotten some herb and it was time to party.

MOLLIE
I had to carry her out of Dave's.

CHUCK
Man I wish I could've been there. Does Dave have any left?

RACHAEL
Not if I can help it.

CHUCK
Cool. Maybe after the show, I'll drop by.

RACHAEL
It's cool with me. I'm sure Dave is in a state that he could care less about who comes over.

MOLLIE
I can't wait! (Beat) Chuck do you know that square over there. (MOLLIE points to Doug.) I saw you talking to him.

CHUCK
Doug, yes he's cool.

MOLLIE
So he gets high?

CHUCK
No man, not that kinda cool. Doug is straight. He doesn't even drink.

RACHAEL
Why would anybody want to go through life sober when there's so many drugs and alcohol to enjoy?

CHUCK
Doug is different. He is cool with it. I respect that. I respect that a lot.

MOLLIE
Man, I thought he might've been dropping me a line. Or that he was a high on something else....

CHUCK
Doug. No man, he's cool. He just doesn't need booze or weed to have a good time.

RACHAEL
But why? That's so strange. (RACHAEL looks at her glass.) Mollie, would you get me another beer?

CHUCK

Now how old are you young lady?

RACHAEL

Old enough to get wasted! You drunk!

CHUCK

It's sounds like someone has a problem.

RACHAEL

I know, I don't have any beer left. That's my problem!

MOLLIE

Rachael be cool. I'll get us both a pitcher. (MOLLIE walks to the bar.)

RACHAEL

You might want to get two pitchers.

CHUCK

Yeah, that's a good idea.

MOLLIE

Fine. I'll get two. Do any of you have any money?

CHUCK

What's money?

RACHAEL

Who needs money these days? Just use your magic card baby.

MOLLIE

It's not as magical as it once was.

(MOLLIE walks towards the bar. DOUG is standing near the bar.)

DOUG

So, some more beer for you and the kiddios?

MOLLIE

Yeah.

DOUG

And it looks like you're flipping the bill *once* again?

MOLLIE

How do you know that?

DOUG

A reasonable guess. Or maybe I'm clairvoyant.

MOLLIE

Hey the beer is for everyone. If you drank, you could have some too.

DOUG

Aye, there's the rub missy. I don't drink. Therefore I am.

MOLLIE
You're what?

DOUG
A non-drinker.

MOLLIE
Does that make you better than the rest of us?

DOUG
Not necessarily. Maybe I have evolved beyond alcohol and cigarettes. Kinda like a baby evolves beyond a pacifier one day. The only thing, I never needed or used a pacifier.

MOLLIE
So you do think that you're better than the rest of us in this bar. (Beat) Just because you don't drink or get high or smoke doesn't mean that you're better than the rest of us!

DOUG
I do believe that I touched a nerve in you my dear. (Beat) Could it be that you don't want to live that life anymore?

MOLLIE
No. I like getting high. As a matter of fact I live to get high! During the whole week getting high is the only thing that I look forward to.

DOUG
I look forward to making music during open mike night. Playing my songs.

MOLLIE
I can respect that. (Beat) I guess getting high is the only thing in this life that I can depend on. It's always there for me when I need it.

DOUG
That's like my music. Maybe if I never learned how to play guitar I would be over there with you all. (Beat) But at last, we'll never know. Will we?

MOLLIE
I suppose not. (Beat) Well I better get these pitchers over to my friends before they start getting the DT's.

DOUG
Cool. Maybe I'll drop by later.

MOLLIE
Ok.
(MOLLIE walks back to her table. DOUG walks over to CAL.)

CAL
Doug, hold this beer while I light a cigarette. (CAL hands DOUG the beer and lights a cigarette.)

DOUG
So Cal, are you ready to sing?

CAL
(CAL takes back her beer.) Well let me see. I've had five beers during the last hour. I'm legally intoxicated in every state but Nevada and Alaska. So yeah, I'm ready.

DOUG

Do you know when you're going on?

CAL

I should go on after Tawney.

DOUG

Cal are you still writing some originals?

CAL

Yeah, but I've been in a writing drought during the last few months. I wake up, get something to drink and I write down some crappy lyrics. I usually just wad them up and throw them away.

DOUG

Write about what you know. That's what I do.

CAL

Well then, all of my songs would be about drinking and smoking. And Smoking and drinking.

DOUG

If it comes from the heart, people can relate.

CAL

Maybe. But since I live my life, I don't want to sing about it. My life is sad enough, I don't want to mess up other people's lives with my depressing songs.

DOUG

If they are real stories, people will accept them.

CAL

Doug, my life as an alcoholic sucks. I know that I'm an alcoholic, but when I'm on stage for those fifteen minutes, I can forget who I am. For those few minutes, I'm the star of the show. People love the music I play and the way I sing. While I'm on stage I'm happy. (Beat) I wish I could be on stage forever.

DOUG

Yeah Cal. If I ever make it large, I'm going to remember you. You have an incredible voice that I hope the world will hear some day.

CAL

Doug that might just be the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me.

DOUG

I mean it. Out of everyone here tonight, you have the best voice. I don't have that. All I have is my confidence when I'm on stage. But Cal, girl you can belt out a tune. And I have seen you move people to tears. That's special.

CAL

Well, I'm about out of beer again. I better get another one before I go on stage.

DOUG

Cool. Ok Cal. I can't wait to hear you.

(CAL walks towards the bar. DOUG looks at MOLLIE's table, MOLLIE and RACHAEL are sitting there.)

RACHAEL
There he goes again.

MOLLIE
What?

RACHAEL
That weirdo over there. (RACHAEL points at DOUG)

MOLLIE
Oh him. He's cool.

RACHAEL
No he's not. Can't you see the way that he is looking at me?

MOLLIE
What makes you think that he is looking at you?

RACHAEL
I can feel him undressing me RIGHT NOW! With his *eyes*.

MOLLIE
Relax Rachael. If you don't want guys looking at you like that, don't leave the house in your underwear.

RACHAEL
Mollie are you calling me a whore?

MOLLIE
You whore.

RACHAEL
No you're the whore. You whore, look at the way you're dressed. You whore.

MOLLIE
Whore.

RACHAEL
Slut!

MOLLIE
Tramp!

RACHAEL
Shank!

MOLLIE
Streetwalker!

RACHAEL
Streetwalker? What are we back in the 1920's?

MOLLIE
You whore. Why don't you kiss me you whorey, slut, streetwalker?

RACHAEL
Come over here you shank. (MOLLIE and RACHAEL pretend to make out.)

MOLLIE
Was that good for you?

RACHAEL
Yeah baby. It was good.

(CHUCK walks back to MOLLIE's table.)

CHUCK
Can I get some more of your beer?

RACHAEL
Sure.

MOLLIE
Why not? Since it was *free* let's all have some.

CHUCK
Cool. Thanks.

MOLLIE
That's cool. I guess that you've given me a lot of stuff over the last few months.

CHUCK
I didn't pay for that stuff.

RACHAEL
Mollie baby, it's free. It all natural. (Beat) There he goes again.

CHUCK
What?

RACHAEL
Mister eyeball over there. He keeps undressing me.

CHUCK
So. I've seen you naked more times than I've seen you with your clothes on. What's the problem?

RACHAEL
I guess that I'm not high or drunk enough not to care. (Beat) I don't remember being naked. When was I naked?

(MOLLIE and CHUCK look at each other and laugh.)

CHUCK
The better question is when weren't you naked at the house.

MOLLIE
Yeah, puff puff and your drawers come off. You whore.

RACHAEL
Wow! I don't remember doing that. What else did I do.... Never mind, I don't want to know.

CHUCK
No, you don't.

MOLLIE

Yeah, it's better not to know.

RACHAEL

Mollie you smoked more weed than I did. And so did you Chuck.

CHUCK

I guess I can handle my weed better than you can.

MOLLIE

Yeah. Maybe you have a problem.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I'm not drunk enough. Let me get more beer. MORE BEER!

MOLLIE

Ok, I'll get some more beer.

RACHAEL

And tell mister eyeball over there not to look at me until I'm stone drunk!

MOLLIE

Ok.

(MOLLIE walks to the bar. Doug is still standing there. As MOLLIE walks up DOUG shakes his head.)

DOUG

So what's the word?

MOLLIE

My friend thinks you're a pervert.

DOUG

What!?

MOLLIE

She claims that you're undressing her young, tight, firm body with your eyes.

DOUG

What? All I'm doing is looking at Tawney getting ready to play.

MOLLIE

Ah huh. So you weren't checking out Rachael. She is the hottest girl in here. Is there something wrong with you?

DOUG

What!? No there isn't anything wrong with me. (Beat) So you into girls too?

MOLLIE

What makes you say that?

DOUG

You and Rachael making out.

MOLLIE
So you were watching.

DOUG
How could I help not to? Everyone else was looking too.

MOLLIE
Why you are a prev.

DOUG
What?

MOLLIE
No it's ok. (MOLLIE whispers to DOUG) I would be looking too if I wasn't kissing her. She's hot!

DOUG
So how many girls have you had?

MOLLIE
I dated a girl for a while. She was hot too.

DOUG
Does Lauren know about this?

MOLLIE
How could she not? We were all over one another.

DOUG
Wow! I can't believe it! Looking at Lauren I never would've known. She looks so straight laced. Man she has Bible verses on her computer! Golly!

MOLLIE
She didn't go out with a girl or smoke dope. Only her evil daughter does those things. I hide my horns when I leave the house.

DOUG
Let me guess, you don't have any Bible verses on your computer screen.

MOLLIE
What makes you think that I have a computer?

DOUG
Ok, I just assume by now that everyone has a computer.

MOLLIE
Funny, I just assume that by now that everyone has gotten high.

DOUG
I suppose that stereotypes just don't work, do they?

MOLLIE
No. By looking at you I would've thought that you would at least drink.

DOUG
And by looking at you I would've thought that you were only into alcohol.

MOLLIE

Funny isn't it? Can't judge a book by its cover.

DOUG

Yeah. Well I guess we're opposites.

MOLLIE

Yeah. (Beat) I better get these pitchers over to my friends.

DOUG

Cool. Maybe I'll come over in a few.

MOLLIE

Good. And make sure you sit by Rachael. And try not to undress her while you're talking to her. Tell her that you are looking at me. That will make her jealous.

DOUG

I'll try. Bye Lauren's daughter.

(MOLLIE walks back to her table. BEN
walks over to DOUG.)

BEN

Man Doug, you are striking gold tonight.

DOUG

Yeah it has been a good night so far.

BEN

Man and her friend is hot. Super hot!

DOUG

Yeah, make sure you stare at her, she likes that.

BEN

Yeah man, every girl likes to have strangers undress them with their eyes. I don't want to make her think that I'm a perv before I even talk to her.

DOUG

Yeah man, I think you're right. But it is hard not to look sometimes.

BEN

Yeah, look but don't stare. Man she ain't a statue.

DOUG

I guess not yet...

BEN

What's that?

DOUG

Oh nothing, nothing at all.

BEN

No man what is it?

DOUG
Well I met a girl here a few Fridays ago.

BEN
Coolness man.

DOUG
We met at the restaurant across the street for dinner last week.

BEN
Continue.

DOUG
Well I got Soloed.

BEN
You got to first base, man rock on!

DOUG
No man, I got Han Soloed.

BEN
What?

DOUG
Do you remembered in the *Empire Strikes Back* when Han Solo was about to be frozen in Carbonite?

BEN
Yeah man.

DOUG
Princess Leia tells Han Solo that she loves him and he replies back 'I know'.

BEN
You didn't tell her that you loved her did you?

DOUG
No man, but I did tell her that I liked her. And she replied back to me 'I know' and drove off.

BEN
Coldness dude.

DOUG
Ice factor ten man. I haven't heard from her since.

BEN
Man. I guess I shouldn't feel so bad.

DOUG
Thanks a lot man.

BEN
No man it's cool.

(DOUG watches CAL walk up to TAWNEY who is still setting up.)

TAWNEY

Cal want to get me a beer before I start?

CAL

Sure, hey look at that! I need another beer too.

TAWNEY

Who is Chuck talking to over there?

CAL

I'm not sure, I haven't seen those two before, but they're hot.

TAWNEY

Yeah. The short one looks a little familiar. I could swear that I've see her in a underwear commercial.

CAL

I would love to see her in her underwear.

TAWNEY

Cal are you still into girls? I thought that you gave that up?

CAL

It doesn't hurt to look? Oh well, are you ready to sing?

TAWNEY

Yeah, I better sing to Doug, so that I won't get distracted.

CAL

Distracted by what...Oh Chuck. You still like him?

TAWNEY

No. No I don't. He is so yesterday's news.

CAL

I can see it in your eyes. You wish you could be over there with him.

TAWNEY

No. I don't. (TAWNEY looks over at MOLLIE'S table and sees them all laughing.)

CAL

Ok, whatever. I'll get you that beer now.

TAWNEY

Great, could you get me a shot too?

CAL

What type of shot do you want?

TAWNEY

Everclear.

CAL

Sure. And you're over Chuck too.

(CAL walks away from TAWNEY towards the bar.)

DOUG
Cal is Tawney about to sing?

CAL
Yeah after she gets some more booze in her.

DOUG
Cool.

CAL
Yeah and make sure she can see you while she sings. I think that she likes you Doug.

DOUG
Did she say something?

CAL
She didn't have to.

DOUG
Yeah right. All the females are after me. (Beat) So are you back into guys now?

CAL
As of a few minutes ago, yeah. But the night is young, who knows?

DOUG
Cool.

CAL
Here's a joke for you. Say this after me. 'For seven years'.

DOUG
Ok, for seven years?

CAL
Colgate...

DOUG
For seven years.

CAL
Mentholum....

DOUG
For seven years.

CAL
Bengay....

DOUG
For seven years. What!

CAL
Ha ha. Bengay for seven years. I got you. My brother told me this joke the other day.

DOUG

Your brother is a regular Jay Leno.

CAL

Yeah, well let me get this booze over to Tawney.

DOUG

I can't wait to hear Tawney sing.

(TIM walks to the stage in front of the mike.)

TIM

Everybody, you know her and love her voice. Give it up for Tawney! Everyone, Tawney for your listening enjoyment.

(TAWNEY begins to sing "Deepest Part of Your Soul" The audience claps for TAWNEY Lights out.)

SCENE FOUR

TIM

Tawney everyone! Thank you Tawney. Everyone let's hear some applause for Tawney. Cal is up next. Calling Cal to the stage.

(The audience claps for TAWNEY as she walks off stage. CAL walks on the stage and sets up.)

DOUG

Tawney, that was great!

TAWNEY

Thanks Doug! Did I sound all right? I have been a bit sick the last few days.

DOUG

No you sounded fine. Great job.

TAWNEY

Thanks for being my friend.

DOUG

What's up?

TAWNEY

Oh nothing. (TAWNEY looks at MOLLIE's table and glances at CHUCK.)

DOUG

Oh ok. Well I enjoyed your set. You're going to stick around for my set, right?

TAWNEY

Of course. I'm going to get another beer.

DOUG

How many does that make?

TAWNEY

I don't know, six or seven. I've lost count.

DOUG

Well I guess it isn't hard for you to get a beer. I guess you'll be happy when you can buy one yourself.

TAWNEY

I can do that now. (TAWNEY goes into her pocket and pulls out a card.)

DOUG

Let me see that ID. Diana Riker. Who's that?

TAWNEY

She is my cousin. If you squint you're eyes just right, it looks like me.

DOUG

Yeah, it does look a bit like you. So you use this ID much?

TAWNEY

Only when I can't get some else to buy it for me.

DOUG

Aren't you afraid of getting into trouble if you're caught with someone's else's ID.

TAWNEY

No. I don't really think about it too much. I would rather *chance* it if it means that I can get alcohol.

DOUG

I guess I just don't understand what it means to have to have a drink. Man I don't even drink cokes anymore! I just don't understand the draw you all have with booze.

TAWNEY

It's not because I like to drink. I have to drink. You can ask anyone in here, I bet that nobody likes the taste of beer. It tastes awful! The only reason I drink is because I have so much pain. So much pain in my life that for one day a week I don't want to remember all of the pain that I have trapped inside me.

DOUG

Man, now you're going deep on me. I can't get a girl because I have no *game* and you can't be happy without booze. (Beat) Tawney why do you think that I don't drink?

TAWNEY

Maybe you're better than all of us drunks.

DOUG

Do you really think that's the reason? That I'm holier-than-thou!

TAWNEY

I think it is because you are a sweet guy deep down and that you don't have any pain trapped in your soul.

DOUG

Tawney we all have our demons. I have my skeletons in my closet like everyone else. If you live life, you have pain. And bones buried in the backyard.

TAWNEY

Then why don't you drink or get high? Man you don't even drink cokes!

DOUG

Tawney it's because I'm a control freak. I have to be in control twenty-four seven. There's no way that I can be caught, without being one hundred percent in control, in every situation.

TAWNEY

You're a control freak? Wow! I never would've guessed that.

DOUG

Yeah. I have to always be in control. But I do enjoy hang out with you all.

TAWNEY

So you like to hang out with the scum? Slumming with the local trash.

DOUG

No Tawney. Everyone drinks, smokes, gets high or does something that is bad for themselves. I can go and hide under my bed or I can just expect that people are people. We all make mistakes. Even if we know that there's a train wreck right before our eyes.

TAWNEY

What's your vice then?

DOUG

Maybe one day you'll find out.

TAWNEY

Oh no, you have to tell me now! Come on.

DOUG

My vice. Hmm let me see. I guess it's fine skinny girls that are smart.

TAWNEY

So women are your vice. But Doug you can't get any.

DOUG

I know! That's what's shame! You can't go down to the local Quicky-Mart and buy a six-pack of girls.

TAWNEY

Well that depends on what part of town you go to.

DOUG

Tawney you know what I mean. We all have our vices. So I'll try not to judge.

TAWNEY

That's cool. Well thanks again, I better go get that beer.

DOUG

That's cool. I can't wait to hear what Cal is going to sing tonight.

(TAWNEY walks towards the bar. DOUG looks over at MOLLIE'S table.)

RACHAEL

There he goes again.

MOLLIE

What!

RACHAEL

Mister Eyeball over there, he is staring at me again. It's creepy!

MOLLIE

All Doug is doing is looking around the bar. And besides, who says that he is looking at you?

RACHAEL

Because I'm hot! That's why! All the boys want a piece of me.

MOLLIE

How about the girls?

RACHAEL

They too. Everyone wants me. I'm so fine.

MOLLIE

I bet you a pitcher that he is looking at me.

RACHAEL

I'll take that bet, I know that he is checking me out. I can feel him stare at me. His eyeballs!

MOLLIE

Well here comes your boyfriend.

RACHAEL

Oh no! Mollie try to get rid of him. Please!

MOLLIE

We'll see.

(DOUG walks over to MOLLIE'S table.)

DOUG

You all having fun tonight?

MOLLIE

I'm digging the music. How about you?

DOUG

I love open mike night! It's the one night a week that I look forward too. (Looking at RACHAEL)
How about you, are you having a good time?

RACHAEL

Yes.

DOUG

Cool. What do you two do when you aren't in a bar?

MOLLIE

I cause trouble. I'm a troublemaker.

RACHAEL

You're such a troublemaker!

MOLLIE

Shut your mouth!

No you shut your mouth!

RACHAEL

You're the troublemaker!

MOLLIE

I am. That's all that I do.

RACHAEL

So do you both go to school?

DOUG

Yeah. It's a drag.

RACHAEL

What did you learn today in school?

DOUG

I learned that I would rather be stoned and drunk instead of being in school.

RACHAEL

What are you majoring in?

DOUG

Doug, she is still in High School.

MOLLIE

What're doing in a bar then!?

DOUG

Getting drunk. Drunk as a skunk. That's what.

RACHAEL

Do you parents know that you're out in a bar?

DOUG

They think that I'm at church singing in the choir.

RACHAEL

Really?

DOUG

My parents don't care. If they didn't have to go to work tomorrow they would be out drinking with me.

RACHAEL

So your parents know that you drink?

DOUG

Yeah. They're just happy to have me back home.

RACHAEL

What?

DOUG

RACHAEL
I left home about a year ago.

DOUG
Why would you do that?

RACHAEL
Because I wanted to get high and drunk and my parents told me I couldn't while I was living under their roof. So I moved out so that I do what ever I wanted to do.

DOUG
How are you now?

RACHAEL
I'm eighteen.

DOUG
So you left home at what age?

RACHAEL
I guess that I was sixteen.

DOUG
Man at sixteen I was playing with sticks outside my house.

RACHAEL
Well at sixteen I was getting high.

DOUG
How did you pay for it?

RACHAEL
I'm a girl. Girls don't pay for anything.

DOUG
It must be nice.

RACHAEL
It's great! I want beer, I get it. I want cigarettes, I get them. Weed, it doesn't matter.

DOUG
Wow. I had no idea.

MOLLIE
Yeah being a girl is great. Doug I think that Rachael here likes you.

RACHAEL
No, I don't.

MOLLIE
Don't listen to her, is thinks you're *hot*. *Hot to trot!*

RACHAEL
Mollie shut up.

DOUG

Well what can I say. (Deadpan) I am hot to trot. Cool.

RACHAEL

Mollie I'm going to kill you.

MOLLIE

No you won't. Who would get beer for you then?

RACHAEL

Well after you buy me another pitcher then.

MOLLIE

Doug, Rachael likes it when you stare at her across the bar. It makes her *hot* for you.

RACHAEL

No it doesn't. It creeps me out.

MOLLIE

No Doug, stare at her all you want. She's into it.

DOUG

I'm not staring at you Rachael. I was looking at Mollie.

RACHAEL

She told you to come over here and say that didn't she.

DOUG

No.

RACHAEL

Mollie I'm not paying up! I don't believe it.

MOLLIE

Doug who is hotter me or her?

DOUG

What?

MOLLIE

Who do you like more me or her?

DOUG

I guess you. I have talked to you more.

RACHAEL

See, you told him to said that you hotter. I'm not paying!

MOLLIE

Whatever, I'm hotter than Rachael.

DOUG

Well, I'm going to leave you two alone to figure this thing out.

RACHAEL

I'm not paying.

(DOUG walks back to the bar area in front of the stage. TAWNEY joins him.)

TAWNEY

Did you get their digits?

DOUG

I don't know really what I got. But is all cool because I'm keeping it *real*.

TAWNEY

Well I'm keeping it *real* too. Let's stand here for a minute and keep it *real* together.

DOUG

Cool.

(TIM walks over.)

TIM

It's been a cool night.

DOUG

Yeah it has. It's been a night to remember so far. It ain't half over.

TIM

Cool man. Cool man.

DOUG

Well I'll be back in a few. (DOUG walks around the bar.)

TAWNEY

Tim do you have any happy *stuff*?

TIM

Of course.

TAWNEY

Well can I have some *stuff*.

TIM

Of course.

TAWNEY

Can I have some *stuff* now?

TIM

Of course.

TAWNEY

Well?

TIM

Oh yeah, you want some *stuff*. Let's go out to my car.

TAWNEY

Finally!

(TAWNEY and TIM walk out of the bar pass BEN.)

BEN

Man, I *wonder* what they off *doing*? Man that sucks. It should be me going out there to get some *stuff*.
Man I could go for some *stuff* right now.

(DOUG walks over to BEN.)

DOUG

Ben you really to Rock and Roll?

BEN

Yeah man. It's time to Rock and Roll! Man!

DOUG

What's up man?

BEN

I guess that I'm not over Tawney. Man! What did I *do*?

DOUG

Man did you plan to marry her?

BEN

I don't know. Probably not.

DOUG

Well man, enjoy the good times you had with her. Life goes on.

BEN

Yeah man. But man!

DOUG

Man it's cool. It's better to have gone out with Tawney than to have never gone out with Tawney at all.

BEN

Doug you haven't gone out with Tawney.

DOUG

I know. So be glad you did man.

BEN

Alright. Man you ready to Rock and Roll!

DOUG

That's why we're here. (Beat) Ben let's walk over to that table and talk to those girls. (DOUG points at MOLLIE'S table.)

BEN

Rock and Roll.

(BEN and DOUG walk over to MOLLIE'S table.)

MOLLIE

Doug who's your friend?

BEN

I'm Ben. And in a few minutes you're going to hear me Rock and Roll.

RACHAEL

Cool. So baby what's your sign?

BEN

My sign is 'Warning Danger Ahead'.

DOUG

My sign is 'Keep on Trucking'.

(MOLLIE, RACHAEL and BEN all look at DOUG shocked.)

RACHAEL

What does that suppose to mean. 'Keep on Trucking', do you even drive a truck? What a dork!

DOUG

No, I drive a Mustang.

BEN

Dude, man 'Keep on Trucking'. Trucking down the highway. Yeah man.

MOLLIE

Doug are you sure you don't get high? 'Keep on Trucking'. That's something my mom would say.

DOUG

Well you all 'Keep on Trucking' (DOUG slows down) while you drink.

RACHAEL

Yeah I'll do that. And why don't you 'Keep on Trucking' away from my table. Mollie pour me some more beer.

BEN

Do you mind if I get some too? I'm about to get on stage and my mouth is dry. Beer is good for the throat.

RACHAEL

Beer is good for everyone! Sure Ben, drink up. (RACHAEL hands BEN a glass.)

BEN

Mucho gracias little lady.

DOUG

Well is Lauren's daughter having fun yet.

MOLLIE

You bet. Beer plus cigarettes equals party time. How about you? You enjoying babysitting the drunks yet?

DOUG

It's good to have someone sober (in a whisper to MOLLIE'S ear) in case the Klingons attack the bar. At least with me, you all have a fighting chance.

MOLLIE

Or you could do what I did the last time the Klingons attack, bought them beer and gave them cigarettes.

DOUG

Klingons drink blood wine not beer.

MOLLIE

Not the Klingons that I know. They love beer and weed too.

DOUG

I've never seen a Klingon smoke before, but since they have four lungs I guess it would take longer for them to get cancer from smoking.

MOLLIE

Cool. Klingons are cool.

DOUG

Yes they are. But remember that Klingons don't take prisoners.

MOLLIE

I'll try to remember that.

DOUG

Ben I'll see you on stage, I have to go to the bathroom.

BEN

Cool.

(DOUG walks a way from MOLLIE'S table.)

RACHAEL

Man what's a Klingon anyway?

BEN

Dude they're on Star Trek. They are bad mothers.

RACHAEL

Ben your friend creeps me out.

BEN

Why? Doug is cool.

RACHAEL

No he's not. Look at him. (Whispers to all three) Do you think that he is a narc?

(All three look at one another at the same time.)

BEN

No man. Doug is cool. I know he's cool.

RACHAEL

How do you know that? Do you hang out with him outside of this bar?

BEN

No, but Doug is *real*, he's no narc.

MOLLIE

Relax, Doug works with my mom. He's no narc.

RACHAEL

But maybe that's just a cover job. Maybe he's undercover. It could be a sting or something.

MOLLIE

All of the narcs I've ever met were worst alcoholics than all of us put together. Doug is cool.

RACHAEL

Well he still creeps me out. I think that counts for something.

BEN

Baby chill out. In a few minutes you'll hear me rock the house down and you'll forgot all of your troubles. I better go and get a shot of something before I go on. See ya when I see ya.

(BEN walks toward s the bar.)

RACHAEL

Maybe he's a narc too!

MOLLIE

Chill out girlfriend. There are no narcs in here. They're all out getting drunk or eating doughnuts in their squad cars.

(TIM walks to the stage in front of the mike.)

TIM

Everybody, the woman with the incredible voice. Give it up for Cal! Everyone, Cal!

(CAL begins to sing "Everywhere You Go" The audience claps for CAL. Lights out.)

SCENE FIVE

TIM

Cal everyone! Thank you Cal. Everyone let's hear some applause for Cal. Ben to the stage. Ben is next on the list, which I keep in my head. If you want to have a spot to play, see me now and I'll put you on the list, which is in my head.

(The audience claps for CAL as she walks off stage. BEN walks on the stage and sets up. DOUG is near the bar talking to TAWNEY.)

DOUG

Are you going to stick around to hear Ben?

TAWNEY

Did he stick around to hear me?

DOUG

Well I think that he heard you part of the time.

TAWNEY

I wish Ben would grow up. What was I thinking going out with a guy so immature?

DOUG

(In spooky voice) Nobody knows. Except the Shadow. The Shadow knows everything.

TAWNEY

Does the Shadow know where I lost all my common sense?

DOUG

(In spooky voice) The Shadow isn't sure that you had any common sense to begin with.

TAWNEY

What!?

DOUG

(In spooky voice) The Shadow sees what the Shadow sees.

TAWNEY

All right with the spooky voices. Doug pick one character to act out and stick with it. You can't be every cool character you see on TV. Pick Star Trek, Star Wars or the Shadow. You can't be a starship captain, a Jedi and a fifties monster all at the same time.

DOUG

You forgot being a Klingon.

TAWNEY

I can't name all of the Sci-Fi characters you acted out. Maybe that's the reason you can't get a girl. Let me let you on to a little secret that most guys eventually figure out. (Whispers) Girls don't like Science Fiction.

DOUG

Really. (Beat) How strange. Maybe that's why I've never had a date.

TAWNEY

Come on. You never had a date before.

DOUG

Well define what a date is.

TAWNEY

Ok Bill Clinton. A date is where you ask a girl out to do something. Like going out to eat or going to a club. The girl says yes and you pick her up. Then you go do the predetermined event together.

DOUG

So going to Wal-Mart together doesn't count as a date?

TAWNEY

No. Wal-Mart isn't a date. Going to Wal-Mart is a cry for help.

DOUG

Oh, well I guess then I haven't had an *official* date then.

TAWNEY

I can't believe that! You look normal. You don't smell. You have a job. You should be going out with girls left and right. What gives?

DOUG

Tawney you know I'm a nerd. And worst yet, I have no *game*.

TAWNEY

No *game*. There you go again.

DOUG

Well the sad thing is that I don't even no what *game* is. I think it has something to do about lying about yourself to a girl.

TAWNEY

That can be a part of it. But mainly it is smoothness when you're talking to girls. And smoothness isn't telling a girl that you have all the lightsabers ever made in your collection.

DOUG

I have most of the lightsabers, but not Master Yoda's.

TAWNEY

What am I going to do with you Dougy?

DOUG

I don't know.

TAWNEY

Excuse me while I go to the bar. I need another drink.

DOUG

Cool.

(CHUCK walks over to MOLLIE'S table.)

CHUCK

Could you spare another glass of beer?

RACHAEL

Sure why not.

MOLLIE

Chuck do you know where the party is tonight?

CHUCK

(Beat) Yeah. It's over at Dave's. Didn't you tell me that a few minutes ago?

RACHAEL

Yeah, I guess I did. He has everything ready to go.

CHUCK

Don't you have to go to school tomorrow?

RACHAEL

Forget school. When will I ever need to know English. I'm never going to England. Can everyone go?

CHUCK

I talked to Dave a minute ago. The party is open to everyone that is *cool*. You know what I mean?

RACHAEL

You know that I'm *cool*. I wouldn't invite mister creepy eyes over there though. I think he's a narc.

CHUCK

What Doug? He never goes to any of those parties. He doesn't want to be seen out at places that cultivates the free expression of the herb. But he's cool. But not *cool*.

MOLLIE

Rachael I told you that Doug works with my mom. He fixes computers. He's not a narc.

RACHAEL

I just can't trust a man that don't drink or gets high. It ain't normal I tell you. It ain't normal.

CHUCK

Doug gets high on life. That's cool. I wish I could do that.

RACHAEL

I don't. I choose to get baked as much as I can. My dream would be to would walk around with a joint in both hands all day long. (Beat) Man I love getting high.

MOLLIE

Well some people are different then us. He gets through life in his own way. Maybe if I didn't become a pot head so early in life, I would've learn how to play guitar.

RACHAEL

Forget that. Playing music is for losers. The real talent is who can smoke the most weed in one sitting. Now that should be an Olympic event. The last time I saw the Olympics they had some dude that played ping-pong. Ping-pong! Man that's stupid! Smoking weed, now that's talent.

MOLLIE

I guess that if the Olympics had smoking weed for an event, you would win the gold for the USA.

RACHAEL

Man I wouldn't care as long as I got high. Now that would rock. Smoking weed for your country. God bless America baby. The land of the free and the home of the weed. Yeah.

CHUCK

I wouldn't compete. I smoke weed for personal enjoyment. I wouldn't want to desecrate my holy pack with marijuana.

MOLLIE

This is stupid. I can't believe we're talking about a Weed Olympics. You guys have had enough beer for tonight.

RACHAEL

Yes *mother!*

CHUCK

Mollie don't you know that the government wants us to get high? How do you think all of the drugs get into the country? The CIA.

RACHAEL

So the CIA brings in the drugs. Cool.

MOLLIE

The CIA doesn't bring in drugs. Why would they do that?

CHUCK

To keep the population dossal. When the population is dossal, you can charge whatever you want for gas.

MOLLIE

Oh brother. Now I need another beer. And you both drank the last of my pitcher!

CHUCK

Go ahead and get more beer. Feed the beast. Go and feed the beast Mollie.

MOLLIE

Whatever.

(MOLLIE walks towards the bar.)

DOUG

Well you flipping the bill again? Do you even have a job?

MOLLIE

Yes. My job is to bat my eyes until my mom gives me beer money.

DOUG

Are there any fringed benefits?

MOLLIE

I'm glad you know what is called. I've heard it called *French benefits* to many times.

DOUG

Funny, I've heard that too. So what are your *French benefits*?

MOLLIE

I get a lot of presents for my birthday and for Christmas.

DOUG

It must be nice. (Beat) Do you ever feel like a bum sponging off your mom?

MOLLIE

What!?

DOUG

You know, your mom works hard doing a crummy job while her daughter goes out and parties down. Does it ever make you feel bad?

MOLLIE

That's it. I'm done talking to you for tonight! (MOLLIE walks to the bar then back to her table.)

(TAWNEY walks over to DOUG)

TAWNEY

Did you tell her about your Star Wars collection?

DOUG

No. Much worst. I asked her to think.

TAWNEY

Well us dumb girls don't want to think while at a bar. We want to drink!

DOUG

Yeah, so I've noticed. I don't see any chessboards up here.

TAWNEY

This is a bar not a coffee café. People come here for one reason.

DOUG

To get drunk?

TAWNEY

No. To forget their lives. See most people aren't like you. Most people hate their job, their family, basically their lives. So for two hours on a Thursday night, they come to this bar to forget their real lives. To be someone other than themselves.

DOUG

Yeah. I can see that. I just don't understand it. I can't understand not loving life. We are on this planet for such a short time. I want to live everyday as if it were my last.

TAWNEY

So does everyone else, only they don't want to remember their lives.

DOUG

Man, I just can't believe it. Don't you see that life is a gift? It doesn't matter what religion you believe in. It doesn't matter if you don't believe in a religion at all. We only have one life to live. One chance to get out of life the most that we can. I don't have enough time in my life to do all of the things that I want to do. I sure don't have enough time to spend it drinking or getting high.

TAWNEY

Doug, you must be a poet or a saint to see life that way. The rest of us don't. I envy you. I wish I could be happy with life the way it is. But I can't. I can't. I can't....

DOUG

Is there something you want to tell me?

TAWNEY

I haven't told anyone this. I mean no one, so this is between us.

DOUG

Cool. Only us.

TAWNEY

The reason that I have all of these tattoos on my arms isn't to be cool. It's to hide all of the cut marks that I do to myself.

DOUG

What!?

TAWNEY

Every night that I'm alone and can't handle what life has dealt out to me, I cut myself. I have to think of one reason not to press the blade in further.

DOUG

Tawney I don't know what to say.

TAWNEY

You don't say anything. It's the way I deal with the pain. The pain that life is to me. The pain that surrounds us all except you.

DOUG

Are you going to cut yourself tonight?

TAWNEY

Not if I'm too drunk to stay awake.

DOUG

Tawney how can I let you go on living this way. I want you to call me before you cut yourself the next time.

TAWNEY

Ok. I'll call you. I haven't cut myself for while since I've got a roommate. But at times I do have to fight it.

DOUG

Fight it Tawney.

TAWNEY

I will. But for now I'm going to get another beer.

DOUG

Cool.

(TAWNEY walks towards the bar. DOUG looks over at MOLLIE's table.)

CHUCK

So is everyone going to the party after hours?

RACHAEL

You know it baby. I want to get as high as I can. I'm trying to get to Mars tonight.

MOLLIE

I'm not sure. I probably should go home.

CHUCK

Mollie don't be a square. (Draws a square in the air.) Come on.

RACHAEL

Yeah Mollie, the night is young and so are we. It's time to party! Woo!

MOLLIE

I don't know. I'll think about it. The last time there were some shady characters around.

CHUCK

That's no problem. I have a little friend that I carry around to help out with shady people. (CHUCK pulls a set of brass knuckles.)

RACHAEL

Wow! Brass knuckles. Have you used them before in a fight?

CHUCK

A few times.

(DOUG sees the brass knuckles and walks over.)

DOUG

Man Chuck, I wouldn't show those around in public. You know that they are illegal?

JESSICA

(Whispers to MOLLIE) See I told you he was a narc!

CHUCK

I don't care.

DOUG

Chuck it's not worth going to jail to carry those things around. Do you know what a cop would do to you if he caught you with them?

CHUCK

I know.

DOUG

It's not worth it man.

CHUCK

Well Doug, I'm a little skinny guy that drinks a lot. And when I drink I do stupid stuff. I say stupid stuff too. So I need them, so that I won't die in the streets.

DOUG

Wouldn't it be easier not to drink?

CHUCK

Nope. You haven't ever drunk before. Once you start, you don't stop.

DOUG

You'll stop one day.

CHUCK

On that day, I won't care much about nothing. My body will go on as a cadaver. I sold it for seventy-five bucks a few years ago. But I won't be thinking or feeling anything on that day.

DOUG

I can't argue with that logic. (Beat) Seventy-five bucks. That's not too bad for doing nothing.

CHUCK

That was the easiest money that I have ever earned. And the sad the thing is that by the time that I die, they probably couldn't use my body for anything.

DOUG

I guess the joke is on them huh?

RACHAEL

Maybe I should sell my body too. I bet that I can get more than seventy-five dollars for it. What do you think Mollie?

MOLLIE

Go walk over by the construction site down the street in you miniskirt and I bet you could get a couple of hundred for it.

RACHAEL

I didn't mean like that! (Beat) Hey pass me the pitcher.

CHUCK

And I need a refill too. But I'm going to walk outside for a few minutes. (To MOLLIE) Watch my beer.

DOUG

Cool. I guess I'll go check when my spot is with Tim. (DOUG walks over to the stage.)

TIM

Doug, you're up next after Ben. You ready to go?

DOUG

You know it. Tim how long have you been running the open mike night?

TIM

Since I dropped out of Yale.

DOUG

You went to Yale?

TIM

Hey don't look too surprised. It's not too hard to get in if you really worked hard in High School.

DOUG

What was your major at Yale?

TIM

English. I was working on a creative writing degree. A BFA.

DOUG

Man I didn't know that you wrote.

TIM

Well, I don't write much anymore. It takes focus to write. Time to write. Well, to at least write well. I don't just want to throw down a bunch of words on a page just to see what happens. When I used to write, I spent a great deal of time on every page, on every word. The cadence of a sentence.

DOUG

You never can guess what a person does by looking at them. Judging a book by its cover, huh?

TIM

What!? Did you think that I was always a stoner that played bass in a Texas country band? No man, at one time I had focus. Dreams and goals too.

DOUG

Wow.

TIM

Here's another thing that most people don't know about me. I don't think that anyone here in town knows this. I was in a minor league hockey team.

DOUG

I can't believe that. You were that good at hockey?

TIM
Yeah. At one time.

DOUG
What happen?

TIM
Smoking. I couldn't kick the habit and I would get winded against the other athletes. When I was in High School, I had many scouts looking at me. So the summer before college I signed on to a minor league.

DOUG
Tim, not every one can say that. Man I sucked at sports. I loved baseball, but I was never any good at it. Do you know what position I played?

TIM
Right field?

DOUG
No. I was the SK.

TIM
SK? What's a SK?

DOUG
Strikeout King.

TIM
Strikeout King?

DOUG
Yeah I was the Strikeout King. And it wasn't because I didn't have any *game* with the ladies. It was because I could get a strikeout whenever we needed one. You could rely on old Doug to strikeout at the plate. But at least I would go down swinging!

TIM
I can remember checking some players hard. I was great at one time.

DOUG
Do you ever wish that you didn't take up smoking and drinking?

TIM
(Beat) I look back at my life with no regrets. But, if I never did start smoking, I would probably be on a trading card.

DOUG
The Great One. Tim. That has a nice ring to it.

TIM
Yeah man, it does. (Beat) Well, be ready in twelve and a half minutes. I better get another beer and go bum a smoke from Cal.

DOUG
Cool. I'll see you in a minute. (DOUG looks at BEN)

BEN
Doug, man I hope you dig my set. I think you're going to like my new song.

DOUG

Man Rock and Roll!

BEN

It goes out to all of the chicks that diss cool dudes like us.

DOUG

Man that's *Kool and the Gang*.

BEN

Yeah man. It's cool all right. Why tell someone to their face how you feel, when you can sing it. And have the whole world know what you're thinking.

DOUG

Let me guess. Does Tawney have anything to do with this song?

BEN

B-I-N-G-O. And Bingo was her nameo!

DOUG

Ben, man what do you want to do with your life? What do you want to be when you grow up?

BEN

I want to be a Rock and Roll star! I want hot and cold running chicks on my arms twenty-four seven. I want to rock the world!

DOUG

Cool. I think that I wanted the same thing when I was your age.

BEN

You don't anymore.

DOUG

(Beat) The chick thing would be nice, but this old saying fits in this case. You may find that having is not so pleasing a thing as wanting. This is not logical, but it is often true.

BEN

Man what's that, Shakespeare or something?

DOUG

It's from *Amok Time*, Stardate 3372.7 from season two episode one. It's the episode that Spock goes into *pon farr* and fights Captain Kirk to the death over a mate.

BEN

Man that's crazy. So do you think that I'm Spock or Kirk in this case?

DOUG

Only time will tell. But remember that Captain Kirk all ways wins.

BEN

Yeah, Kirk always wins. Well, I think it's time to rock the house.

DOUG

Cool. No beer?

BEN
Not while I'm on duty, Captain. (BEN looks towards TIM)

TIM
Ben, you ready?

BEN
Ready steady.

(TIM walks to the stage in front of the mike.)

TIM
Everybody, we have watched this young man grow before our very eyes. Give it up for Ben! Ben is about to Rock and Roll!

(BEN begins to sing "You Dissed Me" The audience claps for BEN. Lights out.)

SCENE SIX

TIM
Ben everyone! That was great set Ben. To close the night, you know him and love him. To know Doug is to love Doug. Those who know Doug, love Doug. Those who don't know Doug, still love him, but from a far. Ladies and gentlemen Doug! Doug to the stage.

(The audience claps for BEN as she walks off stage.)

DOUG
Ben that rocked! Man that was great!

BEN
Man did you dig my new song?

DOUG
Man it was awesome. I can't wait until you hear my new song.

BEN
Cool man. I'm off to get me a beer.

DOUG
I thought you were done for the night?

BEN
I'm off duty now. It's time to get drunk!

DOUG
Cool.

(BEN walks towards the bar. MOLLIE walks over to DOUG.)

MOLLIE
When do you go on Doug?

DOUG
I'm up next. So you have decided to stop hating me.

MOLLIE

I guess so.

DOUG

I can wait to go up and Rock and Roll!

MOLLIE

Cool. Maybe I'll be out next week if I can find a babysitter again.

DOUG

You have a *baby*?

MOLLIE

Yeah, she's about eight months old now.

DOUG

If you have a baby, what are you doing in a bar?

MOLLIE

Hey I'm not in jail just because I have a baby.

DOUG

But you have responsibilities. Responsibilities that the rest of us in here don't have.

MOLLIE

So I'm supposed to stay trapped at home because I got knocked up?

DOUG

Yeah. And by the way who did knock you up?

MOLLIE

I don't know.

DOUG

What do you mean you don't know?

MOLLIE

I was going to a lot of parties back then. I mean a lot of parties. I partied hard. I was stoned most of the time. I have a feeling that it was a theatre major. There were a lot of theatre majors at those parties.

DOUG

Wow! I don't know what to say. Man what can I say? I guess it was a good thing that I was playing with sticks in my front yard when I was kid.

MOLLIE

I guess you could've been like me. I was kicked out of my house at sixteen.

DOUG

Why did your mom kick you out?

MOLLIE

(MOLLIE stares into DOUG'S face.) Because I was having premarital sex and I wouldn't stop.

DOUG

Oh. (Beat) Was it worth it?

MOLLIE

At the time, yeah. But looking back now, no.

DOUG

So the guy turned out to be a loser.

MOLLIE

He was a loser the whole time, I only didn't see it.

DOUG

How long did you live with him?

MOLLIE

Until I caught him calling other girls over. My mom was happy to have me back at home.

DOUG

That's good. (Beat) I can't believe you still get high and hang out with your stoner friends.

MOLLIE

Why?

DOUG

What do you mean why? I mean that if you hang out with stoners, you'll probably get busted sometime.

MOLLIE

The cops don't bother people in their houses.

DOUG

Well it could happen. And what if you get busted and go to jail. Who would take care of your baby?

MOLLIE

My mom I guess.

DOUG

But your baby needs her mother. You have too much to lose if you get caught Mollie. It's not worth it.

MOLLIE

You don't understand...

DOUG

The power of the dark side of the force. I guess I don't.

MOLLIE

No. You don't. Well I'm sorry that I'm not going to hear you sing. I have to get back before midnight.

DOUG

Good. Go take care of your responsibilities. Halleluiah. Maybe something I said didn't fall on deaf ears.

MOLLIE

Maybe. And maybe one day, you'll have responsibilities too.

DOUG

Not bloody likely. See, I have no *game*.

MOLLIE

I'm sorry. Have fun playing. I guess that's all you have. Bye.

DOUG

Bye Lauren's daughter. And say goodnight to Lauren's daughter's daughter for me. (Beat) And by the way I still have my sticks in front of house.

(MOLLIE shakes her head and walks out of the Bar and Grill.)

MOLLIE

(To herself outside the Bar and Grill) Bye Doug. I wish you well.

DOUG

(To himself in the Bar and Grill) Good luck to you kiddo. I wish you had an easier life. Maybe then things could've been different.

(CHUCK walks into the Bar and Grill.)

CHUCK

Doug where did Mollie go off to?

DOUG

She went home I guess.

CHUCK

Wow.

DOUG

Chuck, man are you high?

CHUCK

The better question would be when am I *not* high.

DOUG

I guess when you all go outside, it isn't to get fresh air?

CHUCK

I go out and get a special type of air.

DOUG

Ain't you afraid to get caught by the *man*?

CHUCK

Man, I wanted by the *man*.

DOUG

What!?

CHUCK

Yeah, I'm on the lamb. Nothing major. That's why I live off the grid.

DOUG

Man, how much time are you facing?

CHUCK

I don't know. I never went to court. They're not going to send the dogs after me for public urination.

DOUG

Public urination!? Man, that's public service at Goodwill for a few weeks. That's nothing.

CHUCK

That's why I'm not sweating it.

DOUG

But if you get pulled over by the cops, they would fine a warrant on you, right?

CHUCK

I guess. Man it's not my fault that there aren't enough public restrooms at four in the morning.

DOUG

Man. Well all I can say is be careful out there.

CHUCK

I am. And I really don't care what happens. My life is one day at time. Or in reality, one drunken night to the next stoned night to a night on the street.

DOUG

And this is the way you want to live your life?

CHUCK

Yeah. It beats working an eight to five job. (Beat) What makes you different from a bum on the street?

DOUG

Well I have a job.

CHUCK

A bum has a job. It's not a paying one, but it's a job to learn how to survive with no money.

DOUG

Even though you could get a regular job and pay for food and rent yourself?

CHUCK

Man that's conforming. I do not want to go to school, knock up a girl, get married, get a job then die. Screw that man. Screw it! I would rather die than to conform.

DOUG

I want more out of life too. But I don't want to sponge off of others to do it. I want to make it in world myself, no handouts.

CHUCK

We're the same then. Going to the same place, only taking a different path.

DOUG

I guess. Well peace and happiness man. What else can I say?

CHUCK

At least you didn't tell me about playing with sticks in your front yard.

DOUG

Not yet. That's next on my agenda.

(CHUCK walks towards the bar. DOUG walks over within earshot of MOLLIE'S table)

RACHAEL

(Talking on a cell phone.) What do you mean? No, I'm not going by to county. It's boring. No. I'm not doing it. What do you mean I have to get home? Jon!?! Brother, calm mom down for me. All right, I get home in a few minutes. Bye. No I won't. I'm on my way! Bye!

DOUG

County?

RACHAEL

What?

DOUG

What's county? Is it jail?

RACHAEL

It might as well be a prison. No it's the alternative school. It's where bad students go to when they act bad.

DOUG

What did you do?

RACHAEL

I didn't do anything. All I did was to have some aspirin in my purse. Aspirin is the only thing that helps me with a handover.

DOUG

I guess you buy cases of aspirin then.

RACHAEL

Yeah. I should've taking it in the bathroom instead by my locker. It's going to suck. And its only over aspirin. If it was weed, that I could live with. Getting busted for aspirin, that's something a nerd would do.

DOUG

Maybe you're a nerd.

RACHAEL

No. Look at me. (Beat) Man county is going to suck!

DOUG

There's only other month left in college, so you must only have six weeks until you graduate.

RACHAEL

Six long weeks in county. Man it going to be a hard six weeks.

DOUG

After you graduate, what are you going to do? Go to college?

RACHAEL

Maybe. I'll probably get a job.

DOUG

What kind of job?

RACHAEL

I had a job as a telemarketer for a while when I was kicked out of my home.

DOUG

I thought that *girls* don't have to work?

RACHAEL

(Deadpan) I wanted to be a telemarketer.

DOUG

Man I get enough rejection as it is. There's no way that I could call up people at random. I bet you have been cussed out a lot.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I don't care. It's a job. Boring, but a job. I better go now. (Beat) Hey are you a narc man?

DOUG

No ma'am. I'm a musician.

RACHAEL

Ok, but dude you are weird. Bye.

DOUG

Good luck to you. Hang in there kiddo.

(RACHAEL walks out of the bar and grill. DOUG sits down for a minute at MOLLIE'S table. TIM walks over.)

TIM

Doug are you ready?

DOUG

I'm ready. Let's roll. Time to Rock and Roll!

(DOUG and TIM walk on stage.)

TIM

Ladies and Gentlemen, for your listening pleasure. You know him. Some call him the computer guru. But I call him, Doug. Give it up for Doug who is going to close for us tonight.

(The audience claps for DOUG)

DOUG

(Holding a guitar) Thanks everyone. I want to star off with a new song that I wrote. I hope you all will like it. It's posted on my blog if you want to download it.

(DOUG starts playing "I'm a Nerd" The audience laughs a few times during the song. During the last verse he makes eye contact with TAWNEY. DOUG motions for TAWNEY to join him on stage. Then DOUG looks at BEN and motions for him to join them on stage. TAWNEY and BEN sing backup during the chorus.)

DOUG (CONTINUES)

Everyone give it for Ben and Tawney. Two great talents here in East Texas. Thanks. And Tim too. Thanks Tim for making the open mike night such a wonderful environment. You the man Tim.

TIM

Everyone Doug! Let's here it for Doug. Have a good night and I hope to see you all out again next Thursday night. Remember to tip those hard working people behind the bar. Have a safe ride home and the bar is closed. You don't want to go home but you can't stay here. Goodnight!

DOUG

Man, Tim thanks again.

TIM

Man that's my job.

DOUG

Yeah, but you make it special. You go beyond the call of duty to make this a great time.

TIM

Thanks. I remember when I used to go out to try and play at the local open mike nights in town. They would give me the crummy slots and only a few minutes when I was lucky enough to get a spot to play. So when I started to do this gig, I wanted it to be fair for everyone. Everyone gets their twelve and half minutes. It doesn't matter if you sound great or horrible, everyone gets a chance to play.

DOUG

Man that's great. But this place is even more than just an open mike night. We've become like a family. I feel sad when someone is missing. Not only the performers, but the regulars too.

TIM

I know what you mean.

DOUG

This place is the CBGB's of East Texas.

TIM

Man that's high praise. CBGB's is the birthplace of the Ramones, The Talking Heads, Blondie and a lot of other great bands.

DOUG

And the owner of CBGB's is a lot like you. He would let anyone play. Give people a chance to make music regardless of talent. When you have this type of community amazing things can happen. This isn't just any open mike night. It's one in a million man.

TIM

Thanks Doug. I feel great now. I knew this was going to be a great night.

DOUG

It always is on Thursday nights.

TIM

Yeah man. I better break down the equipment.

(CAL walks over.)

CAL

Great set Doug. Tim you ready to break down the set.

TIM

Yeah. Hey afterwards, you what to hit up iHop.

Why not? CAL

Doug stay cool. TIM

Cool. Thanks again. DOUG

See you next week. TIM

(CHUCK walks by DOUG.)

Doug, that was a good set. CHUCK

Man, take care of yourself. Are you done for the night? DOUG

I guess so. There is one left here to party with. And I have no money. I guess I'll go home and sleep this off. CHUCK

See you next week man. DOUG

All right. CHUCK

(CHUCK walk out of the bar and grill.)

(DOUG walks over to TAWNEY and BEN at near the bar.)

Man thank you for joining me on stage. DOUG

Thank you Dougy. TAWNEY

Hey man, it was a trip. BEN

It's good to see you both talking again. DOUG

Instead of flicking each other off. Yeah. BEN

Hey I'm still mad about that. TAWNEY

Hey so am I. BEN

DOUG
Am I mad about something?

BEN
Your mad that you can't get a date.

DOUG
Oh yeah. That.

TAWNEY
Douggy doesn't need to date, he's happy all by himself.

DOUG
You know Tawney, I am. But with all of you, I never by myself. Not really.

TAWNEY
That's so sweet.

BEN
Yeah man I wish I had some pancakes to pour it on.

DOUG
I guess I'll see you all next week.

TAWNEY
I'll be here.

BEN
Me too.

DOUG
Me three.

(TAWNEY and BEN walk out of the bar and grill. TIM and CAL walk by with the equipment.)

DOUG
Bye guys.

TIM and CAL
Bye Doug.

(DOUG stands alone on stage. DOUG is holding his guitar gig bag.)

DOUG
Open mike night is over. Time to get back to my mundane life. I'm going to miss this when it's over. I guess it'll never be over, over. Even though I'm so different then everyone else here, deep down we are all the same. We all want to have happiness, to be loved, to have fun and to have the spotlight on for at least fifteen minutes. Or at least twelve and half minutes. Who am I to judge these folks? Am I better than them? Just because I don't drink or get high? No, just different. What we all have in common is music. It doesn't matter what style it is. It's all music. Music makes life bearable for everyone of us. For some of us, that's all we have. And all that we need. (DOUG looks at the bar and grill) See you next week.

(DOUG walks out of the bar and grill.)

THE END