

INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-DAY

Eric, 25 (quirky, wears his heart on his sleeve) and Samuel, 27 (intelligent, level headed) are sitting with Don the producer 45, (depressed and has given up on his life). Eric and Samuel are having a conversation with each other not acknowledging Don's presence. Don deals with the uncomfortable situation like he has been in the position before.

ERIC

Dude this is really happening.

SAMUEL

I know. It's so unreal

ERIC

So unreal.

SAMUEL

Your father would be proud.

ERIC

You think so? I mean before this I was I was pretty much a fudge up. I barely graduated college, then I got arrested for indecent exposure, and last year that thing happened at burning man. I just started to grow my eyebrows back.

Don tries to interrupt their conversation.

SAMUEL

(laughing) Yeah but you deserved that. (pause) That's in the past okay, we are moving forward. We own a mildly successful business, this guy (pointing at Don) is thinking about giving us our own show. Things are great.

ERIC

You're right, you're right. Things are great.

DON

All right I think we should get this meeting going. (Pause) So we have been discussing about this project for a few weeks now and we are extremely interested in creating a reality show about your

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DON (cont'd)
cafe. As a struggling network, well
as a dying network we are excited
to bring in some young energy.

ERIC
What network is it again?

SAMUEL
It's the local PBS remember?

ERIC
Oh yeah! I use to love that channel
when I was a kid. You show re-runs
of Sesame Street and Reading
Rainbow.

DON
They are actually still on the air
if you could believe it.

ERIC
Really?

DON
Yes. We also show a lot of
documentaries about Yosemite and
the California gold rush.

Awkward Beat

DON (CONT'D)
I know boring. That's why I'm
excited about this show. It's given
me a new look on life. (pause) A
reason to live.

Awkward Beat

ERIC
Well thank you for giving us this
opportunity and I'm glad you found
a reason to go on.

DON
Great! So before we get this show
on the road there are a few things
to discuss. So we all know with
reality t.v. there is no way to
predict if the show will be a hit
or a flop which could affect your
business, you, and your employees
are perceived. When you sign this

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DON (cont'd)
contract it states that you can't
sue us if everyone thinks you are a
dick because they've watched the
show.

ERIC
Well yeah that seems fair.

DON
Also, we will be filming every
aspect of your lives, the cafe, and
your staff. I know that it's a lot
to take in, a lot pf pressure. Do
you think your employees are ready
to be fully immersed in this
project?

Beat

ERIC/SAMUEL
Yeah sure.

DON
Okay great! Sign here and here.

Eric and Samuel hi-five each other and hug. They start
singing the Reading Rainbow theme song. They try to get Don
into their celebratory dance but he just awkwardly stares at
them.

FADE OUT

SIX MONTHS LATER

EXT/INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-EVENING

B-roll of people outside drinking coffee, smoking, having
great conversations. B-roll of people inside drinking coffee
on their lab tops having conversations.

ERIC(V.O.)
Things are great! Business is
better than ever especially because
of the show.

ERIC TALKING HEAD

ERIC (CONT'D)
It's been an attraction for people
kinda like the circus (pause) you
can take that as a good thing or
bad thing. I love the circus. I
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ERIC (CONT'D) (cont'd)
think the crew is handling the
success of the business pretty well
but they're still getting use to
being under a magnifying glass.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-DAY

A series of shots of the barista's being filmed up close and personal: the cameraman is in the personal space of barista Monique, 28 (African American, quiet but when pushed can cut with sarcasm). The cameraman gets closer and closer to her so close that she burns herself because she is so distracted.

MONIQUE
Really? Really? Do you have to be
so close: Film over there and zoom
in. What are you an amateur?

The cameraman zooms on Bruce, (20's a confident versatile nerd) He is caught picking his nose.

Trice, 24 (a white girl who has seen too many John Singleton movies) drops a muffin on the ground. She looks around then instantly picks it up. The cameraman catches her.

TRICE
What? Five second rule.

The camera zooms in on Bruce picking his wedgie. He stares directly at the camera.

BRUCE
Come on!

BACK TO SCENE

ERIC TALKING HEAD

ERIC
It's going well.

SAMUEL TALKING HEAD

SAMUEL
It's a Train wreck.

INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-EVENING

Trice is at the register helping a customer. There are a few people in line. The next person in line is a woman and she is talking obnoxiously loud on the phone. Trice tries to get her attention.

TRICE
Miss I can help you.

The woman is clearly not paying attention. Trice is getting annoyed very quickly.

TRICE(CONT'D)
Miss, miss I can help you.

Trice motions at the man behind her.

TRICE(CONT'D)
I can help you sir.

When the man steps up to the register the woman snaps out of her conversation and cuts off the man.

TRICE TALKING HEAD

TRICE(CONT'D)
Really? This is my biggest pet peeve. You can't get off your dumb ass phone for like two seconds.(Pause) It's rude! Everybody knows I have a temper and in the past I would take it too far.

FLASHBACK:

INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-DAY

A series of shots of people coming up to the register on their phones: Trice grabs a woman's phone and throws it and it hits a customer. Trice stomps on a man's phone and the poor man just watches in pure horror. Eric and Samuel come rushing in and carries her away. Eric mouths to the man "We are so sorry.". Trice grabs a customers phone and dunks it in steaming cup of coffee.

END OF FLASHBACK:

TRICE TALKING HEAD

(CONTINUED)

TRICE
I'm working on it!

BACK TO SCENE

The woman is still on her phone and is ordering at the same time.

WOMAN
Um can I have a half-caf nonfat no
foam latte?

Trice just stares at her and picks up her phone and starts texting. The woman is put off by this.

WOMAN(CONT'D)
So I want...

She is interrupted by Trice laughing. She turns around to Bruce who is at the bar working on drinks.

TRICE
Hey did you see that youtube video
I sent you about the rapping cat?
So funny.

The woman is annoyed.

WOMAN
Excuse me! Are you even...

Interrupted again by Trice.

TRICE
Excuse me? Excuse you! (mumbles
under breath)

Bruce is making drinks, staring nervously around. He tries hard not to get involved.

BRUCE TALKING HEAD

BRUCE
Yeah I try not to get involved in
Trice's crazy interactions with
customers. I'm tired of filing
police reports.

BACK TO SCENE

The woman and Trice have an awkward stare down.

(CONTINUED)

WOMAN

May I please have a half-caf nonfat
no foam latte?

Trice is still on her phone.

WOMAN(CONT'D)

You know what? I don't have to take
this rude behavior. I'm gonna take
my business to Starbucks.

TRICE

What did you say? Don't ever say
that name in here. Next time you
will have the decency to get off
your phone when you order. Rude!

BEAT

TRICE(CONT'D)

I will happily help the next person
in line.

BRUCE TALKING HEAD

BRUCE

That was actually the first time
she wasn't completely out of
control.

INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-DAY

Eric and Samuel are giving a tour of the cafe to some
customers.

ERIC(V.O.)

I'm very proud of this space. It
was my father's and when he passed
away he gave it to me in his will.
It wasn't doing so well when I
inherited it but with some elbow
grease and a lot of Sam's money we
made it into a cool place to hang
out.

ERIC AND SAMUEL TALKING HEAD

ERIC(V.O.)

My father's cafe was very old
fashioned. To be honest it was old
people central, a living graveyard.
It even started to have that old
people smell.

(CONTINUED)

SAMUEL

Yeah, it was where old people took naps. All that was brewed was decaf, NPR was played constantly, there was always a trail of newspapers leading to the bathroom, and the smell! Which was so weird because your dad was super cool, always smiling, generous, and hyped up.

ERIC

My dad lived his life like a rock star. He ate steak and eggs, had a shot a whiskey, and 17 shots of espresso every day.

SAMUEL

Really? Everyday?

ERIC

Yep. He died of EHA

SAMUEL

What?

ERIC

EHA, espresso heart attack.

SAMUEL

No that doesn't exist. It was just a heart attack.

ERIC

Yes it does dude. He had a espresso heart attack. The first medical case in California.

SAMUEL

I think the 17 shots of espresso did contribute to his attack but it was also because he was so unhealthy.

ERIC

Its real. Look it up. I will look it up.

Samuel just looks at the camera.

INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-EVENING

Sunny, 23 (bright, blonde beauty who loves any kind of attention) is helping a customer. He is covered in tattoos.

SUNNY

So how is your day going?

TATTOO GUY

Pretty good. How's yours?

SUNNY

So good! I woke up with a positive vibe. I found Bizzy, my cat who was lost for almost a day. I ate a great vegan burrito. Life is good.

SUNNY TALKING HEAD

SUNNY

I was hired about three months ago. Its a cool place to work. I get to have awesome conversations with interesting people and I get free coffee all day. I love it! I bring a carefree, positive charismatic feel to this place which is needed. I mean I love everybody who works here but there are a few negative Nancy's some dick Dave's . I'm glad I can contribute my upbeat personality to the cafe because I'm terrible at making coffee but I'm getting there.

BACK TO THE SCENE

SUNNY(CONT'D)

So why do you have tattoos on your face? Why would you do that?

TATTOO GUY

Um I don't know really. I was just a out of control kid.

SUNNY

Yeah, that's crazy!

Monique is making drinks at the bar. She stares at the camera with a annoyed expression on her face.

MONIQUE TALKING HEAD

(CONTINUED)

MONIQUE

Sunny is cool. She brings in hella tips which is awesome. She gets in peoples personal space. It can be annoying and frustrating sometimes.

BACK TO SCENE

SUNNY

I'm sorry to be rude asking you all these personal questions its just interesting that someone who has a decent looking face would permanently mark it, you know?

TATTOO GUY

Yeah I know, just a dumb kid with anger issues.

BEAT

TATTOO GUY (CONT'D)

So what's the total?

SUNNY

My friend Josh was gonna get a tattoo on his face and I said to him, "No! If you ever get a face tattoo I will never talk to you again." And I've known him since kindergarten. (Pause) So I have a tattoo. Do you want to guess where it is?

TATTOO GUY

(uninterested) Um I don't know.

MONIQUE TALKING HEAD

MONIQUE

She is kind of an attention whore.

BACK TO SCENE

TATTOO GUY

So what do I owe?

SUNNY

What? Oh I'm sorry I spaced. You owe 3.50. Thank you. Have a great night.

Sunny turns around to Monique.

(CONTINUED)

SUNNY

That's too bad he was kinda cute.

INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-NIGHT

Eric, Samuel and the whole crew are in the theater room having a meeting after closing. Everyone looks tired and angry.

ERIC

Sorry for having this meeting so late but it is needed.

Casey, 21 (a stoner bro but is also a sweet gentleman) raises his hand.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Yes Casey.

CASEY

Why are we here?

SAMUEL

Well we haven't had a meeting since the film crew has arrived and we just want to know how you guys are feeling about everything.

ERIC

Yeah its cool to feel however you want. We just don't want anyone to explode because of some unresolved emotion. So here is the space to be frank about how you feel about the situation.

MONIQUE

Well no, we actually can't be honest about how we feel because of them. (pointing at the cameramen) They are everywhere, and in our personal space all the time.

The cameraman zooms in on Sunny's boobs.

MONIQUE(CONT'D)

You said when we signed the contract that they would be here a few hours a week.

Everyone agrees with her frustration.

(CONTINUED)

TRICE

True dat! I know they have been following me after work. It's hella creepy.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT

POV of the cameraman he is behind a bush.

Trice is texting on her phone outside the apartment complex. Josh, 20's (very sketchy) comes out with a backpack. He unzips it and reveals two manila envelops.

JOSH

Hey Trice.

TRICE

Whad up?

JOSH

So what are you in the mood for tonight? High's or Low's?

TRICE

Bitch you know what I want?(Pause)
High's please.

The cameraman makes a noise. Trice hears the noise and turns around and stares down the cameraman.

TRICE(CONT'D)

Gots to go!

She snatches the envelope out of Josh's hands and runs off.

JOSH

Hey! Comeback! You forgot the exchange!

Josh stares at the camera.

JOSH(CONT'D)

(whispers) I will always love you.

BACK TO SCENE

BRUCE

So are we gonna get a raise for all this? It's been crazy busy, we are working harder, and not only do we have to make drinks but we have to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE (cont'd)
worry how we look while we are
making the drinks. It's stressful.

ERIC
We hear you. Go on.

SAMUEL
You will all get a huge bonus at
the beginning of year for all of
your hard work.

SUNNY
I think its been great. It's like
being in a play but livelier. I do
look good on screen.

MONIQUE
Wait how do you know what you look
like? The show hasn't aired yet.

SUNNY
Oh I hung out with the camera guys
and they showed me some footage.

Everyone stares at the cameramen.

TRICE
Really Sunny? That is a new low.

SUNNY
What? Nothing happened.

ERIC
(smirks) Mm I doubt that.

SUNNY
Shut up Eric!

Everyone laughs.

ERIC TALKING HEAD

ERIC
Me and Sunny had a thing a few
years ago. She worked at the
Pretzel Shop in the mall. We
started to chat a little and an
hour later I knew why her name was
Sunny if you know what I mean.

SUNNY TALKING HEAD

SUNNY

I thought he was sweet so I gave him a free pretzel and then he tried to touch my boob.

BACK TO SCENE

SAMUEL

Okay guys settle down. Sunny I apologize for Eric's remark.
(pause) Who am I kidding? We all know you probably did the cameramen so lets move on.

Sunny has a disgusted look on her face.

ERIC

Look guys I know it has been weird these past months but we are a team. We have been in this for a long time and I don't want to lose anyone of you because of this show. I need you all to be cool. Because we are cool. The show hasn't even aired and we are local celebrities.

TRICE

Yeah it has been a little cool. Some lady stopped me on the street and said, "Aren't you that girl that works at the cafe in Tower?" And I said, "Yes." And she said I made her the worst latte of her life.

ERIC

What a nice thing to say.

CASEY

I think she was being sarcastic.

BEAT

MONIQUE

I don't know if I feel comfortable working here anymore. It's too awkward and that is coming from the person that radiates awkwardness.

ERIC

(thinking) Okay, okay, alright Sam and I have a proposition for you all.

(CONTINUED)

SAMUEL

What? We never discussed anything.

ERIC

If you guys don't bail you all will be part owners of The Buzz.

SAMUEL

Um wait a sec I don't think I'm down for that.

Everyone perks up at the sound of the idea.

CASEY

Really? That would be awesome.

CASEY TALKING HEAD

CASEY

The only thing that I own is my 1997 Ford 150 pick up and my dad's old Mexican propaganda bottle caps. In 10 years it will be worth a thousand bucks. Cha-ching!

BACK TO SCENE

ERIC

Okay hear me out. You all will be part owners, your own boss. I've grown to love you all, even you Sunny. And I want you to be with us until the end. Well until we get shut down for health code violations.

TRICE

I'm in. That sounds hella legit.

Everyone agrees.

ERIC

Awesome! This is going to be great, I know it.

SAMUEL

(to Eric) We are gonna have to talk about his later.

ERIC

Hey! Let's grab a beer. Spokeasy?

Everyone gestures "Sure."

BRUCE
(manly growl) Yes! Beer!

EXT. SPOKEASY-NIGHT-LATER

Eric is in front of the bar talking to the cameraman.

ERIC
Spokeasy is a cool beer bar in
Tower. The closing crew usually
comes here to chill after a long
day of work, vent about rude
customers. It's our Cheers.

Eric enters the bar.

INT. SPOKEASY-NIGHT-LATER

The bar has a decent crowd full of young hipsters and old hippies. The crew is in the back area which has old arcade games including a ice-ball machine. It seems like they're on their second or third beer. Everyone is loose, laughing and telling stories. Eric gets up.

ERIC
I need another. Anyone up for
another beer?

BRUCE
I do.

Eric heads to the bar and Sam follows.

SAMUEL
Hey we need to have a discussion.

ERIC
About what?

SAMUEL
About what? Um about you telling
the crew that they have ownership
of OUR business.

ERIC
You don't think it's a great idea?

SAMUEL
No not really. I don't feel
comfortable with Trice being at the
register for more than thirty
minutes without going insane on a
customer. So how can I trust her
with the cafe?

(CONTINUED)

ERIC

(smirks) True. But she does bring a realness to the cafe that sets apart.

SAMUEL

(laughing) Yeah sure if that's the way you want to put it. (pause) But seriously I don't want to give away OUR baby. We put so much work into it.

ERIC

Yeah I get it but look, most of us graduated from college, there is no work and we all had to work at soul sucking jobs the were not entirely fulfilling. It's a bummer. We have an opportunity to change that. Giving them a piece of the business states that they matter. That coming to this place five days out of the week and working their asses off matters.

SAMUEL

Yeah, yeah you're right. They deserve it. (pause) That was beautiful man. You always surprise me.

Monique sneaks up behind Sam and Eric.

MONIQUE

What's the hold up? Comeback to the table Casey is telling a story about hissing Harry.

ERIC

(laughing) Which one? There is so many.

MONIQUE

I just want to say that you guys are really cool to share the business with us. Thank you. It really means a lot.

ERIC/SAMUEL

No thank you./ No problem.

Monique walks to the back and Sam and Eric walk slowly behind her.

(CONTINUED)

SAMUEL

So we are really doing this?

ERIC

Yep, we are.

FADE OUT:

INT. THE BUZZ CAFE-DAY

Trice is cleaning the counter when a customer comes up to her.

LADY

Hello, I was wondering if I could talk to the owner? I have a question about booking an event here.

Trice just smiles at the lady for a awkward second and turns to the camera and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK