

I NEED A DRINK

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INT. - AFTERNOON, OFFICE AFTERNOON

RICHARD (30-40 years old) is working on a movie deal on the phone when his associate JESSICA (30-40 years old) comes in the break some news.

RICHARD

(talking on the phone)

I mean, yeah if we can get Aubrey Plaza for this project that would be great. If not, maybe see if we could get some other indie darling for this. We just don't have the budget for a mainstream star. By my financial's, we're lucky to even be considering Aubrey for this.

JESSICA knocks on his door.

RICHARD

(motioning her to come in, still on phone)

Tom, we've talked about this. She still isn't mainstream yet...look Jessica wants to talk to me. Talk to you soon.

JESSICA

Sorry to interrupt. But I think you need to hear this.

RICHARD

Okay. So...what is it?

JESSICA

You are familiar with what is going on with Harvey, right?

RICHARD

Well yeah. Me, you, and the rest of Earth. The only people not familiar with it is martians and babies just born into this planet.

JESSICA

And remember the deal we made with them for the financing...

RICHARD

Oh my god. Don't tell me they are pulling out of the deal?

JESSICA

Afraid so. Looked this morning and seems they need to clean house first before doing any new projects.

RICHARD

FUCK! We really, and I mean REALLY needed that deal. Would have been our first big budget film.

JESSICA

I'm sorry.

RICHARD

Don't be. Looks like I'll be stuck doing low budget stuff.

JESSICA

(sits down)

There is one more thing I need to discuss with you.

RICHARD

Really? What is it?

JESSICA

You know I have always been supportive of you since day one. And you've been nothing but good to me.

RICHARD

Are you quitting?

JESSICA

Actually...no. I am not.

RICHARD

Then what is it?

JESSICA

When I walked in I heard you mention Aubrey.

RICHARD

Aubrey Plaza? Yeah, want her but I feel like she is going to break our bank.

JESSICA

I wouldn't worry about her. I mean, frankly she has got quite the

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

schedule on her.

RICHARD

She does. Wait, why would you ask me to not worry about her?

JESSICA

Oh just wanting to ease some of your worries. About the budget of course.

RICHARD

There's more to that, huh Jessica. You have never once wanted to ease my worries. Something is up, isn't it?

JESSICA

No. Nothing is up.

RICHARD

Okay. Okay. So...do you have suggestions for who can be...

JESSICA

Me.

RICHARD

Excuse me? What?

JESSICA

Yeah. I've been taking acting classes on Sunset Boulevard.

RICHARD

On Sunset Boulevard?

JESSICA

Not the actual street, a classroom but...

RICHARD

Yeah I know but why you?

JESSICA

I think I could do great. And I can work for the minimum.

RICHARD

(pulls out script)

Okay. Here ya go. Highlight "Bethany" and self record your audition.

JESSICA
You want me to audition?

RICHARD
Well yeah. Everyone auditions.

JESSICA
But you wanted Aub..

RICHARD
Aubrey is who I want on the project. She, too, got the script and I asked her to read just like everyone else.

JESSICA
(looks at the script,
then sours a bit)
No that's fine. I just thought that maybe you could make an exception.

RICHARD
Now why would I make YOU an exception?

JESSICA
Well I just...you know...also the IRS called while you were on the phone.

RICHARD
Why did they call? Actually the IRS doesn't...

JESSICA
They called saying you owe them five hundred dollars so I gave them some info and that was it.

RICHARD
Please don't tell me you used the company card to pay scammers.

JESSICA
Richard it wa super important. If we owed them something we should pay up.

RICHARD
Yes, but the IRS will send a letter, not call us.
(starts to get mad,

stands up)
Holy shit I need a drink.

JESSICA
No you don't.

RICHARD
Yes. Yes I do. Look, hold all my calls and close shop early. Maybe go and audition and...whatever.

JESSICA
Richard, are you sure? We need to get with Tom about the new project and I have to know if...

RICHARD
I will get with Tom at home. You do what I said and if you want that part, audition like everyone else. If not...then don't. I just...I just got to clear me head.

JESSICA
With alcohol?

RICHARD
(as he is leaving the office)
Yes.

Door closes. Jessica is sitting there a little bewildered.

CUT TO:

INT - HOUSE, MMOMENTS LATER

RICHARD is sitting on a couch about to start to drink when AMY (30-40 years old) comes in with shopping bags.

AMY
Hey sweetie. Did not expect you home so soon. Wanna help me with these bags?

RICHARD
Yeah sure.

AMY
(noticing the glass and bottle)
Not like you to drink at three thirty in the afternoon.

RICHARD

With the day I've had so far you'd drink too.

AMY

What's up?

RICHARD

Well with the effects of Harvey being a doofus perv, lost some major financial backing.

AMY

Oh you can go to other places for that right? Maybe other production companies?

RICHARD

Yeah, but that would put us back to square one. Been through that too many times.

AMY

That wouldn't make you drink now would it?

RICHARD

That and then Jessica decided she wants to do the new project and thinking she didn't have to audition. This was after she decided to give some wonderful scammers pretending to be the IRS five hundred dollars of company money.

AMY

I would have fired her ass in a heartbeat. Never did like that girl.

RICHARD

I would but frankly she and I got this company off the ground together. And she just...

(notices Amy putting the bottle and glass away)

Um...excuse me? I need those.

AMY

No you don't. You can just talk it out with me.

RICHARD

Can I talk it out with you while enjoying a Jack on the rocks. You can have one too.

AMY

No. And honestly I've noticed you've been hitting the sauce lately.

RICHARD

And this is a bad thing?

AMY

If at parties or just hanging with friends, no. But all by yourself and at times in the dark by yourself then yeah that's an issue.

RICHARD

You'd do the same thing too if you were stressed like me these days.

AMY

No, I wouldn't.

(pulls out a pipe)

I got other, more natural means.

RICHARD

Ah yes. Weed. The Mary-Wanna.

AMY

There is nothing wrong with it.

RICHARD

Honey, you smoked so much the other day you stood at the mailbox for twenty minutes wondering how our Entertainment Weekly got in there because it was "too big".

AMY

OH MY GOD ONE INCIDENT!

RICHARD

Then there was the phone call to KTLA wanting them to come out and do a story about that UPS dude stealing a package from our door when, in fact, he was picking it up to deliver because I was sending new scripts to Warner Brothers. You

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

almost got that dude arrested.

AMY

Let's talk about you getting so drunk you took a shit on the floor.

RICHARD

That was done in our house.

AMY

WE WERE AT THE COMEDY STORE...AND YOU WERE ON STAGE. You said "Want to see my impression of The Broncos football season..." then you SHAT ON STAGE!

RICHARD

Wait, that wasn't me. That was Ron.

AMY

GOD DAMMIT THAT WAS oh yeah it was Ron. I'm trying to remember when you took a shit on..

RICHARD

See, there goes the weed "naturally helping with your memory".

AMY

You know what, let's not get into this.

RICHARD

No, let's get into why I need a drink today.

AMY

What you said doesn't constitute drinking in the afternoon.

RICHARD

Okay smarty pants, you tell me what events can make a person drink in the afternoon.

AMY

Worse then what you said. Like getting fired from your job.

RICHARD

I own the production company. I can't fire myself.

AMY

What about getting a speeding ticket?

RICHARD

Yes, but then again my car can't go past 55 without shaking like it's having a seizure.

AMY

Okay...okay...what about me being pregnant?

RICHARD

Now that could be...
 (he stops then looks at her with surprise)
 Wait...you aren't....are you?

AMY

(begins nodding and then begins to tear up)
 Yes. And there is something else.

RICHARD

Oh my god what?

AMY

It...it...may not be yours.

RICHARD

SAY WHAT? HOW..okay I know how but...WHO?

AMY

I don't know.

RICHARD

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW? OBVIOUSLY SOME DUDE NOT ME GOT INTO YOU AND FROM WHAT IT SEEMS PUT A BABY IN YOU...Hold up, are you sure you are pregnant?

AMY

Yes.

RICHARD

Now this isn't like that last time when you got so stoned you thought you were pregnant when in fact you bloated up because..

AMY
YES! I AM SURE!

RICHARD
Oh my god. What the fuck?

AMY
I'm sorry. I was going to tell you soon but you've been so busy with everything.

Richard is standing there looking at Amy with disbelief. There is a long period of silence between the two when Richard's phone rings.

RICHARD
(talking on phone)
Hello. Oh hey Tom. Really. Okay, you know what meet me at, say, the Rusty Mullet in about twenty. We'll talk it over there. Okay, bye.

AMY
Please don't be mad at me. Please please.

RICHARD
I can't handle this right now. Not right now. I'm going to be gone for a while.

AMY
What do you...

RICHARD
I don't want nothing from you are you to do anything. Just...

Richard get up to leave. Amy is sitting there. Just then...

AMY
Wait, it is his. Oh well, I'll tell him tomorrow.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR, MOMENTS LATER

RICHARD and his friend TOM are sitting at the bar. Both have dumbfounded looks on their faces.

RICHARD

This day can go fuck itself.

TOM

Now hold up, run everything by me again.

RICHARD

Yeah. Jessica came in and told me that Weinstein Company is pulling the financing while they clean up the legal mess Harvey and his ding-ding got himself into.

TOM

That was bound to happen anyway.

RICHARD

True. Then she tells me that she wants to be part of the film and when I told her to audition, she gave me this look like I told her she'd have to put her cat down.

TOM

I still am trying to get Aubrey for that by the way.

RICHARD

How is that going if I may ask?

TOM

Pretty good. She likes the script and wants to check her schedule to see if it fits for her to do it.

RICHARD

I did tell Jessica that Aubrey was going to audition...

TOM

Which we will keep between me and you. But pretty much Aubrey seems like a lock. She's even willing to do it for minimum.

RICHARD

God bless her. I swear that Aubrey Plaza is a god damn angel.

TOM

What else happened?

RICHARD

The next thing I hear, Jessica gave some scammers the company card numbers to pay off a "five hundred dollar back payment".

TOM

Well that was stupid of her to do. You can always call the bank and put a hold on that.

RICHARD

Oh yeah. I plan to tomorrow. But then I got home.

TOM

You went home? Why?

RICHARD

I wanted some down time to myself until Amy came in from shopping. We got into our usual argument about weed versus liquor until she tells me she might be pregnant.

TOM

NO WAY! THAT'S GREAT!

RICHARD

It's great until she told me it may not be mind.

TOM

NO WAY! THAT'S AWFUL!

RICHARD

Yep. Didn't have the heart to tell her I knew she was and also I know that it's mine.

TOM

So...what's next.

RICHARD

Well first, like I said, get that card to put that "purchase" on hold. Then, give Jessica a talk.

TOM

Hopefully you don't bring up we already got Aubrey for the project.

RICHARD

Oh I think I will actually. She'll understand.

TOM

Then what are you going to do with Amy?

RICHARD

Sit her down, no weed or liquor use involved, and tell her how we should handle our family now.

(stops for thought)

Man, can't believe I'm going to be a dad.

TOM

If you are.

RICHARD

I am Tom. Stop that.

Just then the bartender comes with drinks.

BARTENDER

Here we go guys. One Scotch on the rocks, and a Jack and Coke, little coke.

Tom gets the scotch, Richard grabs the Jack and Coke.

BARTENDER

By the way heard all of what you said. This rounds on the house.

RICHARD

Thanks dude.

TOM

(raises glass)

A toast. To Richard, a man who had one of the shittiest days we can remember but is still going to stand with pride tomorrow.

RICHARD

I thought you were going to toast me being a dad but...okay.

TOM AND RICHARD TAP GLASSES, TAKE A DRINK.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF MOVIE.