

A Fool's Parade Episode 1-1 "Something Else"

By

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INT. MARIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul tosses some of his belongings in a box. Marie enters.

MARIE
You know, this isn't what I wanted
for us.

PAUL
I know.

MARIE
It didn't have to be this way.

PAUL
But it is this way.

MARIE
You're moving back home?

PAUL
I'm moving in with my cousin, Jake.
You remember Jake? You met him at
Stacy's wedding.

MARIE
Yeah, I remember.
(beat)
I just want you to be happy. I want
us to be happy.

PAUL
I know.

EXT. MARIE'S HOUSE - DAY

The front door opens. Paul walks out holding a box. He
pauses, the door shuts behind him. He walks slowly to his
car and gets in.

CUT TO:

INT. PAUL'S CAR - DAY

Paul starts the car and picks a song on his i Pod. The music
plays. A montage of driving ensues.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul pulls in the driveway. Jake is sitting on the front porch. Paul gets out.

JAKE
27 and jobless. What a loser.

PAUL
Thanks Jake.

Jake gives Paul a hug.

JAKE
How you holding up?

PAUL
I'm doing alright I gu...

JAKE
Dude, I really don't care. I was just asking to be nice.

PAUL
Oh. Thanks for letting me stay with you. Are you sure your roommate doesn't mind?

JAKE
Oh no, he's cool. Got a lot of boxes? Need some help?

PAUL
Yeah, that would be great.

JAKE
OK, well let's go inside and I'll see if Cooper will help you.

PAUL
Alright.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cooper sits on the couch red-eyed and stoned. He is eating peanut butter out of the jar with a fork. Thick smoke fills the air. The glow of the t.v. illuminates his face.

We hear the sound of a door open and close.

Jake and Paul enter.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

Cooper this is Paul. Paul, Cooper.

Paul reaches out to shake Cooper's hand.

COOPER

No, I just washed up for breakfast.

PAUL

Peanut butter for breakfast?

COOPER

Yeah.

PAUL

Why are you using a fork?

COOPER

All the spoons were dirty.

PAUL

Didn't want to wash them?

COOPER

Why would I want to do that when there are still clean forks?

PAUL

Just a thought.

Paul is still standing. A moment of awkward silence.

COOPER

Sit down man, you're making me nervous.

Paul takes a seat on the couch.

COOPER

Hey, wouldn't it be great if dogs layed eggs?

PAUL

What?

COOPER

Think of all the people that have dogs. We would always have fresh eggs.

JAKE

What if humans could lay eggs?

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

Yeah! Would you eat your own egg?

JAKE

No way, man.

COOPER (TO PAUL)

What about you? Would you eat your own egg?

PAUL

I don't...

COOPER

You would! You would eat your own egg. You sick son of a bitch.

PAUL

Alright.

(beat)

So. What do you do Cooper?

COOPER

I make and sell t-shirts.

PAUL

Oh, that sounds really interesting.

COOPER

Yeah, I also sell weed if you ever need any.

PAUL

Thanks, I'll keep you in mind

COOPER

What do you do?

PAUL

I was an accountant. I'm kind of in a career transition right now.

COOPER

Jake told me your fiance left you for an astronaut. Is that true?

PAUL

Yes. She did.

COOPER

So you don't have a job and your fiance left you for a guy that's been to space? That sucks.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

Yeah, anyway, Jake? Seeing anyone?

JAKE

Nah.

COOPER

What happened to Denise?

JAKE

I'm not seeing her anymore.

COOPER

Seriously? She's a gymnast. That's like my all time favorite fantasy.

JAKE

Yeah it was mine too then I actually slept with her.

PAUL

No good?

JAKE

Well the sex itself was fine it was just her proportions.

COOPER

Her proportions?

JAKE (ANNOYED)

Yeah! Have you ever really looked at a gymnast? They're really short and they literally have no boobs. It was like having sex with a child. It was...creepy.

COOPER

You just ruined the gymnast fantasy for me.

JAKE

Trust me, I did you a favor. You ever meet a gymnast, run.

PAUL

OK, well I'm just going to go check out my room.

JAKE

Last door on the left. We still have some of our stuff in there.

CUT TO:

INT. PAUL'S ROOM - DAY

Paul opens the door. The room is filled wall to wall with boxes and junk.

PAUL
Fantastic.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Paul walks through the living room.

JAKE
Hey Paul, Cooper and I are going
out tonight. Want to go?

PAUL
I don't know, not sure if I'm
feeling up to it?

COOPER
Oh come on. You can't just sit
around here throwing yourself a
pity party.

JAKE
Yeah, just come out with us and
have fun. Get your mind off things.

COOPER
You know what we haven't done in a
while? Acting.

JAKE
Great idea Coop!

PAUL
Acting?

JAKE
Yeah, you'll love it! We'll leave
around 9.

PAUL
OK, well I'm going to get my stuff
and get unpacked.

JAKE
Oh yeah, hey Coop want to help Paul
with his boxes?

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

No.

Jake shrugs. Paul nods.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Paul, Cooper, and Jake sit around a coffee table dressed to go out. Jake tears a piece of paper into small strips and puts them into a pile on the table next to some pens and a small cup.

PAUL

So how does this work?

JAKE

We each get three pieces of paper, write down an occupation on each piece. We put the pieces into a bowl and draw one. Whatever it says is what we tell people we do for a living.

PAUL

And why do you do this?

JAKE

Would you prefer to tell girls you've been unemployed for six months?

PAUL

Give me a pen.

The three of them jot something down on the strips, fold them and place them into the cup.

JAKE

Cooper why did you get a cup instead of a bowl?

COOPER

We didn't have any clean bowls.

JAKE

Why don't you wash them?

COOPER

Why would I do that when we still have clean cups?

(CONTINUED)

JAKE
Never mind.

PAUL
Will somebody please draw?

JAKE
Okay you guys know the rules. You
get one draw and whatever it is
that's your occupation for the
evening. I'll go first.

Jake pulls a piece of paper from the cup and unfolds it.

JAKE
Let's see, alright I'm a Doctor.

Paul sighs as he removes a piece of paper from the cup.

PAUL
Writer. I'm a writer.

JAKE
Writer's perfect. Girls love
writers.

PAUL
I really don't feel comfortable
lying about my occupation.

JAKE
You're not lying. I just saw you
write something. You're a writer.
OK, Cooper.

Cooper pulls a piece of paper from the cup.

COOPER
You gotta be kidding me.

JAKE
What?

COOPER
I work at an abortion clinic.

JAKE (LAUGHING)
I put that in there.

COOPER
This sucks.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE
Consider yourself lucky. I also put
janitor and magician.

COOPER
I would love to say I was a
magician!

JAKE
Well too bad, you only get one
draw.

COOPER
This always happens. Last time I
was the guy that euthanizes dogs at
the pound.

JAKE
You guys ready?

COOPER
Yeah.

JAKE
OK, let's do this!

COOPER
We have to get something to eat
first. I'm starving.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Jake is driving, Paul is in the front passenger seat and
Cooper is in the backseat. Thick smoke fills the car. The
three talk as music plays.

CUT TO:

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The music stops. The car pulls up to a drive-thru speaker.

JAKE
Hello?

A very unenthusiastic employee answers.

(CONTINUED)

EMPLOYEE
What'll you have?

JAKE
Hi. We would like a bag of
cheeseburgers, please.

EMPLOYEE
A bag of cheeseburgers?

JAKE
Yeah, a bag of cheeseburgers.

EMPLOYEE
We don't sell cheeseburgers by the
bag.

JAKE
Well you're going to put the
cheeseburgers in the bag aren't
you?

EMPLOYEE
Well yes, but...

JAKE
Well just put as many cheeseburgers
in one bag as you can.

EMPLOYEE
Well I have to be able to charge
you before we start making your
order.

JAKE
OK, fine. How many cheeseburgers do
you think you can fit into a bag?

EMPLOYEE
I don't know, maybe twelve?

JAKE
Oh you can fit more than twelve. At
least fifteen.

EMPLOYEE
OK so fifteen?

JAKE
If that's how many fit into a bag.

(CONTINUED)

EMPLOYEE
OK fifteen.

JAKE
No, not fifteen. A bag.

EMPLOYEE (SIGHS)
A bag of cheeseburgers.

COOPER
You know what? I think I want
chicken nuggets.

PAUL
Yeah, I want chicken nuggets too.

JAKE
Chicken nuggets do sound good. Ok
forget the cheeseburgers. We would
like a bag of chicken nuggets.

COOPER
Oh, can I get some ranch too?

The music starts playing again.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The three are enjoying the bag of chicken nuggets.

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

The three enter the club. The music fades to become the song
playing at the club.

JAKE
OK guys, you know the rules. The
first one to get a girl to buy him
a drink wins.

PAUL
What do we win?

JAKE
The respect and admiration of the
other two.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL
What if I don't want that?

JAKE
Just play along.

Cooper hurriedly walks into the crowd.

PAUL
Aren't we a little old to be doing
this?

JAKE
Holy shit, quit being such a drag.
Just have some fun.

Paul shrugs.

Jake scans the room. He sees a girl standing by herself and
approaches her.

JAKE
So do you like getting hit on at
bars?

GIRL (ANNOYED)
No, not really.

JAKE
Well it's a good thing I'm not
hitting on you then.

GIRL
Yeah, it's a good thing.

JAKE
I'm Jake.

GIRL
Marissa.

JAKE
And what do you do Marissa?

MARISSA
I'm an elementary school teacher.

JAKE
What a rewarding job that must be.

MARISSA
It has it's moments.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE
I'm a doctor.

MARISSA
A doctor? Really? What kind?

JAKE
I'm a...uh... surgeon. Just a
general surgeon.

MARISSA
Where do you work?

JAKE
At the... hospital. Yeah the
hospital.

MARISSA
Which one?

JAKE
The main one. But I actually just
got back to the states last week.
I'm in Doctors Without Borders.
Have you heard of it?

MARISSA
No, what's that?

JAKE
Well it's a non-profit group where
doctors can volunteer their time to
spend in impoverished countries to
get medical attention to those that
can't afford it.

MARISSA
That is so amazing.

JAKE
Yes Marissa, it is amazing.

Cooper approaches a girl at the bar.

COOPER
Hi.

GIRL (UNENTHUSIASTIC)
Hi.

COOPER
Buy you a drink?

She holds her full drink up to signal she doesn't need one.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER
Oh yeah, of course. So what do you do?

GIRL
I'm a physical therapist.

COOPER
Physical therapist, that is so cool.

Cooper takes a deep breath and takes the plunge.

COOPER
I work at an abortion clinic.

GIRL
That's horrible!

The girl gets up and walks away.

COOPER
Damn it!

Paul has found his girl. He talks with her at the bar.

PAUL
I'm Paul.

GIRL
Emily.

He shakes her hand.

PAUL
What do you do?

EMILY
I'm a nurse.

PAUL
Oh that is so cool. I'm a writer.

EMILY
A writer? What do you write? Books?

PAUL
Um... no... I write for television.

EMILY
Wow, really?

(CONTINUED)

PAUL
Yeah, just finished a script for a
show on HBO.

EMILY
You're serious?

PAUL
Yes I'm serious.

EMILY
That's amazing!

PAUL
I know, I'm really excited about
it. I've been a starving artist for
too long.

EMILY
What's it about?

PAUL
What? The script?

EMILY
Yeah, what's it about?

PAUL
Oh, well uh it's about this guy
whose in his mid-thirties, he finds
out his sister died and his 15 year
old niece has to come live with
him. It's a comedy.

EMILY
Wow. So what happens next?

PAUL
Well I'm flying out to L.A. next
week to finalize the contract. Then
we start casting next month.

EMILY
I am so excited for you.

PAUL
Oh thank you. Have you ever done
any acting?

Cooper quickly approaches another girl. He cuts right to the
chase, knowing he is going to get rejected.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER
Hi, I'm Cooper.

GIRL
Hi I'm Stephanie.

COOPER
I work at an abortion clinic.

STEPHANIE
Baby killer!

She throws her drink in his face and walks off.

COOPER
Damn it!

Jake has his girl wrapped around his finger.

JAKE
There is just something about
holding a child in your arms and
knowing he is going to have a
better life because of you.

MARISSA
You are incredible. Can I buy you a
drink?

JAKE
I would love that, Marissa. Thank
you so much.

Jake walks toward the bar with Marissa, he looks toward Paul to signal game over but Paul is already holding a drink in the air triumphantly. Jake throws his head back in disbelief.

Paul continues talking to Emily.

EMILY
So what will happen after you film
the pilot?

Paul takes a moment.

PAUL
I'm sorry Emily. I'm not a writer.
This was just a stupid game my
friends talked me into playing. I
don't have a job and my fiance left
me for an astronaut.

Emily stares at him uncomfortably.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

I'm really sorry. Thank you for the drink. Have a good night.

Paul walks off.

At the other end of the bar.

MARISSA

What would you like?

JAKE

Whatever, I don't care.

Jake looks to the other side of the bar to see Cooper wiping his face off with napkins. He shoots him a confused look. Cooper points at him and mouths fuck you. Jake smiles. He turns to Marissa to excuse himself and walks to Cooper.

COOPER

I hate you.

JAKE

Did you get a drink thrown on you?

COOPER

Yeah.

Jake laughs.

COOPER

It's not funny. What a waste of a drink.

JAKE

Paul won.

COOPER

Good, I don't have to tell girls I work at an abortion clinic anymore.

A girl walks past Jake and Cooper. Jake notices her.

JAKE

Hey do the gay thing.

COOPER

What? No, I'm not doing the gay thing.

JAKE

Oh come on. That girl is pretty average looking. I've got a really good chance.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

Fine, but you have to tell Paul
that a girl throwing a drink in my
face that she purchased constitutes
a girl buying me a drink.

JAKE

Constitutes? Good word usage.

COOPER

Yeah I've been reading.

JAKE

Fine. I'll tell him.

COOPER

And you have to tell this girl you
work in an abortion clinic.

JAKE (SIGHS)

OK, Fine.

Jake and Cooper walk behind the girl.

COOPER

What do you want me to do?

JAKE

Just act like you want to have sex
with me.

COOPER (LOUD)

So, do you want to have sex with
me?

Jake gives Cooper an annoyed look. The girl hears and looks
at Jake.

JAKE (TO COOPER)

Will you excuse me?

Jake turns to the girl.

JAKE

Hi, listen this guy keeps trying to
hit on me but I'm straight. Would
you mind pretending to be
interested in me?

GIRL

What would you like me to do?

(CONTINUED)

JAKE
Just act interested.

GIRL
OK, but you owe me.

JAKE
Thanks!

Jake turns to Cooper.

JAKE
I'm sorry but I'm actually here
with her.

Cooper gives Jake a seductive look.

COOPER
Your loss.

Jake gives Cooper a disgusted look then turns back to the
girl. Cooper stays close.

GIRL
So what do you do?

JAKE
I work in an abortion clinic.

GIRL
Really? It is so refreshing to meet
a man that respects a woman's
rights.

Cooper gives a what the fuck look.

Cooper sees Paul walk out of the club. He motion's to Jake.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF CLUB - NIGHT

Paul sits on a curb staring into the distance. Jake and
Cooper walk out. As the door closes the music fades to
silence.

JAKE
Not feeling it tonight?

PAUL
No, I'm actually having the best
time I've had in a really long
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PAUL (cont'd)
time. Lying to girls in a bar is
the best time I've had in a long
time.

JAKE
That's good?

PAUL
Shouldn't I be a little more upset?
My fiance just left me for someone
else.

COOPER
For an astronaut.

Jake shoots Cooper a look.

JAKE
You know we were just messing with
you earlier, right?

PAUL
I'm glad she left me.

JAKE
What?

PAUL
I'm glad she left me and I'm glad I
quit my job.

COOPER
Really?

PAUL
Yeah, really. I was just following
the plan. The plan everyone is
supposed to follow. You go to
college, get a job that you hate
but you do it anyway because it
pays well then you get married.

COOPER
That's a terrible plan

JAKE
Yeah, who wants to do that?

PAUL
Yeah, you guys obviously have
another plan. To never grow up.
There has to be more though, right?
I mean, shouldn't I want more?

(CONTINUED)

Turns to Jake

PAUL
Shouldn't you want more?

Turns to Cooper

PAUL
Shouldn't you... well maybe this is all you want. But shouldn't we want more, Jake?

JAKE
I think you're being too hard on yourself.

PAUL
Yeah, maybe. I'm going to walk home.

COOPER
It's almost a mile!

PAUL
I'll see you guys later.

Paul walks down the street. Jake and Cooper walk back inside.

CUT TO:

LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The sound of the front door opening can be heard.

Paul enters.

PAUL
Jake? Cooper?

Jake walks in.

JAKE
There he is. What took you so long?

PAUL
I just decided to walk around for a while.

JAKE
Well Cooper and I got something for you. It's out back.

(CONTINUED)

Paul gives Jake a confused look.

CUT TO:

BACK YARD - NIGHT

Cooper is standing in the yard, drink in one hand, a baseball bat in the other.

JAKE

So we know you're having a hard
time with everything and probably
need to blow off some steam.

Jake motions with his head toward a tree. Hanging from the tree is a pinata shaped like an astronaut.

PAUL

No way, where did you get that?

JAKE

Cooper knows a pinata guy.

PAUL

There's such a thing as a pinata
guy?

JAKE

Apparently.

Cooper hands Paul the bat.

JAKE

And with each swing of the bat you
will be saying goodbye to your old
life and hello to your new one.

Paul takes the bat and nods. He walks to the pinata and with a deep breath he takes a swing.

Cut to Black. Credits Roll.