

EXT. PATIO

Casey wanders the patio, blankly shooting video of the party as it gets underway.

-ROMAN tweaks a knob on the music console as "fun" pop music wafts around the patio. He sourly watches...

-KYLE, handsome, hair catching the sun, circulating hors d'oeuvres. Monica pointedly stops him and takes one.

-KIDS romp around the pool. Mothers watch, smile, wave. CONSTANCE, with her tray, watches, smiles, and waves, too.

-ADULTS chat as they sip drinks. Banal suburban patio party. A man and woman sip wine, watching the waiters circulate.

WOMAN

...I mean, what, like last year's thing wasn't good enough because I didn't have waiters? When did Liddy become lady f\*\*king Dian...

They then notice the camera. SMILE.

INT. LIVING ROOM - BAR AREA

HENRY mans his bar, watching the kids. Sneaks a drink as "Regular Guy" GORDON WING (30's) steps up, reacts to the bar.

GORDON

Wow, a bar.

HENRY

And a bartender.

GORDON

High class. Beer me.

Henry hands him a beer. As Gordon leaves, Roman approaches, sneering at him from head to toe.

ROMAN

Jesus. Ordinary f\*\*king people.

Roman doesn't see Gordon glancing back. He heard the comment.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Henry, right?

(re: Gordon)

Sweet pleated shorts, dude. Right?

(off Henry's bland shrug)

(MORE)

ROMAN (CONT'D)

I mean, how's business at the ski-do lot? How is it going back to your tract home and a frozen dinner with your fat wife and fat kids watching "Dancing with the Stars" until you get cancer and die?

HENRY

Probably nice to own a house.

ROMAN

I'd shoot myself, man. I would. A nobody doing nothing...

HENRY

You an actor?

ROMAN

I look stupid? Writer, director. Were you at the Houston Sci-Fest?

HENRY

No.

ROMAN

I had a short. "Wormhole?"

(Henry shrugs)

"Ordinary f\*\*king people." You know?

HENRY

"Repo Man."

ROMAN

(Henry passed the test)

Nice. Bet you and me're the only ones here who'd get that.

Kyle arrives with an empty tray.

KYLE

Three chardonnays and a G'n T. Get what?

ROMAN

(testing again)

"Ordinary F\*\*king People."

KYLE

(Scoffs. It's so easy.)

Yeah.

(to Henry)

He always thinks he's the only guy who knows anything.

ROMAN

So "yeah," what?

KYLE

Yeah, I know that movie. The guy's brother drowns.

ROMAN

You anus. That's "Ordinary People."

KYLE

Yeah, exactly!

(as a zinger)

"You're in the Palisades now, homes."

ROMAN

Why do you keep saying that?

KYLE

Pilot audition. "The Palisades."

They loved me, I'm going to network I know it.

(in character)

"You're in the Palisades now..."

ROMAN

You know what Palisades means in Spanish? "Boy hooker."

Kyle looks at Henry. Really? Henry gives a quick head shake.

KYLE

Don't be pissed cause I knew your little trivia, bro...

ROMAN

(totally affronted)

You didn't!

Ron motors by - scolding mode.

RON

Roman! What am I not hearing?

ROMAN

I don't know. A squid?

RON

Music! Chop chop!

Roman sneers, heads to the music station. A woman approaches. HEIDI-JANE (41) is pretty, once prettier. Now bored.

HEIDI-JANE

White wine. Actually, you know  
what, I'll take a gin and tonic.  
(as Henry reaches...)  
Could you make it a double? I think  
I'll need it to endure.  
(gives a flirty look)  
You look very familiar.

KYLE

That's what I thought.

HENRY

I have that kind of face.

HEIDI-JANE

That kind of cute face.  
(taking drink)  
I'll be seeing you later.

She leaves with a flirty look back.

KYLE

Sweet MILF action. Hey, "If music  
is the food of love, play on."  
(off Henry's puzzled look)  
I'm totally into Shakespeare.

HENRY

Actor?

KYLE

Yeah. And you heard of *Karma*  
*Rocket*? My band. Lead singer. And I  
did some modeling, you know...

HENRY

So you're like in the overall  
handsome business. That's awesome.

KYLE

Yeah, but acting's my passion. You  
need passion to deal, you know, cuz  
it's brutal. I been here seven  
months, and this is only my fourth  
pilot callback. It's brutal.  
(back to Henry)  
You an actor? Ron said you were  
star of something. Like of what?

HENRY

Nothing. I did some stuff, but--

KYLE

Who's your agent?

HENRY

State Farm.

KYLE

Are they good?

(Henry shakes his head)

You get any good auditions?

HENRY

Well...I don't really act anymore.

KYLE

(puzzled)

So what are you doing?

HENRY

This.

(beat)

Bartending.

KYLE

Cool. Where?

HENRY

Here.

A long beat as Kyle tries to wrap his head around this idea.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - SUNSET

Henry grabs a case of tonic water off the van. A back twinge. Ow. He sits, pulls out a cigarette. Glumly smokes.

Casey appears. Henry smiles but she's on the phone:

CASEY

(on phone, stressed)

...what would I do in Burlington,  
stand-up comedy traffic school?

Until you know, what's to discuss?

Look, I gotta go, you know I can't  
talk at work. Don't. Mike, do you  
hear me? Do not come here...

She hangs up. Takes out a cigarette, and searches for her lighter. Spots Henry, who holds up his lighter.

HENRY

(as she leans in)

Boyfriend trouble?

CASEY  
Husband trouble.

Henry registers...husband? Bummer. Casey lights.

CASEY (CONT'D)  
Thanks...sorry, I forgot your name.

HENRY  
That's strange. People rarely  
forget my name.

CASEY  
Why's that?

HENRY  
It's Scrotum Phillips. Two M's...

CASEY  
(laughs)  
Right. So how's the first day?  
(off Henry's look)  
Oh, man, right. You worked here...

HENRY  
Eight years ago.

CASEY  
So you worked with Ron? Was he  
always like this? What was he like?

HENRY  
Different. But I'd rather not  
think about the fact that--

CASEY  
Yeah, you're back. You an actor?

HENRY  
What, I look familiar?

CASEY  
You're smoking Parliments.

Henry gives a rueful smile, flicks the cigarette away.

CASEY (CONT'D)  
Well, Scrotum, could have been  
worse. You could've never left.

LIDDY (V.O.)  
And the winner is...I'm so excited!

EXT. PATIO - SUNSET

An award ceremony is underway on the patio.

Liddy and her HUSBAND stand at a table. Several small plastic "Oscars" are laid out. Casey films with the video camera.

LIDDY  
(very "aware" of camera)  
And the awardie for "best Christmas  
Decorations" goes to...  
(consulting clipboard)  
...The Weissmans!

CASEY CAM POV - Cheers as MRS. WEISSMAN takes her "awardie."  
Crowd reactions. Cheers. Head shaking. CONSTANCE, more  
thrilled than anyone, clapping excitedly.

IRATE HUSBAND  
We lost. To Jews.

LIDDY  
And the awardie for "best yard,"  
goes to...the Wings!

GORDON WING watches blankly as his wife takes the award.

INT. KITCHEN - DURING AWARDS

Roman places a call. Leaves a message in a fake voice.

ROMAN  
Yeah, Kyle, this is Jim Tower from  
"The Palisades." We loved your  
audition, but we're looking for a  
rougher take on the character. Can  
you to come back in tomorrow..?

Casey enters. She doesn't trust Roman's shit-eating grin.

INT. LIVING ROOM

GORDON enters, passing Liddy, in hostess mode.

LIDDY  
Having a good time?

GORDON  
(tipsy)  
I might. If it weren't for all  
these Ordinary F\*\*king People...

HENRY glumly stares at the family portrait behind him.

GORDON (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
And the Oscar goes to...

Henry turns. Gordon plops the "oscar" on the bar.

GORDON (CONT'D)  
You. Scotch and soda. No soda.

Henry makes the drink, and Gordon stomps away.

Henry stares at the "oscar" on the bar. He makes a drink for himself. A serious drink. He drinks...nakedly unhappy...

CASEY CAM POV - we see Henry drinking, unaware.

CASEY (O.S.)  
That, I believe, is a Ron Donald  
Don't.

CASEY is filming him from the sliding glass door.

HENRY  
Actually you might want to get this  
for your educational video series.  
(announcer-voice)  
Now that you can cut limes, let's  
learn to drink on the job.

Henry places a cup on the bar.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
First, look around. Do you see your  
boss? If the answer is no, it's  
time to drink. Okay. A drink ought  
to be cool, so...  
(adds ice, to camera)  
"Ices is nices." Remember that.  
(back to work)  
Now, many drinks use a "mixer"...  
(holding up tonic bottle)  
...but when you're drinking on the  
job, a mixer is wasted energy.  
(drops mixer, pours vodka)  
Remember. "Vodka is nices."  
(taking a lime slice)  
Fruit garnish? No.

CASEY  
You know your material.

HENRY  
That's just the drink. Preparation  
of the drinker is more complicated.  
(MORE)



HENRY (CONT'D)

(to camera)

First. Devote yourself to a dream and spend ten years neglecting every other aspect of your life in pursuit of success. Then, fail.

(looks at drink)

When your girlfriend gets tired of your fatalism and leaves, celebrate with a car accident. Realize you're actor's guild insurance expired and you need a job, but don't move back to Milwaukie. Your old friends have jobs and homes and families and normal lives and you still wear "Sketchers." That's embarrassing. So why not go back to your old job and avoid the subject. Have you done that?

(holding up the drink)

Now, you're ready to drink.

He drains the drink on a single swallow.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM

CLOSE ON MONICA - face pained:

MONICA

God, I hate this. Same boring walls, same boring people, year after year. I feel just like her.

KYLE nods, caught up.

Yeah. KYLE

Trapped. MONICA

Totally. KYLE

MONICA

Knowing there's a whole world out there, and you're not part of it.

KYLE

Wanting to express herself but not knowing how.

MONICA

Right!

KYLE

No eyes, no ears.

Monica glances at the play in her lap. "Diary of Anne Frank."

MONICA

Anne Frank had eyes.

KYLE

(wise)

But could they see?

MONICA

Yeah...?

KYLE

Oh. I was thinking Helen Keller.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Back with Casey and Henry. Sharing a drink.

HENRY

How long you been married?

CASEY

143 years.

HENRY

Kids?

CASEY

No. But he wants the whole bit.  
House, kids, yard, him raking  
leaves, me holding two cups of hot  
chocolate, everyone wearing the  
reindeer turtlenecks I knitted...

HENRY

Doesn't seem so bad. I mean,  
better than this...

He nods at the bar. She shakes her head.

CASEY

This isn't what I do. Why don't you  
marry my him and go to Burlington?

HENRY

What, and leave show business?