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SORRY CLOSED

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Written by

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1 EXT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT 1

A sad, rundown budget movie theater in small town Iowa.

A GROUP OF TEENAGERS exit the building. On the door behind them is a sign that reads:

"After 50 years we will be closing our doors. Thank you all for the great memories."

2 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSIONS - NIGHT 2

REAGAN (25F), a movie theater employee who looks too worn down for her age, leans on the counter. Bored.

Out from theater 2, emerges FRANKIE (19F), and Veronica (18F), both employees and also roommates.

Reagan watches them as they walk to concessions.

FRANKIE

No absolutely not.

VERONICA

This is the 6th time you've rejected my pick. What's the point of switching off if we always end up watching what you want?

FRANKIE

Well let's recap, shall we? Your six picks have been, in order: *Shrek 2*, *Mean Girls 2*, *Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again*, *Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2*, *Anchorman 2*, and *Couples Retreat*. What the fuck is up with you and sequels?

VERONICA

They improve on what's already good.

FRANKIE

You're literally just proving my point for me. You have no taste. I'm trying to give you culture.

VERONICA

Kill Bill is culture?

FRANKIE

Yes. You're welcome. V, we gotta go into Sophomore year of film school having seen as many films as possible.

Veronica groans.

VERONICA

What about *The Cat Returns*?

FRANKIE

You can't always default to Ghibli movies. You have to diversify your palette.

(then)

You wanna join us tonight Regs?

REAGAN

Absolutely not. This is the one area where Veronica and I agree.

FRANKIE

Well I'm thinking tonight's pick will be the 1968 classic *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

VERONICA

Aren't we watching that in our independent cinema class?

REAGAN

I'm not sure one of the biggest space movies counts as independent cinema. Even I know what that film is.

FRANKIE

Well apparently it is, and we're going to learn why later. But first we need to watch all of the films beforehand so we can be the most prepared and impressive in the after film dialogue.

VERONICA

That's just extra work. I hate that.

REAGAN

I'm surprised you haven't already seen it Frank.

FRANKIE

Oh I have. 5 times. But never in
 blu-ray and guess what just came in
 this morning!

Veronica looks at Reagan.

REAGAN

Don't look at me. I don't live with
 a psycho.

FRANKIE

Thank you.

REAGAN

What's taking Cooper so long in
 theater 1 anyway? Like 3 people
 were in that screening. I wanna go
 home.

TYLER (40M), their manager, emerges from the back rooms.

He inspects the popcorn machine.

TYLER

(to Reagan)

Did you even try to clean this?

REAGAN

Tried? Yes.

TYLER

Well, try again.

He walks off. Reagan rolls her eyes.

REAGAN

I'm gonna check on Cooper.

3 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS 3

Reagan heads towards theater 1.

4 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - THEATER 1 - CONTINUOUS 4

Reagan opens the doors.

REAGAN

Cooper, stop fucking around and-

She looks up and sees COOPER (17M), making out with KATELYNN
 (16F). They stop.

COOPER
Reagan, seriously?

REAGAN
(to Katelynn)
I don't know you, get out. We're closed.

KATELYNN
I'm his girlfriend.

COOPER
(flustered)
What? No, we're just talking-kissing!

Katelynn give him a death look and gets up.

KATELYNN
He's not that good of a kisser anyway.

COOPER
What?

Katelynn walks past Reagan to the exit.

REAGAN
You can do better.

The two girls nod to each other in agreement. Katelynn leaves. Cooper looks at Reagan in shock.

COOPER
Way to ruin that for me!

REAGAN
I ruined it?
(mocking)
Uh, uh, actually we're not dating, just making out.

He gives her a look.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
You better finish up in 5 so we can get the heck outta here.

Reagan exits. Cooper exhales and puts his head in his hands.

5 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

5

Veronica and Frankie haven't left their spots.

FRANKIE
Who was the girl?

REAGAN
What do you think?

Tyler enters from the projection room.

TYLER
Reagan, Frankie, I need hands.

REAGAN
Why do you never ask Veronica?

TYLER
You really think Veronica would do
it?

REAGAN
You know you could fire her for
that. You have that power.

Reagan, Frankie and Tyler head past Veronica to the back
rooms. Veronica sticks her tongue out at them.

6 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - BACK ROOMS - NIGHT

6

Typical back operations, except the walls are covered in
graffiti.

Reagan and Frankie each carry the ends of a large cardboard
cutout from some B movie.

TYLER
You can just set that down here.

They put it in a pile of other cut outs.

FRANKIE
What are you gonna do with all of
these? Can I have some?

TYLER
I guess, I was just gonna toss 'em.

FRANKIE
You would never.

TYLER
How many people came in today?

REAGAN
Maybe 15?

TYLER

Yeesh.

Frankie elbows Reagan. They've planned something.

REAGAN

Tyler, look, I know tomorrow's the theater's last day and it's a big deal or whatever but what if we just called today the last day and you just paid us for tomorrow?

FRANKIE

That is such a good idea! It's not like we'd be busy or anything. It'll probably be slow as hell like today.

TYLER

That would never fly. We're gonna need all hands on deck tomorrow.

REAGAN

You're joking.

TYLER

I'm not. New orders from the big boss came in.

Tyler turns to look at them.

TYLER (CONT'D)

All the movies are free tomorrow.

A look of horror crosses Reagan and Frankie's faces.

REAGAN

Fuck.

FRANKIE

Fuck.

Title Card: Sorry Closed

7

INT. REAGAN'S CAR - DAY

7

A shitty used 20 year old sedan.

Reagan, in her work uniform, gets into her car.

She takes a deep breath, preparing herself for the day ahead.

She reaches to open the glovebox compartment, several items fall out.

REAGAN

Shit.

The first thing she picks up is a pair of underwear.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Jesus. Nora? This is the last time
I get a random roommate I swear.

The next thing she grabs is her high school diploma.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

What?

Reagan opens the folder and in front of her diploma is a her car registration and a sticky note from her dad. It reads:
Congrats sweetie, to bigger and better things.

Reagan looks at it with a hint of sadness, before digging back into the glove compartment.

Then she finally finds what she was looking for: a pack of gum. She grabs a stick and drives off.

8 INT. REAGAN'S CAR - LATER

8

Reagan pulls up and sees it: a line. The Rivera has never had a line. It's the middle of summer and seemingly every person in town is here.

And it's not just a line, its a rowdy line. Teenagers, burnouts, parents and all of their kids. It's already chaos and they haven't even opened yet.

Reagan braces herself and gets out of her car.

9 EXT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

9

Reagan walks past the line on her way to the building.

The TWO CUSTOMERS in the front of the line bang on the windows.

CUSTOMER 1

Let us in!

Reagan goes to unlock the door, but first points at the sign and then at the clock. They don't open for another 15 minutes.

Reagan lets herself in.

10 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

10

And locks the door behind her.

CUSTOMER 2

Oh come on! We've been here for
hours!

Reagan just shrugs.

The customers continue to bang on the glass, Reagan ignores them. She turns and finds Veronica standing silently in the middle of the lobby.

REAGAN

Veronica? You good?

Veronica looks at her but doesn't say a thing.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Is that a yes?

11 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSIONS - CONTINUOUS

11

Reagan walks past her to the concessions, never taking her eyes off Veronica.

Frankie exits from the back rooms.

FRANKIE

She's protesting.

REAGAN

Protesting what?

FRANKIE

The theater closing. Thinks it's
messed up, isn't that right V?

Veronica looks at her but says nothing.

REAGAN

How is this a protest?

FRANKIE

She said she won't move or speak
until her demands are met.

REAGAN

What demands?

Frankie slams a list onto the counter. Reagan picks them up.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
1. The theater will remain open.
Thats it?

FRANKIE
That's it.

REAGAN
That's not a list, Veronica. You
see that line out there? We're
gonna need you today.

Veronica doesn't move.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Seriously? Where's Tyler?

Frankie slaps another piece of paper on the counter.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Jesus.

Reagan picks it up and reads out loud.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
*Feeling ill. You guys got this
today. Trust. Signed, Tyler.*

Frankie slams another piece of paper on the table.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Why?
(reading)
*Also in my absence, Reagan is in
charge.*
(to Frankie)
Shit.

FRANKIE
He never was much of a manager.

REAGAN
Well at least tell me Cooper's in
the back.

Frankie points to the line outside. Cooper, in his work
uniform, is outside flirting with some girls.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Oh my god.

Frankie slams another piece of paper down. Reagan jumps.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
You're really getting a kick out of
this aren't you?

Reagan sizes up the paper, it's a list of tasks to be completed by the end of the day as per the boss' orders. It's unrealistically long.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
(reading)
*Clean out the old promo. De-stick
the bathrooms. Sell the rest of the
snacks in the back. Free the arcade
prizes?*
(to Frankie)
Are they trapped?
(reading)
*Greet every customer with a
friendly smile.*

Reagan turns to Veronica.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
This is what a list looks like
Veronica.

Veronica just looks at her.

FRANKIE
What's first boss?

REAGAN
Don't call me that. You know what,
Tyler's not here. We'll just cancel
the screenings like we wanted to
yesterday. They're free anyway, and
then we can finish this list in
peace.

Veronica shoots Reagan an expression thats a mix between sadness and anger.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
I thought you weren't suppose to
move.

FRANKIE
I love that idea, I do, but do you
really wanna be the one to go out
there to tell *that* crowd that the
free screenings are cancelled?

Reagan turns to the crowd. Outside the line has gotten even rowdier and somehow longer. It's horrifying.

REAGAN

Goddamnit. Fine. We'll do it, we'll do it.

Veronica smiles.

Reagan gets behind the counter and grabs her name tag. It has a spot for their name, and a spot for their favorite movie.

Reagan's favorite is *Superbad*, Frankie's is *Casablanca*, and Veronica's is *Kiki's Delivery Service*.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Okay Frankie, you're gonna finish making the popcorn. I'm gonna go wake Drac and make sure he's ready. Veronica.

Reagan turns to Veronica, she avoids eye contact.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

If you so graciously decide to work today, you're on arcade machine duty. Got it?

12 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

12

Veronica stares straight ahead. Reagan heads past her towards the projection room.

REAGAN

And we'll get paid the same amount at the end of the day.

Reagan walks past the windows. She makes eye contact with Cooper and shakes her head. He tries to give her a boyish smile.

13 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

13

DRAC (33M), just a regular guy who should stop shopping at Hot Topic, is fully asleep on a small loveseat couch. Reagan bursts through the doors and wakes him up.

DRAC

(sleepy)

Oh, hey Reginald.

REAGAN

You know when most people pick a nickname it's usually shorter than the actual name. That's like the point.

DRAC

Aw, typical Reginald behavior. Gonna miss this.

REAGAN

Tyler abandoned us today. I'm in charge. Are you ready for your first screenings?

DRAC

Of course, got it all cued up. You don't gotta worry about me.

REAGAN

You're the only one I can trust.

Reagan turns to the exit but stops.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Hey Drac, what are you gonna do after we close? You can't keep sleeping here, right?

DRAC

You're worried about me? Don't be. You know how this place is turning into a nightclub for teenagers?

REAGAN

No, they're doing what? What does a teenager do at a "nightclub"?

DRAC

Dance, drink pop, try to flirt.

REAGAN

Does it close at 9pm?

DRAC

10.

REAGAN

Wow, really living on the edge.

DRAC

Yeah, I know. I convinced the big boss to convince the next big boss to let me keep living up here if I work full time as a DJ/IT guy for the club.

REAGAN

They're gonna let a 30 year old man live above a nightclub for minors?

Horror spreads on Drac's face.

DRAC

Oh, uh, I hadn't thought about it like that. Well its not-its not creepy. I work here.

REAGAN

I'd love to help you with this new crisis I've started but we open in 5.

Reagan exits.

14

INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - DAY

14

Reagan makes her way to the front doors. She looks to Frankie at the concession stand.

REAGAN

Frankie, you ready?

FRANKIE

Let's do this.

REAGAN

Veronica?

Veronica stands still.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Great. Let's get this over with.

Reagan looks upon the crowd outside. It's huge and it's chaos.

CHARON: WAVE ONE

Reagan unlocks the doors.

DROVES OF CUSTOMERS flood in. They go to the concession stand, the sad arcade, and flood into the theaters seemingly barely even paying attention to which movie is on which screen.

Cooper tries to pass Reagan by and go to the concession stand. She grabs his collar.

COOPER
Hey Reagan, sup?

REAGAN
Since you so graciously decided to come in late, I have a super special task for you.

COOPER
Frankie is gonna be swamped at concessions, I can just-

REAGAN
No, actually, you're on bathroom duty.

COOPER
What? Where's Tyler, you can't-

REAGAN
There is no Tyler. It's just me today. Boss wants the bathrooms "De-stuck." The left hand woman's restroom is the one you want, that's the problem.

COOPER
Whatever.

Cooper sighs and walks off.

Reagan goes to the concession stand-

15 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSIONS - CONTINUOUS

15

Where Frankie is having an argument with a customer.

FRANKIE
No, just the screenings are free.
You want snacks you still gotta pay.

CUSTOMER 3
But it says free.

FRANKIE

Screenings yes. We still have to make some sort of profit. It's \$6.50.

CUSTOMER 3

You're going under, just give me the popcorn.

FRANKIE

That is a really compelling argument, and by that same logic I also don't have to be afraid of getting fired so, actually, that'll be 13 dollars.

CUSTOMER 3

What?

FRANKIE

It costs double now.

Reagan swoops in.

REAGAN

Just pay the \$6.50 and we'll throw in some free candy?

The customer storms out.

FRANKIE

(yelled)

Did all of you hear that? The concessions are NOT free.

The crowd grounds and thins out. A more orderly line forms.

A customer approaches Veronica.

CUSTOMER 4

Are you in line?

Veronica just looks at him.

CUSTOMER 4 (CONT'D)

Is that a no?

Reagan watches from afar.

REAGAN

(to Frankie)

It's literally the least effective protest ever.

(MORE)

REAGAN (CONT'D)

She's not even standing in a place
that like, stops people from going
in or out.

FRANKIE

This is her Princess Mononoke,
she's saving the forest spirit.

REAGAN

I don't know what that means, and I
don't care.

Frankie goes to speak.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

And don't try to tell me. I didn't
even think she liked this job, let
alone this place.

FRANKIE

Huh.

Frankie looks intently at Veronica.

REAGAN

What?

FRANKIE

Nothing. Did Coop bail?

REAGAN

No, he's on de-stick-ing duty.

FRANKIE

You did not.

REAGAN

What? He showed up late.

Frankie laughs.

16

INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - GIRL'S RESTROOM - DAY

16

Cooper knocks to no response. He opens the door and drags the
custodial cart inside.

He puts up the closed bathroom sign.

FEMALE CUSTOMER 1

You've got to be kidding me.

COOPER

Oh, sorry, there's another restroom
on the other side of the theater.

FEMALE CUSTOMER 1

You guys literally just opened. How
are the bathrooms already dirty?

COOPER

I wish I could tell ya.

The customer walks away. Cooper goes to get a good look at
the restroom when he sees it:

The stalls, the floor, the pad dispenser are all covered in
stickers.

Some new, some old and some peeling off the walls and
collecting dust.

Cooper start to gag. The walls feel like they're closing in
on him.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Oh god.

17

INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSIONS - MOMENTS LATER

17

Cooper charges up to the concession stand.

COOPER

I'm not doing the bathrooms and you
can't make me.

Some TEENAGE GIRLS at the concession stand eye Cooper.

REAGAN

You can't make me? What are we
children?

COOPER

(whispering)

Just put me on concessions.

REAGAN

No, you show up late, you get the
shit shift.

COOPER

I wasn't late. You saw me.

REAGAN

I saw you outside the premises.

COOPER
(whispering)
I-I can't do it.

REAGAN
What do you mean?

COOPER
(whispering)
Shhh-I have Pittakionophobia.

REAGAN
Pitta-what? You can't just invent
shit to get out of work.

COOPER
I'm not making it up!
(whispered)
It's the fear of stickers.

The teenage girls laugh at Cooper, he tries to get in closer
to his co-workers.

FRANKIE
You do not! This is amazing.

REAGAN
What? Are you worried they're gonna
like touch you? Or?

COOPER
No-well...its more complicated then
that. It's not a fear so much as
a...they gross me out, okay?

REAGAN
This is fascinating. Tell me more.

COOPER
Don't patronize me. The thought of
touching them..well it makes my skin
crawl.

REGAN
And then what? What are they gonna
do to you?

COOPER
N-nothing, they're just gross. I
don't know. Put me on concessions.

Reagan and Frankie both laugh, Cooper is desperate.

REAGAN

Wow Valentine's Day must be really hard for you.

COOPER

Yes, actually. And it's not helped by the fact that I get so many valentines.

REAGAN

What did you think "de-stick" meant?

COOPER

I don't know. Like gum or something.

REAGAN

And that would be less gross?

COOPER

It's not funny. Tyler never puts me on bathroom duty, I didn't know!

REAGAN

I don't know what to tell you other than, good luck.

Reagan walks to the other side of the concessions.

COOPER

Frankie, switch with me.

FRANKIE

Coop. Look at me. No way in hell am I'm switching with you, so you're gonna go in there and face your fears, alright?

COOPER

No-

FRANKIE

Do you wanna be laughed at forever?

Cooper shakes his head.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Exactly, so it's time to get over this and tackle it head on.

COOPER

You wouldn't say the same thing if it were spiders.

FRANKIE

Well spiders can actually kill you,
so. Go on.

Cooper grimaces and heads back for the bathroom.

Frankie watches him walk off until-

LEON

Casablanca, what's up?

Frankie turns to see LEON (20M), he's dreamy in a bimbo sort
of way. Frankie is in love.

LEON (CONT'D)

The usual.

FRANKIE

Uh-huh.

Frankie puts together his usual order. Reagan just watches.

LEON

You know, I'm really gonna miss
coming to this place.

FRANKIE

(hopeful)
Oh yeah?

LEON

It's like so cheap.

FRANKIE

Yeah, for sure.

LEON

Plus, where else can I watch a
movie that's already on streaming?

(then)
Oh.

FRANKIE

That'll be 7 bucks.

LEON

Thanks Casa, keep it real.

Frankie nods. Leon leaves.

REAGAN

I still don't get it.

FRANKIE
What's not to get?

REAGAN
Frank, he thinks your name is
Casablanca.

Frankie looks down at her name tag. It's extremely obvious which side is her name, and which is a movie.

FRANKIE
No that's just like, a cute bit we do.

REAGAN
I hate to say it but I don't think it is.

FRANKIE
I mean *Casablanca* is only one of the most famous--and best movies of all time, there's no way he..

REAGAN
Frank. Do you really wanna date a guy who doesn't know what *Casablanca* is?

FRANKIE
I'll prove to you that he knows my real name and that he's seen *Casablanca*! He probably watches it all the time like I do. It's destiny.

REAGAN
Uh huh. Well today's your last day to prove it so, good luck.

Reagan looks at the concession line and notices HAILEY (22F) and JENNIFER (23F).

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Shit. Shit.

They spot her.

JENNIFER
Oh my god. Reagan?

HAILEY
It is! Hi!

REAGAN

Jennifer, Hailey, I didn't expect to see you guys here.

HAILEY

Usually we'd be over at the promenade, but a free movie is a free movie.

JENNIFER

Yeah, it's not like there's much else to do in this town.

HAILEY

Right? God if I didn't have that internship last summer I'd be graduated by now and would've moved to Colorado.

JENNIFER

I know! Double majoring was an awful idea, I just wanna be done. But anyway, what have you been up to Reag?

REAGAN

This is pretty much it.

HAILEY

Came back to work your old high school job for the summer?

REAGAN

No it's just my job job.

JENNIFER

No-wait, you went to college, right?

REAGAN

Community college.

HAILEY

Didn't you want to be a marine biologist?

REAGAN

No that was Jenna. Good memory though.

HAILEY

Jenna, does she still work here too?

REAGAN

No. She's in Florida. Studying
Marine Biology actually.

JENNIFER

Good for her.

(then)

I'm sorry the place is closing.

REAGAN

Eh it's probably its time. What can
I get you?

18

INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

18

Drac sits in front of 3 laptops. Two are being used to
project the movies, the third is for his DJ set.

Cooper barges in.

COOPER

Drac! Can we swap places for the
day?

DRAC

Do you even know how to do what I
do?

COOPER

It can't be that hard. Press the
button, right?

DRAC

You have no idea the skill it takes
to be a projectionist, and no
appreciation for the craft.

COOPER

Do you? You're fucking around on a
third computer.

DRAC

This is my DJ set. Wait. You're a
teen right? What songs do teens
like?

COOPER

Well, it really-wait. I'll tell you
if you switch with me. I'll-I'll
make a whole list and group it by
different genres and-

DRAC

Not interested. I was thinking I'd introduce your peers to ska. Some Mighty Mightyboss tones, maybe some Aquabats, that's kid friendly.

COOPER

Oh god, you need me. Drac please!

Drac simply puts back on his headphones. Cooper groans and leaves.

19 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - GIRL'S RESTROOM - MOMENTS LATER 19

Cooper enters wearing forearm-length gloves, an apron, a face mask, and shoe covers.

He looks at the terrifying amount of stickers.

COOPER

I can do this.

He kneels down, scrape in hand, and goes in on the wall.

A few pieces scrape off here and here, but its not as much as anyone would hope for.

With every scrape Cooper gags, having to look away from the mess.

There's a big, peeling sticker in the middle of the mess. He goes at it with the scrape to no effect.

So, reluctantly he uses his fingers to slowly peel it instead.

About half of it comes off, and underneath are several other stickers.

COOPER (CONT'D)

You cut off one head, two more grow.

He goes back to work.

20 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSIONS - DAY

20

Reagan rubs her temples, lets out a long sigh, and then turns back to the customers.

She notices a bit of a traffic jam forming.

CUSTOMER 5
(to customer 6)
Hey, bro, I think you can move up.

CUSTOMER 6
No, I think she's in line.

He points to Veronica.

CUSTOMER 6 (CONT'D)
Miss, hi, are you in line?

Veronica avoids eye contact.

CUSTOMER 5
Is she okay?

CUSTOMER 6
Do you work here?

Reagan takes in the scene.

REAGAN
I have to fix this.

Reagan approaches Veronica.

21 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

21

REAGAN
Hi, she's not in line. You can just go around her.

CUSTOMER 6
Is she okay?

REAGAN
Who can say really?
(to Veronica)
We're swamped and you're making everything worse.

Veronica doesn't move.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
No one even knows that you're protesting, or what you're protesting. So, what's the point?

Veronica stand firms.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Okay, you wanna play hard ball?
Let's play hard ball.

Reagan walks towards the back rooms.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Babysitting a fucking adult.

22 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - BACK ROOMS - CONTINUOUS 22

Reagan enters and looks for her revenge.

She sees a bucket with some old mopping water inside.

She picks it up and mimics throwing it.

She turns around and screams, Surprised by a human shaped figure.

She realizes what it is, and smiles.

23 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS 23

Reagan walks towards Veronica carrying four cardboard cut outs.

She puts one down right next to Veronica. Then another, then another, and finally she's about to box her in.

Veronica's eyes go wide.

REAGAN
Enjoy hell.

Veronica pleads, but Reagan boxes her in.

Lastly Reagan slaps a piece of paper on one of the cutouts that reads "Have you always wanted a standee? Ask concessions for more info on how to purchase one."

Reagan heads back towards concessions.

24 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSION STAND - CONTINUOUS 24

FRANKIE
Can we sell Veronica with the standees?

REAGAN
Sure, she might as well be one.

The line is now non-existent, and only a few people are in the lobby.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Finally, some peace.

FRANKIE
Wave two will be here soon enough.
Next screening starts in an hour-

REAGAN
Let me have this.

Reagan grabs the list from under the counter and looks at it.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Clean the roof? I don't even know
how to get up there.

FRANKIE
Hey Reag, what are you gonna do,
once this place closes?

REAGAN
Become a real boy.

FRANKIE
Veronica and I are going back to
college. Cooper's on his last year
of high school.

REAGAN
I haven't really thought about it.
Maybe I can get a job down the
street at the promenade.

FRANKIE
You don't even like movies.

REAGAN
I like movies, everyone likes
movies.

FRANKIE
You didn't watch a single Oscar
contender last year.

REAGAN
I saw Sax X in theaters five times.

FRANKIE
Mmhmm.
(then)
Who's Jenna?

REAGAN
I'm done with this conversation,
I'm gonna figure out how to get on
the roof.

FRANKIE
This is just like Clerks.

REAGAN
I don't know what that is.
(then)
Clean out the claw machines!

25 EXT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - DAY

25

Reagan sets up a ladder in front of the theater. It's the same one they use to change out the marquee letters. Which currently says "Free movies, today only!"

She extends the ladder as far as it goes, and climbs.

Once she gets to the top. she can just barely see what's on the roof.

There's three cardboard cut out sat around the burnt remains of a makeshift fire. They're faced away from her.

Then a bunch if trash and cigarette butts.

REAGAN
What the hell?

26 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - ARCADE - DAY

26

Frankie stands in front of the claw machine that sits in the sad, small arcade just off the lobby.

Behind her we can see Veronica's face peeping out of the cutouts.

FRANKIE
(under her breath)
Free the arcade prizes.

Frankie leans into the glass.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Are you trapped?

She notices a huge layer of dust over all the prizes.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
How long have you been trapped?

She looks deeply into a teddy bear's eyes. It really feels like they are looking back at her, pleading with her.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I've seen Toy Story,
I'll get you out.

She puts the key in the lock and twists. The key breaks.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Shit.

Frankie searches her pockets for something to pull the other half of the key out with.

As she does so, just outside the window behind her, we see a cardboard cutout fall down onto the sidewalk.

BANG.

Frankie looks up.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Michael?

It's Michael Keaton as Batman. Another falls.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Christian?

It's Christian Bale as Batman. Another falls.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Robert?

It's Robert Pattinson as Batman.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Well, she's having fun up there.

Frankie returns to the lock. She pulls out a Swiss Army knife, and tries the tweezers. No luck.

She looks up at the bear. Somehow it looks more desperate than before.

She tries the knife. Nothing.

The bear looks even sadder.

She tries using her fingers. No success.

FRNAKIE

Ugh!

She puts her hand up to the bear's.

FRANKIE

I will get you out.

Frankie turns around-

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Ah!

One of the cardboard cutouts around Veronica has fallen, She stands there menacingly.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Veronica! You moved! That's literally like the whole thing!

Veronica makes eyes as if to say "I didn't do it."

Frankie gets in closer, it's like she can read Veronica's eyes.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Don't lie to me.

Veronica's eye's say "I'm not lying!"

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Tell that to him!

Frankie stands the standee back up, it's an actor dressed as a cop. Veronica looks guilty.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

I'm just saying if you're gonna do this then you have to commit-wait.

Frankie's face fills with rage.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

V, you're not.

27

EXT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - ROOF - DAY

27

The roof is now clean. Well as clean as a roof can be.

Reagan gathers up her trash bag and puts it by the edge.

She stays for one moment to enjoy the view. She seems sad.

28 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER 28

Reagan walks in holding the trash and the standees.

REAGAN

Okay, cross the roof off the list-

She stops in her tracks.

Another ring of standees has been put around Veronica.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

(to Frankie)

Why?

FRANKIE

She knows what she did.

(then)

Is there another key to the crane machine anywhere?

REAGAN

Not that I know of.

(then)

Can you breath in there Veronica?

No response.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Eh, she's probably fine.

29 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSION STAND - CONTINUOUS 29

Reagan walks over and pulls out the list.

REAGAN

Hm. I'm going to bring out the candy we need to sell, see what we're working with.

Frankie seems focused on something else.

FRANKIE

Mhmm.

Reagan heads towards the back.

30 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - BACK ROOMS - CONTINUOUS 30

Reagan tosses the standees and trash down. Then moves to a small stack of boxes on a small mover's dolly.

She opens the top one up.

REAGAN
For the love of god.

It's just filled with defunct candy from the 2000s.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Where did Tyler even pull these
from?

She checks the back for an expiration date. It reads: Good
till 2050.

Reagan's face wrinkles up in disgust, than she considers.

Okay. Yeah. She'll sell these.

FRANKIE
Oh dude I loved these when I was a
kid!

She turns to see Frankie behind her.

REAGAN
Those things could survive a
nuclear winter. I don't know if we
should be serving them to people.

FRANKIE
Hm. What about bundling?

REAGAN
What about it?

FRANKIE
Tyler just said to sell 'em. He
didn't say we had to make a profit.
Give one to every person who make a
purchase. Keep our conscious clean.

REAGAN
Now you're talking.

They hear a commotion coming from the lobby.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Fuck. Wait. What time is it?

CHARON: WAVE TWO

31 INT. RIVERA MOVE THEATER LOBBY - DAY

31

The lobby is once again filled with patrons. It's chaos.

FRANKIE
Shit.

REAGAN
Shit.

They both spring into action

A new line has formed in front of the concessions. A customer grabs a standee to purchase it, just barely revealing Veronica.

KEAGAN, a customer, takes notice while LENNY, a father and regular customer, tries to wrangle his two kids in front of him in line.

KEAGAN
Do they have someone in there?

LENNY
What? No that doesn't seem ethical.
(to his kids)
Hey! Put that back!

KEAGAN
Hey are you okay-Veronica? Is that you?

Veronica looks towards him from her prison. She does not speak.

Keagan moves closer, towering above the inner ring.

KEAGAN (CONT'D)
Hey V, what's up? I forgot you worked here.

No response.

KEAGAN (CONT'D)
You, uh, need help? You okay?

She just looks at him.

KEAGAN (CONT'D)
Okay, blink twice if you're stuck.

She avoids blinking.

KEAGAN (CONT'D)
Blink thrice if you need help.

Veronica blinks twice.

KEAGAN (CONT'D)
Was that thrice? Shit. Blink four
times if you're been frozen by some
sort of wizard.

Veronica avoids blinking, and seems confused.

CUSTOMER 8
It's your turn asshole.

KEAGAN
Oh shit, Gotta go. Good luck V.

Veronica tries to avoid moving but is obviously frustrated.

32

INT. GIRLS RESTROOM - DAY

32

Cooper sits next to a trash bag basically full of stickers.
Yet it looks like he's made no progress.

COOPER
How many layers are there?

Cooper peels another sticker, holding his breath the whole
time.

It comes off rather nicely. He goes to put it in the trash
bag but it sticks to his fingers.

He shakes his hand wildly trying to get it off, while at the
same time he tries to avoid looking at it.

Finally it falls into the trash bag, he breaths for the first
time.

On to the next. He peels, and it rips in half. Cooper's face
fills with frustration.

He tries to put the peeled half sticker into the trash, but
his wild shaking sends it flying up onto the exposed skin on
his face.

Cooper screams.

He rushes to the mirror and starts to pull it off. He gags,
which turns to a choke. He starts coughing and then he feels
something.

He looks into the mirror and opens his mouth.

His tongue is covered in small stickers.

His eyes widen. He starts sweating.

He desperately tries to rip them off, screaming.

Then-

He realizes it was just a fear-induced nightmare. He's still sitting on the floor with the sticker on his face.

He hears laughter behind him.

A line of girls has formed by the door.

He rips the sticker off his face and throws it towards the trash bag, it doesn't make it.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Hey, uh, this bathroom is closed.
There's one on the other side.

GIRL 1

But I want to use this one.

GIRL 2

Are you really getting rid of the stickers?

COOPER

Just taking orders.

GIRLS 1

You're getting rid of all the history. We want to pay our respects.

COOPER

To the stickers? Did you do this?

GIRL 2

No, it's just like a thing, everyone knows about it.

COOPER

Well this bathrooms not going to be open for a very long time, so, pee elsewhere!

The girls scoff and walks off. Behind them is Katelynn.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Seriously? What was that yesterday?
Did you come to make fun of me in my darkest moment?

KATELYNN

What? I came to see a free movie,
I'm here with Jake.

COOPER

Jake? Oh come on you don't wanna
date Jake.

Imagine the worst guy you knew in high school, thats JAKE.
He's in line for concessions behind them.

KATELYNN

He's a rising senior.

COOPER

I'm a rising senior!

KATELYNN

Cooper, come on. What are you
getting upset about? You wanna ask
me out?

Cooper shrugs.

KATELYNN (CONT'D)

That's what I thought. I don't get
you.

Katelynn stomps past him into the bathroom. She fixes her
makeup in the mirror.

COOPER

Hey, what do you mean?

KATELYNN

You're cute, you're funny, you
could easily be with somebody, but
instead you flirt around. But what
I don't get is that you don't seem
to enjoy playing the field either.

COOPER

What?

KATELYNN

I really liked you. I was stupid to
think you might too.

COOPER

Katelynn-

KATELYNN

No, I don't wanna hear it. What,
are you afraid we'll bite?

She pretends to lunge towards Cooper. He jumps back right into the stickers. Screaming twice.

KATELYNN (CONT'D)
Now that revenge for last night.

She holds up her phone with the perfect video of him screaming.

Katelynn leaves.

COOPER
I hate this day.

33 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - THEATER 1 - DAY

33

Reagan is quickly cleaning the theater between screenings. It's not as messy as she expected. The morning crowd is always nicer.

She turns down one of the rows and finds a MAN sleeping across several chairs.

She pokes him with the broom.

REAGAN
Hey, the screening is over.

The man opens his eyes partially.

MAN
I'm staying for the next one too.

REAGAN
You can't do that actually-oh.
Well, yeah, I guess you're right.

He closes his eyes again. There's a huge popcorn spill in front of him.

She thinks about it, and decides to leave the spill.

She looks up and sees Drac waving at her from the projection booth.

She waves back. He gestures for her to come up.

34 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - PROJECTION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 34

Drac sits amongst 4 laptops now.

Reagan walks in.

REAGAN
 You need something?
 (noticing his setup)
 Woah, woah, what is all this?

He points to each laptop and explains.

DRAC
 Theater 1. Theater 2. DJ Ska-Breeze
 set-

REAGAN DRAC (CONT'D)
 You really need to reconsider Ransom note.
 that name.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
 Wait, what?

Drac signals her over. He has a video pulled up on the screen. He hits play.

It's poorly filmed phone footage of the theater empty at night.

A VOICE talks over it.

VOICE (V.O)
 Rivera isn't just your average
 budget movie theater. It's a staple
 of the West Bank of Iowa. Cheap
 seats to the biggest films of the
 year.

The video cuts to a masked figure in front of a black wall.

VOICE (V.O) (CONT'D)
 And now they want to close this
 place? To take it away from us?
 We'll never let that happen. We are
 the resistance.

The masked figure gets closer to the camera.

VOICE (CONT'D)
 We're here and we're going to stop
 your dastardly plans.

REAGAN
 Dastardly?

VOICE (V.O.)
 Don't even try and stop us. We're
 already in motion. Right. Under.
 Your. Nose.

A poorly VFX'd smoke bomb covers the screen. The text "Stay open, Stay alive" pops up.

DRAC

Gives you the chills right? I don't know who could've done this.

REAGAN

It's Veronica.

DRAC

How do you know?

REAGAN

It's Veronica. Jesus. Is that what they're teaching in film school now? Thank god she's just a freshmen.

DRAC

(whispered)

I thought it was affective.

REAGAN

Drac, when did she send this to you?

DRAC

Well, they-

REAGAN

It was Veronica.

DRAC

-sent it to me an hour ago. Said they'd be giving me follow up demands, why-

He checks the clocks on a few laptops to confirm.

DRAC (CONT'D)

Anytime now.

Just on cue, a DVD slides under the door.

Reagan and Drac turn towards it.

Reagan quickly runs and opens the door, but the hallway is already empty.

REAGAN

Damnit, she's fast.

Reagan picks up the tape.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
 Lets see what's on it.

DRAC
 I have specific instructions to-

Reagan pops the DVD into the 4th laptop. Another video plays.

It looks like the worst after effects motion graphic you've ever seen.

It reads:

In 2 hours there will be another drop. Stand by. If you do not play the next video for the last showings of the evening, you will regret it.

Do not make us take force. We are the resistance-

Reagan closes the laptop.

DRAC (CONT'D)
 Hey!

REAGAN
 I got the idea.

DRAC
 What should we do?
 (whispered)
 I'm scared.

REAGAN
 Just let me know when you get the next one, okay? If you get a next one. I've got an idiot to talk to.

35 INT. RIVERA MOVE THEATER - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

35

The lobby is still chaos.

Frankie is barely keeping up. The first two boxes of candy are gone and nearly everyone seems to have one.

Reagan walks up to Veronica's standee prison.

REAGAN
 Do you think you're funny?

Veronica eyes communicate confusion.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Whats you're plan, huh?
(mocking)
We're the resistance.

Veronica's eyes fane innocence.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
Don't give me that look. Don't! I
know what you're up to. Let me
speak in a language you'll
understand. This isn't a movie you
can't always save the rec center!

Veronica looks away.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
I'm watching you, got it?
(to herself)
I just wanna make it through this
stupid day.

Reagan walks towards the concession stand.

36 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSIONS - CONTINUOUS

36

Frankie is completely overwhelmed.

REAGAN
Did you see her move?

FRANKIE
What?

REAGAN
Veronica. Did she leave her little
prison?

FRANKIE
I don't know, I don't think so?
I've been slammed. What do you want
from me?

REAGAN
Sorry Frank, It's fine. Why don't
you take a break and I'll cover you
for a bit.

Frankie nods.

FRANKIE
Can I borrow a Bobby pin.

REAGAN

Sure why?

FRANKIE

This is between me and the bear.

She heads towards the little arcade.

REAGAN

Is that a movie quote? Oh. Okay,
she's gone.

(to customer)

Hi, what can I get you?

37

INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - ARCADE - DAY

37

Frankie has deconstructed the Bobby pin and carefully tries
to extract the broken half of the key.

She looks up at the bear.

FRANKIE

I'm working on it.

LEON

Hey Casablanca.

FRANKIE

(flustered)

Oh, hi Leon.

LEON

What's the problem?

FRANKIE

The key. It broke.

LEON

Huh. That sucks.

He looks at the machine closer.

LEON (CONT'D)

These little guys are begging to be
freed.

FRANKIE

Tell me about it. I think the new
owner wants to keep the machine but
put in newer toys.

LEON

What will happen to all these guys?

Frankie shrugs.

LEON (CONT'D)

Damn, I've seen *Toy Story*. I know the struggle.

Frankie lights up.

FRANKIE

Yeah, you're totally a cinephile right? I mean, you're here so often.

Leon ignores her.

LEON

What if we win them all? Could get them out that way.

FRANKIE

We?

LEON

Yeah. I mean I'm kind of a big deal in the claw machine scene, if you know what I mean.

FRANKIE

There's a claw machine scene?

LEON

Yeah, It's huge, it's like a whole thing. But I'm not footing the bill to get all of these out.

Frankie smiles.

FRANKIE

Now that I can do.

Frankie grabs a nearby token bucket, puts it under the nearest machine, and unleashes all of it's change.

LEON

Let's do this.

Leon inserts 2 coins and gets ready. Frankie stands to the side of the machine, watching Leon more than what he's doing.

Leon moves the crane precisely. He gets into position.

FRANKIE

Maybe a little bit backwa-

Leon holds up a hand.

LEON

Trust me.

He slams the button. The crane moves down, it grabs, and he's got it.

FRANKIE

Holy shit.

LEON

I told you I got this Casa.

FRANKIE

(under her breath)

It's Frankie.

LEON

What?

Frankie grabs the dusty toy from the prize tray.

FRANKIE

Let's get the rest of them.

Leon checks his watch.

LEON

Shit. My next screening starts in 10 minutes.

FRANKIE

You just got out of a screening.

LEON

Oh yeah, I'll be here all day. Pick this up in 2 hours? I gotta get my favorite seat.

FRANKIE

Yeah, totally. I should probably get back to work anyway.

LEON

Here's looking at you, kid.

Leon heads towards theater 2.

FRANKIE

Wait, do you know what's that's from? Leon!

He's gone.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
He has to know, right?

She turns to a small kid playing at one of the other machines.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Right?

KID 1
Can I have that?

They point at the toy.

FRANKIE
Go crazy.

The kid grabs the dusty toy, coughs, and runs off.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
I should've warned him about the dust.

38 INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - CONCESSIONS - MOMENTS LATER 38

Frankie gets back to concessions just as Reagan serves the last of the wave.

REAGAN
(to customer)
And this is included with the purchase.

Reagan slides them an electric green taffy bar. The customer look at it with disgust.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
It's still within it's expiration date so it should-is safe to eat.

Reagan smiles. The customer leaves.

REAGAN (CONT'D)
I've never seen people less excited to get something for free.
(then)
How was your break?

Frankie sighs.

FRANKIE

Of all the budget movie theaters in the towns in all the world, he walks into mine.

REAGAN

So good?

FRANKIE

So good. So good. He definitely knows and he's definitely into me.

REAGAN

Leon? Okay. Yeah, sure.

Reagan leans in close.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

(whispered)

I think Veronica sent a ransom note, well video to the theater.

Frankie looks shocked.

FRANKIE

V, you did not make a ransom video without me you sneaky bitch.

Frankie leans back in.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

(whispered)

When did we get a ransom video? Also what do they want?

REAGAN

Maybe ransom isn't the right word. They want the theater to stay open. Drac got it a little bit ago.

FRANKIE

Are we sure it isn't Drac who sent it?

REAGAN

Why would he do that? Veronica is literally protesting.

FRANKIE

I don't trust Drac. He's always sulking around, and his teeth are very sharp.

REAGAN

I don't think it was him. Anyway
it's not gonna matter so it's not
worth worrying about.

Reagan pulls out the list.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Let's see.

(then)

Maybe we should paint over the
graffiti next?

Frankie isn't listening.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Actually. Wait. When was the last
time we checked on Cooper?

39

INT. RIVERA MOVIE THEATER - GIRLS RESTROOM - DAY

39

Reagan and Frankie enter to find a complete mess.

The whole bathroom, and I mean the WHOLE bathroom is wet,
with some weird liquid, and Cooper is now in a full hazmat
suit.

REAGAN

Woah, what the fuck happened here?

Cooper reveals his face from under the hazmat suit. He looks
a little crazed.

COOPER

Oh hey guys, do you think I know
how to talk to women?

REAGAN

What? Cooper what is everywhere?

COOPER

It's just Katelynn said something I
haven't been able to get out of my
head.

FRANKIE

You're literally talking two women
right now.

COOPER

Ah, but I mean like a woman I like.
Who I find hot.

REAGAN

Wow, thanks, Coop what is the liquid?

COOPER

Water.

Frankie touches the wall.

FRANKIE

Is it thick water?

COOPER

And olive oil. She had a point. I don't really like playing the field but I run away as soon as a relationship could conceivably form. What do you think that is? I was thinking commitment issues but my parents aren't divorced. So-

REAGAN

Coop. One problem at a time okay bud? Why? Why?

COOPER

They won't come off. They all just keep ripping into little pieces, so I read online that hot water helps loosen the stickers up. It did not. But then I read olive oil works, so I door dashed some and this suit.

REAGAN

It does not look like the olive oil helped.

COOPER

It did not. But this suit is great. There is absolutely no chance they can touch my flesh, so I feel very safe. It's really been a 180 for my morale.

FRANKIE

Did you hit your head?

REAGAN

We are one slip away from a very big lawsuit. Do you know how hard it is to clean up olive oil?

COOPER

I do now! I think I understand why girls always go to the bathroom together. There's just something different in here you know? I feel like I can really be myself with you guys.

REAGAN

Cooper I think-

She takes a step towards him and slips.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Fuck! It's so sticky.

FRANKIE

Here let me-

REAGAN

Don't you dare move!

Frankie freezes.

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Okay. Okay. Frankie you're gonna run down the street to the Kum-and-Go and buy as much flour as you can.

FRANKIE

Flour?

REAGAN

It works! Just go!

Frankie leaves. With every step Reagan is more and more covered in goo. She scowls at Cooper.

COOPER

You look like a new born baby.