

INT. JESS AND CLAIRE'S APARTMENT - DAY

KNOCK KNOCK!

CLAIRE stalks across the room and opens the door. It's XAVIER.

XAVIER

Hey girl! I'm in a pickle.
(notices Claire's face)
What going on with this face?

CLAIRE rolls her eyes and flops on the couch with her arms crossed. XAVIER closes the door and sits next to her.

CLAIRE

You will not believe the stupidity
I have to put up with dealing with
some of these clients.

XAVIER

Of course I do. You complain about
them at least once a week.

CLAIRE

Most are pretty good, but every now
and then I get a really dumb one.

XAVIER

What did this one do?

CLAIRE

I get in contact with this guy. He
says that he has a script that he
already has lined up to be sold,
but the company sent the script
back and said to rework the whole
thing. I read the script, it's 140
pages about absolutely nothing, so
I have a 3 hour conversation with
him figuring out the story he wants
to tell, it wasn't in his script at
all. So I basically have to write
the entire script from scratch.

XAVIER

Uh-huh.

CLAIRE

I suggest a treatment first so he
can read the summary of what the
whole script will look like before
I waste my time writing a script
that he won't like.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

He agrees, but when the time comes to sign the contract that outlines my payment and credit I'd get for it, he won't sign or pay. Then he calls me a scammer.

XAVIER

So he wanted you to give him his work for free with no promise to pay you?

CLAIRE

Yes.

XAVIER

Girl next time just say that! This long-ass story.

CLAIRE

I'm a writer! Storytelling is in my thing.

XAVIER

Think more like Dr. Seuss. Short, sweet, to the point. And if you can throw it in a anapestic tetrameter.

CLAIRE

Boy please. Spell it.

XAVIER

Anyway, this is why I came over-

JESS comes out of her room, CELLPHONE in hand.

JESS

Claire, I did what you said and posted about the bar, but most of my followers are in the Midwest where I was, I don't have many followers in LA.

XAVIER stands up.

XAVIER

I'm here to talk about MY problems! Take a seat new girl! It's my turn.

JESS, wide-eyed and startled, mindlessly sits at the kitchen counter.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

My new dance studio Pants-Off,
though operating for a few days,
officially launches as a business
today. I want to take my team out
for a celebratory drink, but I
don't know where to go.

CLAIRE and JESS start at XAVIER with blank faces. XAVIER puts
his hands on his hips.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

Look my problem is as important to
me as you bitches' problems are to
you.

JESS jumps up.

JESS

Come to Bar-roque!

XAVIER

Bar-roque?

JESS

This cool dive bar of Sunset. It's
super low-key and chill. I bet you
guys would practically have the
place to yourselves.

XAVIER

Uhhh. That sounds like fancy way to
say nobody goes there.

XAVIER pulls out his CELLPHONE.

JESS

No, no, no! It's a pretty cool
place. I just think it'd be a good
place to celebrate your big opening
and-

XAVIER

(interrupting)

Uh-uh! This place has a 2.3 stars.
Oh, I remember this place. It's old
and dusty. The service is slow and
the bartender is such a grump.

JESS

He's...okay. You get used to him.

XAVIER

Pass.

JESS

Ok. Ok. It's for a job. I told him that I could get him more business and he said he would hire me. I need a job Xavier. This has been the closest I've gotten to getting one. Please help me out.

XAVIER looks up in thought. JESS drops to her knees and shuffles to him.

JESS (CONT'D)

Please. Please. Please. Please.

XAVIER pulls JESS up.

XAVIER

Oh get up. A girl on her knees does nothing for me. Ok. I will do this as a favor to you, but you have to do me a favor.

JESS

Oh no. What?

XAVIER

Well, you say you want to be a singer right? You just have to sing me a song.

JESS

Ok!

XAVIER

Singing my praises and brilliance.

JESS

Ok?

XAVIER

At the bar.

JESS

What?

XAVIER

In front of my team. Yes.

JESS sighs.

JESS

Deal.