

AT THE KARAOKE BAR

"Pilot"

Written by

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COLD OPENING

INT. WOWS KARAOKE BAR - LATE EVENING

It's a dark, lively night, and the young crowd is beginning to shuffle into the unassuming yet beloved karaoke bar named WOWS. Thanks to the opening of a new disco club just a few buildings down, most of the audience is already past tipsy, and looking to accelerate the process. Walking behind the stumbling group is a man named ASHTON "ASH" FULLER (65-70). Ash is wearing a deep brown fedora with a casual suit to match. His cream colored tie could've been worn by Frank Sinatra and his shoes are polished to perfection. Ash quietly makes his way to the bar, watching in delight as the younger crowd makes this place their own personal frat party. As he sits down on a stool, the bartender MARGARET "MARG" SCHWARTZ (35-40) immediately greets him as if she's known him her whole life. Her deep orange braided hair glistens off the strobe lights a few feet away, and she's wearing a cow-print cowboy hat with blue overalls and matching white cowboy boots. There is obviously a theme tonight.

MARG

ASH! How the hell are ya buddy?

ASH

You know what, I'm feeling A-okay right now Margie. But it's pretty rowdy for a Wednesday night huh?

3 people in their early 20s sloppily sing the chorus of "baby one more time" onstage

MARG

Yyyyup. And thanks to the new club a few doors over I'm getting tipped real nice tonight.

She does a little cowboy dance. Ash laughs

MARG (CONT'D)

But I swear they should start paying
YOU for the entertainment, considering
you're here belting your ass off every
other day.

She hands him a glass of water.

ASH

Thanks Marg.

MARG

You sure you won't need something
stronger to deal with all these
lunatics?

ASH

No no no, I am the definition of a
fossil. One drink and I'll fall apart
right here.

MARG

Really? What if it's on the house?

Ash scoffs and shakes his head

MARG (CONT'D)

Fine, you win dinosaur.

Ash laughs and drinks his water.

There is a couple onstage finishing singing "Total Eclipse of the Heart", and they're both attempting to outdo each other on the final note. They both leave the stage irritated at each other for not letting the other one win. The next person to come onstage is the hostess of the bar, a drag queen named DOLORES (22-27). Her hair is a combination of hazel and blonde bouncy curls that are covered by the same

cowboy hat Marg is wearing. She's wearing a deep maroon fitted dress with a petticoat underneath it, flaring out. Her black heeled cowboy boots are five inches tall but she walks as if she's in sneakers, comfortable and all in-control.

DOLORES

Well! That performance was...very interesting! But seriously I hope y'all have been having a great time so far! I would sing for you but I'm afraid if I do everyone else will be too embarrassed to go after me.

The audience laughs

DOLORES (CONT'D)

Would anyone like to go next?

Ash raises his hand

DOLORES (CONT'D)

(to Ash)

Oooo! Who is this little silver fox?!

Just kiddin' I know who you are.

Everyone, welcome our favorite karaoke regular, Ash Fuller to the stage!

There is more thunderous applause than Ash expected, he is a bit startled but mostly flattered. As he walks over to the stage, his phone starts to buzz in his back pocket.

CU on Ash: his face lightens up as if he's expecting it to be something good, but as he looks at the notification, it feels like he's stuck in slow-mo as his body tenses. He takes a moment to breath in and out quickly before smiling and putting the phone back in his pocket. He continues walking to the stage.

He grabs the mic as Dolores stands next to him.

DOLORES (CONT'D)

So honey, what song are you DYING to
release from your soul?

Ash takes a moment to think

ASH

I think I'm going to keep it classy
tonight and go with a fan
favorite..."Stand By Me".

DOLORES

There's my cue! Stage is all yours...

Dolores walks off stage to start the song from the DJ booth.
The audience starts to clap/snap/dance along to the music
Ash is smiling and beaming, but he doesn't exactly look
happy, he looks longingly at the audience as if he's waiting
for someone to show up, someone to *really* see him. He starts
to sing...

ASH

"No I won't, be afraid. No I won't, be
afraid. Just as long, as you stand,
stand by..."

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF COLD OPENING

ACT 1

INT. SIMON FULLER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

There is a warm shade of sunlight peeking through the curtains in the bedroom. We close up on a picture frame on a side table next to the bed, the happy faces of the obviously just married couple are exemplified by the light. We overhear breakfast being made, the sound of bacon beginning to crisp, a woman downstairs yelling "Coffee's ready!". Then, we finally see SIMON FULLER (30-35) in the bathroom quickly fixing up his hair.

SIMON

Coming down now!

Simon is clearly in a rush. He's wearing a deep blue sweater and gray dress pants that look like they've just been bought. He combs his black hair just enough so that it is an acceptable form of messy, he never has to try. His eyes are green and his forehead is growing sweaty from getting himself ready as fast as he can. He turns off the light in the bathroom and grabs his suitcase that's sitting on the foot of the bed. He goes to the door before he realizes...

SIMON (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Shit

He touches his left wrist and realizes he forgot his watch. As he goes to the side table by his side of the bed and opens up a drawer, we see that next to the watch case is a pamphlet from a funeral service. The title on the front reads "In remembrance of Annie Fuller". He looks at it briefly before opening the watch case and grabbing the watch.

CUT TO:

INT. SIMON FULLER'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bacon is being served on the marble countertop, the centerpiece of the kitchen. Next to it are small pancakes and syrup in a glass jar shaped like a coqui frog. As the song "La Libertad" by Marvin Santiago plays from an Alexa on the table, we see Simon's wife JULIA FULLER (28-35) dancing while chewing on a piece of bacon in right hand. She is dancing the salsa as Simon walks down the stairs from the living room and enters the kitchen.

JULIA

Mi esposo favorito!

She holds her hand out for him to join her dancing. He takes her hand and kisses it.

SIMON

Thankfully I don't have time to
embarrass myself with my dance moves
today.

JULIA

Oh c'mon just one step

Simon just laughs and shakes his head as he grabs a plate
Julia lowers the volume on the alexa

JULIA (CONT'D)

I was making sure that if I do have a
baby in my belly that they know how to
rock the dance floor as soon as their
legs work.

They both chuckle, Simon takes her hand

SIMON

I'm sorry that I couldn't go with you
today

JULIA

I mean, are you sure you still can't?
I'm sure they would understand finding
out if your wife is 100% pregnant or
not at the doctors is a pretty good
reason not to go.

SIMON

I know I know it's just, there's a big
project coming up. Some new demolition
plan in a popular block within the
city so, I need to be there.

JULIA

I understand.

He checks his watch

SIMON

I gotta go.

He grabs a pancake and eats it as fast as he can

JULIA

Let me know when you're on break so I
can update you and everything, please?

SIMON

(mouth partly stuffed)

Of course

She goes to the coat rack and grabs a jacket for him.

JULIA

Oh, did your father go to the meeting
yesterday?

A beat.

SIMON

No, no he didn't.

JULIA

Oh, I'm sorry...

SIMON
(interrupting)

I called him afterward, didn't pick
up. He thinks that not talking to me
is somehow gonna fix...

He calms down

SIMON (CONT'D)

Sorry I, I have to leave.

He goes to the door

JULIA
(calling out)

I love you!

SIMON

I love you too Jules.

He leaves. Julia looks at the pancake and grabs one. She
touches her stomach.

JULIA

If you're in there, I bet you're still
hungry.

She eats the pancake and heads upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. ASH FULLER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zoom in on a vintage record player. The record spins as the song "When I Fall in Love" by Nat King Cole plays. We then zoom out to see the rest of the living room. There is a light gray couch sitting across a small flatscreen tv. A square window is right above the record player, letting the room brighten up as we hear coffee being poured into a mug.

CUT TO:

Ash is pouring out coffee from a french press into a mustard yellow-colored clay mug. He is humming to the song. As he puts the french press down, he walks to the toaster that sits on a counter next to the fridge. He pulls out two pieces of bread and lays them gently next to the mug. He then goes to the fridge and finds the butter wedged in between a milk carton and a packet of strawberries. Ash attempts to sneak the butter through the two objects when the strawberries fall and spread across the floor.

ASH

(enraged, almost violent)

DAMNIT! FUCKIN DUMBASS STUPID

SHITHEAD!

A beat. He brings his hands to the top of his head and closes his eyes. He takes a deep deep breath before letting it go. He opens them again as a tear falls down one of his eyes. He wipes it away, smiles, and goes to pick up the strawberries.

CUT TO:

INT. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OFFICE SPACE - AFTERNOON

Simon is sitting next to similar looking men in sophisticated yet trendy clothing. They're all looking at the image of some sort of construction model/grid being projected onto the front of the room. The voice of their boss OLIVER BARRETT (55-60), president of the company, is talking and pointing to the image.