

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. WOWS KARAOKE BAR - LATE NIGHT

It's a dark, lively night, and the young crowd is beginning to shuffle into a beloved, yet run-down karaoke bar named WOWS. Most of the crowd is already past tipsy. Walking behind the stumbling group is a man named ASHTON "ASH" FULLER (60-65). Ash is wearing a deep brown fedora with a casual suit to match, and his shoes are polished to perfection. Ash quietly makes his way to the bar. As he sits on a stool, the bartender MARGARET "MARG" SCHWARTZ (30-35) immediately greets him as if she's known him her whole life. She's wearing a cow-print cowboy hat with blue overalls and matching white cowboy boots.

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?

Three people are sloppily singing the chorus of "Baby One More Time" onstage.

MARG

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

She does a 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 smiles and drinks his water.

There is a couple onstage finishing singing "Total Eclipse of the Heart", attempting to outdo each other on the final note. They both leave the stage irritated at each other.

The next person to walk onstage is the hostess/DJ, a drag queen named DOLORES (24-26). Her heeled cowboy boots are six 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 did everyone 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)

Oooh! Who is this little silver fox?! Just kidding' I know who you are. Everyone, welcome our favorite karaoke regular Ash to the stage!

As Ash walks over, his phone starts to buzz in his back pocket. He reads the notification, it's from someone named Simon.

Simon: "Dad, it's been five times now, where are you?"

Ash feels like he's stuck in slow-mo as his body tenses. He takes a moment to breathe in and out quickly before smiling and putting it back in his pocket. He continues walking to the stage and 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" from the great Ben E.
King please.

DOLORES

There's my cue. Stage is all yours!

Dolores walks off the stage to start the song from the DJ booth. The audience starts to clap/snap/sway along to the music. Ash is smiling and beaming, but he doesn't exactly look happy, as he looks longingly at the audience. 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. SMALL CONDO - MORNING

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. A light gray couch sits across a small TV. There is a picture frame of an older woman next to the record player.

Ash is pouring out coffee from a french press into a mug. He pulls out two pieces of bread from a toaster and lays them gently next to the mug as he speaks into his phone.

ASH

I'm sorry about last night Si, I just...didn't feel it in me to go. Next week I promise I'll be there. I just...it's hard sometimes, but I'll be there. Okay? I'll see you in a few days for dinner. Say hi to Nina for me.

He goes to the fridge and finds a stick of butter wedged in-between a milk carton and a packet of strawberries. He attempts to sneak the butter through when the strawberries fall and spread across the floor.

ASH (CONT'D)

(enraged, almost violent)
DAMNIT! STUPID SHITHEAD!

A beat. He brings his hands to the top of his head and closes his eyes. He takes a deep breath. He picks up each strawberry one-by-one. He throws out the strawberries that fell on the floor into a trash can underneath the sink. He grabs the butter and a knife and starts to spread it on the bread, breathing slowly in-and-out. We zoom in on the picture frame of the woman as the song ends.

CUT TO:

INT. A MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

There is light shining through the curtains. There's a picture frame on a side-table next to the bed, happy faces of a couple on their wedding day. We overhear breakfast being made, the sound of bacon sizzling, and a voice downstairs yelling "Coffee's ready!".

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

In the bathroom, SIMON FULLER (30-35) is finishing making his tie. He is listening to the voicemail from Ash.

Ash: "I'll be there...I promise....It's hard sometimes but I'll be there..."

Simon stops the message, he scoffs while shaking his head.

SIMON

Coming down!

He turns off the light in the bathroom and grabs a briefcase that's sitting by the bed. He heads for the bedroom door. He touches his left wrist, causing him to pause. He goes to the side table by the bed and opens a drawer. We see that next to a watch case is a pamphlet from a funeral service. The title on the front reads "In Remembrance of Anne Fuller". He glances at it briefly before opening the case and grabbing his watch.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bacon is being served by NINA FULLER (28-30, Puerto Rican) on a white-marbled countertop. Next to it are small pancakes and syrup in a glass jar shaped like a coqui frog. She dances while chewing a piece of bacon in her right hand. She sees Simon coming down the stairs.

NINA

Buenos Dias!

Simon can't help but smile as he goes to kiss her.

SIMON

I'm sorry if I woke you up last night, the meeting went a bit longer than usual.

NINA

It's okay, I made you some coffee. I was making sure that if I do have a baby in my belly that they know how to Salsa as soon as their legs start working.

They both chuckle. Simon takes her hand.

SIMON

I'm sorry about missing the appointment today.

NINA

I mean, are you sure you can't come? I'm sure your boss would understand that this (touches her stomach)...is important.

SIMON

I know it's just, there's a big project coming up apparently. Not sure of all the details yet, but I have to be there.

NINA

Mmm, I understand.

A beat. Simon heads for the pancakes on the table.

NINA (CONT'D)

Oh um, did Ash go to the meeting last night?

He looks ahead.

SIMON

No, he didn't show up.

Another beat. He puts a few pancakes on his plate.

NINA

Did he tell you why?

Simon scoffs.

SIMON

No, but that's just how he is I guess.

NINA

Oh honey, I'm sorry.

SIMON

I know he's doing his best, with all the ways our lives, his life changed. But ignoring it all I just...I don't know how that helps anyone.

Nina walks up next to him.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I miss him.

Nina rubs his back.

NINA

I know. I miss *them*.

Simon looks away.

NINA (CONT'D)

But he's not gone yet, Simon. Maybe the meetings and the...looking back at the past was getting too much for him. Maybe he just needs some time.

He holds her hand.

SIMON

You're right.

NINA

As always.

He chuckles, then kisses her hand.

SIMON

He mentioned coming here in a few days.

NINA

See! He wants to be around. Aaaaand I can make my famous pollo guisado!

She starts to dance again, he laughs and twirls her.

SIMON

Yeah, it'll be nice.

They kiss.

NINA

It will.

He checks his watch.

SIMON

Oh shoot I gotta go.

He walks past her and grabs his briefcase from the counter.

NINA

Let me know when you have a break
okay?

He walks backwards while speaking to her.

SIMON

I will! Lunch break should be at
least an hour.

NINA

Okay, I love you!

He grabs a pair of car keys from a hook near the front door.

SIMON

I love you too!

He leaves. Nina looks back at the pancakes and grabs two
more. She touches her stomach.

NINA

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

She eats the pancakes while sitting down by the counter.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONDO - AFTERNOON

Ash walks out of his condominium, it is still sunny outside.
He takes a deep breath. He walks up to his mailbox. He
briefly looks at his driveway, there are faint tire streaks
that look like they drove over the yard. A neighbor, KEVIN
TOWERS (45-50) catches him off guard.

KEVIN

Mornin' Ash!

Ash jumps slightly, then laughs to recover.

ASH

Sorry Kev, didn't see you there.

Kevin laughs.

KEVIN

It's alright. How are ya? How's
Simon?

Ash opens his mailbox. He grabs a few magazines/newspapers.

ASH
Simon's good, he's good. I'm seeing
him in a few days actually.

Kevin opens his mailbox.

KEVIN
Oh that'll be nice. Say hi to him
and his wife for me!

ASH
I will. See ya later.

As Kevin closes his mailbox, he looks over to Ash's driveway.
Ash starts to walk back inside.

KEVIN
Ash um, in case I haven't said it
enough...

Ash stops, turning around.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
If you or Si ever need anything
just, know that we're here for you
guys. We miss her a lot, too.

Ash looks down for a moment, then smiles and looks at Kevin.

ASH
Thank you. That's very sweet.

KEVIN
Of course, I mean it.

ASH
Say hi to your family for me.

KEVIN
I will, have a good day Ash.

Ash waves back as he heads inside.

CUT TO:

INT. ASH FULLER'S CONDO - CONTINUOUS

Ash places the papers on his counter, almost stumbling. He
then sits on the couch to catch his breath. He looks over at
the framed photo of the woman by the record player.

QUICK MONTAGE SEQUENCE:

- A mug is smashed onto the floor.
- The front door of his condo slams shut.
- Tires drive over the curb.
- A vinyl on his record player keeps repeating a single note.

MONTAGE SEQUENCE ENDS.

Ash takes the framed photo and places it face down. A tear runs down his face as he looks at it. He wipes the tear away. He holds the frame in his hands before placing it back on the desk correctly. He gazes at it.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Simon is sitting next to and across his co-workers. They're all looking at the image of some sort of construction model/grid being projected at the front of the room on a screen. They talk amongst themselves.

CO-WORKER 1

I thought we were going to go over the designs of that office building from last week?

SIMON

Yeah, me too.

CO-WORKER 2

These look like plans for a whole new city block.

CO-WORKER 1

No shit.

CO-WORKER 3

Damn, I was just starting to get some sleep.

They all laugh and agree as their boss ERIC BAUTISTA (50-55) walks into the room.

ERIC

Good afternoon everyone!

They all cheer and greet Eric warmly as he walks in. They clearly respect him a lot.

A young man enters the room behind Eric, ANDREW BAUTISTA (24-26), and closes the door. He's carrying folders and a notebook.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I hope you all don't mind my son Andrew being a part of the meeting. He usually takes care of the financial aspects of the company, but we're going to be going over a lot today so he's going to keep notes on everything.

Andrew nods to the table and sits by the end.

CO-WORKER 2

Nice to finally meet the old man's kid.

ERIC

I'm going to ignore that description of me for now.

Andrew chuckles to himself.

ANDREW

Thanks for letting me join guys.

Eric grabs a remote from the table.

ERIC

I'm sure you were all a little shocked when you walked in and saw...this.

He circles the model with his left hand.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Since being in talks with the city and listening to their requests regarding this particular neighborhood, we both agreed that there's definitely a chance for us to bring a different kind of "vibe" to it.

He presses a button on the remote. Showing an official sketch of a "New Neighborhood".

ERIC (CONT'D)

Sure, it might be a lot of change for the locals, and it'll take some getting used to.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

However, with these new plans, we can bring a classy, easy-going, yet upbeat ambiance that has been lost over time.

Andrew stands up and walks around the room, placing a folder in front of each person at the table.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Thankfully, there won't be any demolitions here. It'll mostly be some adaptive reuse and repurposing.

As Andrew walks over to Simon, he catches a quick glimpse of the name of his project. He pauses for a second before giving it to Simon.

SIMON

Thanks man.

Simon reads the name of the project. He opens the folder, looking at the construction plans he was assigned to.

SIMON (CONT'D)

So, you think the people in the neighborhood are going to be okay? With these changes you think?

Andrew looks at his dad.

ERIC

Well, these new business will provide more jobs and income so, it's going to be incredibly beneficial for the community.

Simon nods and closes the folder. Andrew looks down, twiddling his thumbs as his dad continues speaking.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Okay so, with everyone having their assigned projects, I'd like to continue with the rest of the presentation.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Nina is sitting on a hospital bed waiting for the doctor to come in. She looks at the monitor. She plays with her ring, She takes deeps breaths. The door opens, and Nina's doctor DR. RITA HILL (40s) walks in and sits next to the desktop with a computer.

DR. HILL
Nina! Good afternoon.

NINA
Hi Rita! How are you?

DR. HILL
Doing good, doing good. How are you feeling? I saw in your medical portal you wanted to get blood drawn and take an official pregnancy test?

NINA
Yes, I took an at-home one two days ago and it was positive. They've all been positive for the past week or so, but I just wanted to come in to confirm.

DR. HILL
Any symptoms like nausea or cravings?

NINA
A bit of nausea, but nothing else out of the ordinary, so far.

Dr. Hill types on a computer.

DR. HILL
That's good! How are you feeling overall? Excited or nervous?

NINA
Oh yeah! Yes I am really happy about it, I've always wanted to be a mom.

DR. HILL
That's sweet, well I'm excited for you! How is Simon taking all of this? I know it can be a shocking thing to bring up.

NINA
Uh, it was a surprise for sure. Just cause we've only been married six months. But I know he's excited and he would've been here but he had work and everything. But it's good.

DR. HILL
That's great to hear. I'm sure he's
been supportive.

NINA
Yeah, yeah he has been.

Dr. Hill smiles at Nina.

DR. HILL
That's wonderful.

Dr. Hill opens a drawer from the desk, taking out a plastic
cup with a green cap.

DR. HILL (CONT'D)
Well, there's a bathroom near the
front. Walk straight down and turn
left by the scale.

She hands it out for Nina. Nina takes the cup and looks down
at it. She gets up from the bed.

NINA
(sighing)
Okay, I'm ready.

Nina smiles at Dr. Hill and heads for the door.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON

Simon is sitting on a bench. His briefcase and folder are
sitting next to him on one side, and a bowl of what looks
like half-eaten stir-fry sits beside him on the other. He
holds his phone down by his lap as he stares ahead, taking a
breath. His phone buzzes. He picks it up quickly.

SIMON
Nina?

NINA (O.S.)
Hey, are you free?

SIMON
Yes, yeah I'm about halfway through
lunch.

NINA
Oh good, good.

A beat.

SIMON
So what did the doctor say?

Nina smiles wide, almost crying.

NINA
It's official, I'm pregnant. I'm
about seven weeks now.

Simon cups his mouth with his hand. He doesn't say anything
for a moment.

NINA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Simon?

Tears start to roll down his face, he lets out an exasperated
laugh.

SIMON
Wow...I'm just...I'm happy.

NINA
Yeah?

SIMON
Yes! Yes I, I can't wait to tell my
dad and hold you when I get back
home and buy parenting books
and...and all of it! Wow.

They both laugh. Simon wipes his tears away.

NINA
Me too, honey.

Eric walks out of the building. He stands next to the door as
he pulls out a pack of cigarettes from the inner pocket of
his suit jacket. He lights one.

SIMON
Alright, well I should go now.

NINA
Okay, let me know when you're
heading home!

SIMON
I will, I love you.

NINA
Love you more.

Simon smiles then hangs up the phone. He leans back in the bench and closes his eyes, he rubs his face with his hands. Eric walks over to Simon.

ERIC
Everything okay?

This slightly startles Simon.

SIMON
Yeah, yeah just got some news.

Eric smiles.

ERIC
Good?

Simon tries to hide his big smile.

SIMON
Yeah, good but also slightly terrifying.

ERIC
Mm.

Eric stomps out his cigarette.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Sorry if uh, I was a bit too harsh earlier.

SIMON
No no man you're all good.

ERIC
Guess I wanted to act more tough with Andrew being in the room. Sometimes he thinks all I do is spew out basic corporate lingo and ask for coffees all day.

Simon laughs.

SIMON
He seems like a good kid.

A beat. Eric smiles.

ERIC
He is.

Eric pats Simon on the shoulder.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 Alright, I'll let you finish your
 lunch. See you inside, Simon.

SIMON
 See you.

Eric walks back inside, brushing up his hair with his hand.
 Simon grabs his bowl of stir-fry and begins eating the rest
 of it.

CUT TO:

INT. WOWS KARAOKE BAR - NIGHT

Marg is wiping down the bar in her usual cowboy attire, WOWS
 isn't busy tonight. The only people inside are a few locals
 and a couple singing "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" onstage.
 Dolores isn't here tonight.

MARG
 (to the locals at the bar)
 'Another round?

LOCAL 1
 Yes ma'am!

MARG
 Coming right up.

As Marg goes to grab another beer glass, the owner of the bar
 OTIS MCALLISTER (60-65) sits down at a bar stool. Marg looks
 over, surprised to see him.

MARG (CONT'D)
 Mr. Mcallister? Fancy seeing you
 here!

OTIS
 Yeah, well, just wanted to check in
 on the old gal...not you, obviously
 the place.

MARG
 Mhm. Well, business is slow today
 but uh, we're doing just fine I
 think. It's good to see you! Did
 you want a drink?

Otis waves her off.

OTIS
No no I'm okay. Might as well save
it for whatever customers we'll
have left.

Marg scoffs.

MARG
Have left?

OTIS
Oh nothing.

Marg nods slowly while filling up a glass with beer. Otis
looks out to the stage.

OTIS (CONT'D)
Who's that uh...boy-girl that
sometimes works here?

Marg gives him a stern look.

MARG
Her name's Dolores.

Otis raises his hands up.

OTIS
Hey, didn't mean anything by it,
just curious. I'll have to have a
talk with her soon too.

Marg looks at him, her face serious.

MARG
About what?

The locals call out to Marg.

LOCAL 1
Hey Margaret what happened to our
round?

Otis grabs some cash from his pocket.

OTIS
Don't worry about anything. Here's
a tip for having to listen to your
boss babble on.

He places some cash on the bar.

OTIS (CONT'D)
Have a nice night everyone!

He waves to the locals and other customers. Marg looks to the exit as he leaves.

LOCAL 2

(loudly)

I'm about to hop over this table
and just grab the whole keg.

Marg turns around.

MARG

Sorry I'll bring that right over to
y'all!

CUT TO:

INT. SIMON FULLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Simon closes the front door behind him while dropping his briefcase.

SIMON

Nina?!

He walks to the kitchen. She isn't there.

NINA (O.C.)

Up here!

Simon heads for the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nina is on their bed looking at a photo album. Simon walks in.

NINA

Hi.

Simon smiles.

SIMON

Hey.

He sits on the bed next to her, wrapping his arms around her.

SIMON (CONT'D)

What're you looking at?

NINA
Some old family photos.

She turns a page. She giggles and points to a photo of a baby with SpaghettiO's all over their mouth and clothes.

NINA (CONT'D)
Remember that?

Simon laughs.

SIMON
No, but mom used to say I was a messy eater.

NINA
Hopefully our baby will be a bit more classy.

They both laugh. She holds his arms around her. They part for a moment and kiss. Nina pulls away.

NINA (CONT'D)
Are you sure you're not freaked out?

SIMON
Of course I am. But thankfully I'm married to the most perfect woman on the planet who is going to be the most perfect mom.

Nina scoffs, turning away blushing.

NINA
Have you told your dad yet?

Simon turns to the side-table and takes off his watch. He's undoing his tie as he speaks.

SIMON
I was thinking of telling him at dinner actually.

NINA
You sure that's a good idea? You don't think it'll be too much?

SIMON
No I think, I think maybe it'll bring him back down to earth.
(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

Maybe knowing he's going to be a grandad will make him stick around more you know? I just...I need him now more than ever.

Nina takes his hand.

NINA

We both do.

Simon grabs the photo album.

SIMON

Now I'm pretty sure there's a photo in here of a three year old you putting your boogers on a window...

NINA

NO.

She tries to grab the book from him as they laugh.

END OF ACT ONE