

CHRISTMAS SINGLES' NITE

Written by

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C O N T A C T S

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FADE IN:

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - NIGHT

The high-end nightclub is hopping. Music is blaring. A sign above the bar reads "1st Annual Christmas Singles' Nite." Pouring fancy cocktails behind the bar is Samantha (SAM) LEIGH (28), a 6-months-pregnant British beauty in a black tux and red Santa's cap. The Scrooge-like owner, ANTOINE DUBOIS (28), a handsome Frenchman in similar attire, mans the cash register. On a sidewall, a "Toys for Tots" carton is covered with coats.

Sam glares at Antoine, who studies the single women in the nightclub as if they were prey.

Most of the patrons in the club are smiling, laughing, and interacting with one another, but there are notable exceptions.

At one small table for two, EMILY (22), a barista in a uniform shirt and apron, sits alone, with her brunette hair in a hairnet.

DOLPH (25), a German businessman in a tailored suit, gazes longingly at Emily from across the room.

MIGUEL (25) is a handsome Spaniard who drinks at the bar and awkwardly greets everyone with a hug and a kiss on both cheeks. He weirds everyone out, especially ALI (23), who wears a skimpy dress and an un-matching hijab, and carries a thick book on "Library Science." Ali looks out of place and quickly hides in a corner.

Everyone turns to the door as SOFIE (35), a tall blonde model, strolls in like a wealthy socialite. Her massive wedding ring suggests she's not single, but every male in the bar is drooling.

Sofie strolls up to DEMARCUS (23), a short, but handsome black man in a tight Under Armor shirt and leather jacket. DeMarcus makes a classic error by shaking hands with a slightly wet hand. He points back toward the restroom, and Sofie disappears.

A short, masculine-looking woman, DR. READY (35), pushes her way to the bar, muttering comical insults to everyone she passes on the way to Antoine.

DR. READY

(looks right)

Did you buy that dress half off?

(looks left)

(MORE)

DR. READY (CONT'D)

If I had a hairy chest, I'd hide it.

ANTOINE

The regular, Dr. Ready? How are you tonight?

DR. READY

Zip it up, Antoine, and get me a beer. And none of that eye-pa crap.

ANTOINE

(laughs)

That's IPA, Doctor.

GERRY (32), who stands out with an unshaven face and a tacky Hawaiian shirt, leaps to the bar, speaking to every patron.

GERRY

Remember, everyone, to submit your Singles' Nite questionnaire to win valuable prizes and find your soulmate here tonight. You can download the OKStupid AP for free!

SAM

That's Cupid!

DR. READY

If you say so.

Sam points to small stand-up cards on the bar and table and yells to Gerry.

Sam yells at Gerry.

SAM

They all know that, Gerry. They had to sign up on our website to avoid the cover charge! Remind them about the Toys for Tots carton.

GERRY

Right, Sam.

(yells)

If you brought a gift for the Charity Drive, the box is--

(looks around)

Somewhere here.

MERRY (30), an overly perky woman, arrives with MAGGIE (30), a non-smiling, busty redhead, who captures the attention of Antoine, Miguel, Dolph, DeMarcus, and Gerry until she smiles and reveals a huge gap in her two front teeth. Every male turns away.

The lights lower, the music is louder, and everyone in the bar becomes a blur.

We barely see Antoine secretly leading women back to the kitchen as the clock on the wall shows 10 PM (Sofie), 10:30 PM (Merry), 11 PM (Maggie), 11:30 PM (Ali), midnight (Emily), and Dr. Ready, who is led in the kitchen at 12:30 AM and exits before 12:31 AM.

Sam sees Antoine and Dr. Ready exchanging angry whispers.

The music stops, and all eyes are on Dr. Ready and Antoine.

Sam removes her bar apron, throws it down on the bar, grabs a baseball bat from the Toys for Tots collection box, and conks Antoine in the jaw, knocking him out with one swing.

Sam and Dr. Ready glare down at Antoine.

SAM

I didn't get your Christmas bonus,
Antoine. But you got mine!

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER

A beautiful Latina policewoman, ROSIE ESTRADA (31), leads Sam in handcuffs to a police car.

ROSIE (V.O.)

That was my introduction to the nightclub. I took the pregnant bartender downtown, booked her for assault, fingerprinted her, took her mugshots, and locked her up.

(beat)

Only to have the nightclub owner, Antoine, refuse to press charges and offer to give her a ride home.

(beat)

It was the strangest group of people I had ever met.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

SUPER: "One Year Later"

A city bus donning a few Christmas lights pulls up to a nightclub sporting a large sign, "2nd Annual Christmas Singles' Nite." The club is fully decorated with lights and garland.

The bus door opens, and the same beautiful Latina, Rosie, steps out in a long winter coat and high heels, balancing a large wrapped Christmas gift (the board game, "Clue," that shields her view of the street).

She steps off the bus to have one heel stuck in a sewer grate.

As she admires her gift and the Christmas decorations around the nightclub door.

She steps forward, and the heel snaps off the shoe.

She hobbles into the nightclub with her gift.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - CONTINUOUS

Rosie takes off her long coat to reveal a shiny blue dress.

She removes her shoes and makes her way to the same table where Emily sat the previous year. She's there again, alone, but wearing a sleek, short black dress.

Rosie puts her wrapped gift under the table.

Emily smiles at Rosie.

EMILY

How's your day going so far?

ROSIE

(laughs)

Not so good. My bus was late, I broke my heel on a sewer grate, and my eyes haven't adjusted to the dark yet. And I don't see the Toys for Tots collection box.

EMILY

My name is Emily. There's no Toys for Tots collection this year. The owner decided against it.

(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)

I came last year, but I wore my barista uniform, apron, and hairnet, so it didn't go well.

ROSIE

I'm Rosie. Did anybody try to order coffee from you?

EMILY

No, but they kept putting empty glasses in front of me and asking where the bathroom was.

Rosie studies her broken shoe.

ROSIE

You look very nice tonight. You'll do well.

EMILY

No, I won't. It's a much smaller crowd this year, and I automatically start every conversation with, 'What can I get started for you?'

Rosie turns around to see Sam behind the bar.

ROSIE

Uh-oh, that's the same bartender I booked for assault last year.

Emily smiles and whispers.

EMILY

I thought I recognized you.

ROSIE

Where's her husband?

EMILY

They aren't married. He owns the place but has a loose zipper, and they fight all the time. I haven't seen him tonight. I'll buy the first round.

(laughs)

What can I get started for you?

ROSIE

Iced tea.

(laughs)

Make it a double.

Moments later, Emily delivers Rosie two Iced Teas in tall cocktail glasses with a fancy garnish and a cocktail umbrella.

SUPER: "One hour later."

The club only has a dozen scattered patrons. The lights are down low, and the music is blaring.

Rosie's head is on the table with two tall empty glasses in front of her, and a single half-empty glass of white wine before Emily.

Sam, in the same tuxedo (but not pregnant), yells from behind the bar.

SAM

Gerry, I haven't seen my slacker partner all night! Watch the bar while I fetch some ice.

GERRY

You got it, Luv.

Sam exits to the kitchen.

Seconds later, we hear her SCREAM.

SAM (O.C.)

Help! It's Antoine. I think he's dead!

Emily jumps up first and races into the kitchen, followed by Gerry. From different corners of the bar, we see Dolph, Miguel, Ali, Sofie, Dr. Ready, Merry, DeMarcus, and Maggie racing into the kitchen.

Seconds later, Sam exits the kitchen into the bar area and SCREAMS again.

SAM (CONT'D)

Is there a Detective Rosie Estrada here?

Silence.

SAM (CONT'D)

A detective or a Rosie Estrada?

Rosie's head stays on the table, but she ceremoniously lifts one arm high in the air and slurs her words.

ROSIE

That's me. How we may assist you?

Sam races up and pulls Rosie up and to the kitchen. Rosie is still in her stockings.

SAM
I think my partner is dead!

ROSIE
Me too! I thought I ordered tea.

SAM
New England Iced Tea -- the only
tea on the menu! Come on!

Sam leads Rosie, who staggers to the kitchen in her stocking feet. Rosie is, and remains, tipsy, and slurs her words.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rosie glares at Antoine's body on the kitchen floor and sees Dr. Ready checking for a pulse.

DR. READY
The pervert's dead, alright!
(sarcastically to Sam)
Sorry for your loss, Sam.

SAM
We weren't married!

DR. READY
You picked a butthead for your
boss!

ROSIE
(looking around aimlessly)
Who is he?

SAM
Antoine DuBois. He owns the place.

Rosie looks around to see the open door to a small walk-in freezer.

She also sees that everyone is touching things in the kitchen.

ROSIE
(to Sam)
Shlock the front door!
(to the group)
Nobody locks themshelves in a
freezer.

GERRY

Is this what you call a cold case?

ROSIE

This is what we call a murder.

(to Sam)

And ten times out of nine, people are killed by their business partners or spouses.

Everyone looks perplexed at Rosie.

SAM

That means none of us did it!

Sam helps the wobbly detective stand.

ROSIE

I'd better call it in.

SAM

Maybe after some black coffee.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - LATER

The Detective ends a call in the corner of the bar and turns to see widely scattered tables for two.

Sam, wearing a black tuxedo with an open white shirt, sits with Gerry in the same Hawaiian shirt he wore the year before.

The Detective sips coffee and scans the other tables and wobbles over to Sam.

ROSIE

Sham?

SAM

Close. It's Sam. Short for Samantha. That's Gerry. He's a regular here.

Gerry stands to shake hands with Rosie, but Sam stands, takes Rosie by the arm, and guides her around.

Dolph, in a tailored brown suit, sits with Emily. They have their smartphones in front of them, but not in use.

SAM (CONT'D)

This is Dolph, our token wealthy single, and Emily, a barista from down the street.

DOLPH
So nice to meet you.

DR. READY
Mister 'Too good for the rest of
us.'

EMILY
Sorry, I brought you the wrong
drink order. We don't make that
kind of tea at my place of work.

Sam leads Rosie on.

Miguel, in a gray sports jacket, sits with Ali, who wears a dark pantsuit and a hijab (head scarf). Ali reads a thick book on "Library Science."

SAM
This is Miguel, a movie producer.

DR. READY
(snickers)
Short films that don't count.

SAM
And this is Ali, a librarian.

DR. READY
In an old folks' home.

Ali glares at Dr. Ready.

ALI
It's a large retirement community.
And you don't need to belittle
people.

DR. READY
What do I look like, a Leprechaun?

Sam guides Rosie along.

Elegant Sofie is paired with DeMarcus, but both are lost on their smartphones.

SAM
Sofie is newly single.

DR. READY
Ha! She was here last year!

SOFIE
We're still separated.

DR. READY

Not based on that ice-cube of a ring.

SAM

And this is DeMarcus, a former professional football player.

Dr. Ready "coughs" a comment.

DR. READY

Kicker.

Dr. Ready, in a light gray jacket and a buttoned-up, light pink shirt, sits with Maggie in a seductive blouse and skirt.

SAM

You've heard from Dr. Ready several times tonight.

ROSIE

It's a wonder she's still single, huh?

DR. READY

So are you, or you wouldn't be here, copper!

SAM

And Maggie was here last year, too.

Sam returns to her table.

Merry, alone at a table, jumps up and reads from her iPad, with an enthusiastic smile.

MERRY

I'm Merry Cartier, like the diamonds. I'm a professional matchmaker. What Sam is referring to is that we were all here for the First Annual Singles Nite, along with forty or more other patrons.

ROSIE

It didn't work the first time, but you all came back. That says a lot.

MERRY

Since then, Maggie got her teeth fixed, Ali learned to dress more appropriately, Miguel gave up acting for producing, Dolph became richer, and--

(MORE)

MERRY (CONT'D)

(smiles at Dr. Ready)

Dr. Ready continues to work on her anger management issues. We've all made little self-improvements--

Rosie, still tipsy, sits down. She stares at Sam.

ROSIE

Exshept one of you might be a killer.

They all stare at each other, suspiciously.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

I'm Detective Rosie Estrada. I called the Coroner and my Chief. Because it's Christmas Eve, community support services are--

Gerry laughs and interrupts.

GERRY

Limited. We gotta stiff in the kitchen, and you gotta skeleton crew. We get it, but what are you doing here?

ROSIE

Fair question. I was the uniformed police officer who booked Ms. Samantha Leigh on ash-ault charges at the First Annual Christmas Shingles' Nite.

Sam glares at Rosie.

SAM

I thought I recognized--

Tension.

Merry stands and leaps to Rosie's aid.

MERRY

I'll tell you what Rosie's doing here.

(to Rosie)

May I call you Rosie?

ROSIE

No.

Merry ignores the Detective's response.

MERRY

We're on a first-name-only basis here. One of the rules of Singles' Nite.

(to the group)

Like the rest of us, Rosie is single, and these fine "couples" are seated based on their answers to the matchmaking questionnaires they all filled out.

Merry parades over to Sam and Gerry and stares at her iPad.

MERRY (CONT'D)

Wasn't it telling that Sam was paired with Gerry and not her philandering French boss, Antoine? Gerry matched with Sam on almost 57% of the questions.

ROSIE

They were silly questions like Would you rather get a speckled puppy or a stocking full of coal for Christmas?

Dolph looks away.

DOLPH

I was thinking about resale value.

DeMarcus gives a thumbs-up to Dolph.

DEMARCUS

I don't have time for a puppy. I could get called back to the bigs--

DR. READY

I hate puppies. And kittens. And--

MERRY

(reading)

Gerry is an unemployed IT wiz and wrote in his "About Me" section that he loves to listen to grizzly true-crime podcasts.

(to Rosie)

Gerry will likely provide much-needed help for your investigation.

Rosie speaks while Merry moves on to Dolph and Emily's table.

ROSIE

There's no investigation. I'll be taking statements until a more seasoned detective gets here.

MERRY

You can't get any more seasoned than Christmas, and at Table #2, we have Dolph and Emily, who matched answers 53% of the time.

ROSIE

That's only a little better than a coin flip.

MERRY

Dolph is a self-professed millionaire who plans to be the next billionaire, while Emily hopes to become an assistant manager at the Coffee Hut.

MAGGIE

I love your cranberry scones.

DR. READY

I hate all your damn muffins.

MERRY

Both of these lovebirds preferred democracy over anarchy, and mustard over catsup on hot dogs.

MIGUEL

I'm a Cholula guy.

SOFIE

Who eats hot dogs anymore?

The others, except Rosie and Sofie, raise their hands to Sofie's disgust.

Merry moves to Miguel and Ali's table and reads from her iPad.

MERRY

Miguel is a TV and film actor turned producer. He was featured in a cat litter commercial.

DR. READY

He played the cat.

MIGUEL

I plan to write, direct, and produce my first film after the script is completed.

MERRY

That's exactly what it said in your "About Me" section last year. You're honest -- that's rare on these forms.

Rosie rolls her eyes.

Merry reads from her iPad.

MERRY (CONT'D)

Ali manages the library at a retirement village down the street.

Ali smiles.

ALI

I'm organizing their collection using the Dewey Decimal System.

GERRY

That's 150 years old. Why not use a searchable relational database?

Ali's tone darkens.

ALI

My elderly clients prefer Arabic numerals to computers!

Merry interrupts in a cheery tone.

Merry quickly moves on to Sofie and DeMarcus.

MERRY

Sofie was open in her "About Me" section, saying she was estranged from her politician husband.

DeMarcus chuckles.

DEMARCUS

They don't get much es-stranger than letting someone like that get away.

He winks at Sofie.

MERRY

They only matched up 49% of their answers because--

SOFIE

We have so little in common?

MERRY

Don't be silly. You both preferred Monet to Picasso.

DEMARCUS

I thought they meant money, and I couldn't remember what team Picasso played for.

MERRY

DeMarcus was a professional football player--

DR. READY

He was only a kicker--

DeMarcus glares at Dr. Ready.

MERRY

He played for a record five teams in his first year.

Merry moves to Dr. Ready and Maggie's table.

DR. READY

Move along, you perky tart.

MERRY

Dr. Ready is working to keep anger issues under control with medications and stress-releasing insults.

MAGGIE

She blurts out the funniest things.

DR. READY

Cram it, Red.

(smiles)

But it does help. Honest.

MERRY

They matched only 30%, but I think that's promising.

ROSIE

What about you, Merry?

MERRY

I withdrew from the matchmaking event, which is my prerogative as the matchmaker.

ROSIE

I see. Who did I match with?

MERRY

Antoine.

All the women smirk, but Gerry cracks up laughing.

GERRY

The dead guy? Be gentle with him.

ROSIE

I need more coffee.

Sam goes to fetch Rose another cup of coffee.

SAM

I'm really sorry for the miscommunication about the iced tea earlier. You should be able to drive soon.

Merry sits down at her table.

ROSIE

It's wearing off, and I took the bus here.

ALL

Eeeeew!

DR. READY

Hoping to get luck--

ROSIE

Merry, what percent of computer-matched couples end in long-term relationships?

MERRY

I don't know, 75%?

ROSIE

Five percent.

Everyone MOANS as Merry looks sad for the first time.

Gerry points to the kitchen.

GERRY

That's good news for you, Rosie!

Everyone laughs, but Rosie turns serious.

ROSIE

Everyone, take out the Notes App on your phones and account for your whereabouts in the past 24 hours, and every movement in and around this nightclub tonight. I'll be meeting with you individually, beginning with Ms. Leigh.

MERRY

First names only, Rosie, or we'll have to ask you to leave.

ROSIE

(yells, slurs)

I will be called Detective Eshtrada! Like it or not, this is official police business, and if any of you don't take this seriously, you can be charged with impeding an investigation with fines up to \$1,000 and up to 10 days in jail.

SAM

Yes, Detective Estrada. You can use Antoine's office. I'd better go with you.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Rosie steps into a small, modestly furnished office. One side has a big oak desk, a chair, and a computer with two displays. The other side of the office has a crib with a sleeping 6-month-old baby girl in it, a portable changing table, and a small lounge chair (for feeding the baby). There is barely room for two adults during the interviews.

Sam steps in to check on her daughter, who is sleeping soundly (an Extra, often a doll).

Sam puts a finger to her lips to whisper.

ROSIE

You can call me Rosie in here. I wanted to make a point to the others.

SAM
That's kind of you, Rosie.
(snickers)
You did make an impression. You
sound like a tipsy schizophrenic.

ROSIE
Thish is a preliminary interview,
but I need to record it. What time
did you arrive for work today?

Sam looks suspicious.

SAM
5:04. Four minutes late. Do I need
a lawyer?

ROSIE
(laughs)
There's not enough room in here.

Rosie presses "record" on her phone and turns serious.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
What made you look for your boss,
Antoine Dubois, in the freezer?

Sam looks stunned.

SAM
I wasn't looking for him. I was
fetching ice.

ROSIE
Why weren't you broken up about his
death?

Sam turns angry, making it difficult to whisper.

SAM
You think I killed him!

Rosie remains calm.

ROSIE
Please answer my questions.

Sam pauses before answering.

SAM
I was getting more ice! I was as
surprised as anyone to see Antoine
in there.
(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

I hadn't seen him all night! He could have gone out the service door for all I knew.

ROSIE

That freezer had brackets for a padlock.

Rosie stands, angry.

SAM

The previous owners must have had trouble with food theft, I don't know. We never owned a lock.

ROSIE

Then you pulled him out of there.

SAM

I couldn't let him freeze to death in there. I wanted to see if he was okay.

ROSIE

He was shitting when you found him. His knees were slightly bowed.

SAM

That's sitting. He was frozen!

ROSIE

You shcreamed. The Doctor arrived first and checked his pulsh.

SAM

That's right.

ROSIE

So why weren't you broken up about his death? No tears. No shurprise. No outwardly shigns of loss.

Sam looks away and pauses.

SAM

Maybe we all handle grief in our own way.

ROSIE

Or not at all. Was your business relationship a happy one?

SAM

We were successful.

ROSIE
Any personal relationship?

SAM
That's none of your business.

ROSIE
Did you stand to benefit
financially from Mr. DuBoish's--
Mr. DuBoish's-- Antoine's death?

Sam reaches for the doorknob.

SAM
Preliminary interview, my ass!
Charge me, or let me go!

Sam begins to leave.

ROSIE
Shend in Dr. Ready.

Rosie hears Sam yell.

SAM (O.C.)
Dr. Ready. You're next. The bar is
open. Drinks are on the house!

In the bar, everyone CHEERS.

Dr. Ready enters the "office" with a full glass of white
wine. She's in a bad mood as she shuts the door.

DR. READY
Ask me anything, butthead
Detective.

ROSIE
This is a preliminary interview,
but I must record it.

DR. READY
I know you're gonna ask me what
kind of soulmate I'm looking for
tonight.

ROSIE
No, that's not what--

DR. READY
Well, I'll tell you.

ROSIE
Someone who accepts you--

DR. READY
Breathing!

ROSIE
Can you think of anyone who would
want to harm Antoine for any
reason?

Dr. Ready looks perplexed.

DR. READY
While he was breathing?

Rosie hits the palm of her hand to her forehead.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - CONTINUOUS

All the patrons stand at the bar as Sam pours drinks.

After a few moments of silence, they hear Dr. Ready spout a
litany of swear words in a loud, jittery sequence.

MERRY
That would be her anger management
technique.

SAM
She'd better not wake the baby, or
I'll kill her.

They all laugh, but especially Gerry.

GERRY
We're in for a long night. Make
mine a double, Sam.

Sam races to the office door, opens it, and whispers.

SAM
Quiet! You'll wake the baby!

Detective and Dr. Ready whisper angrily.

Sam slams the door and regrets it immediately.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ready exits the office with an angry look.

SERIES OF SHOTS (with interviews in progress)

DOLPH

No, I don't know anyone who would want to harm Antoine.

ROSIE

Did you hear or see anything unusual related to Antoine's death?

DOLPH

Everything you see around here is unusual. I thought seeing a tipsy detective with one shoe was unusual at first glance--

Rosie points to the door.

Dolph exits slowly, and Emily enters looking nervous and guilty.

ROSIE

There's no reason to be nervous.

EMILY

I feel bad about the drink mix-up.

ROSIE

Believe me, I think it's helping. Do you know anyone who would want to harm Antoine?

EMILY

(laughs)

I'm glad I didn't order him any drinks. It's hard enough finding a date around here without killing anyone.

Rosie points to the door.

Emily bounces out, and Miguel enters with a suave look.

MIGUEL

Hola, amigo mío. ¿Cómo estás?

ROSIE

I don't speak Spanish.

Miguel pulls out a business card. And leans forward.

MIGUEL

Good. That's all I know. Still, my business card claims I'm a bipolar movie producer.

ROSIE

I think you mean bilingual.

Miguel returns his business card to his pocket.

MIGUEL

I'll have to get that fixed.

ROSIE

Do you know anyone who would want to harm Antoine?

MIGUEL

No, but I'm hoping to find someone who loves movies as much as I do.

Rosie points to the door.

Miguel slides out, and Ali enters with an innocent look.

ROSIE

What brought you here tonight?

ALI

An Uber. Why do you need a ride home?

Rosie hits her head with her palm and then points to the door.

Ali steps out, bewildered, and Sofie enters with a guilty look, which Rosie sees.

SOFIE

No, I wouldn't harm Antoine, but I know what you're thinking: The other people out there are too stupid to--

ROSIE

I wasn't thinking that. Why did you come here tonight?

SOFIE

I know what you're thinking: I belong at my swanky country club.

Rosie stands, angry.

ROSIE

Did you have extramarital relationships with Antoine or anybody here?

Sofia looks away.

SOFIE

I'm glad you can't tell what I'm thinking.

Rosie hits her head with her palm and then points to the door.

Sofie steps out, smug, and Gerry enters with a smile.

Gerry gazes at the sleeping baby and whispers to Rosie.

GERRY

You and I are in the same business, Detective. I'm in IT, but I listen to true crime podcasts while I code.

ROSIE

Do you know--

GERRY

Anyone who would want to harm Antione. No.

ROSIE

Did you--

GERRY

See or hear anything suspicious tonight?

(laughs)

I recall a tipsy detective with one shoe that would make a great opening page of my next true crime script.

ROSIE

Have you written any true crime film scripts?

GERRY

No. My next one would be my first one.

Rosie hits her head with her palm and then points to the door.

Gerry steps out, smiling at the baby, and Merry enters, ignoring the baby.

MERRY

I'm Merry, the matchmaker. I
matched you with--

ROSIE

Did you kill Antoine?

MERRY

(stunned)

No.

Rosie points to the door.

Merry steps out, confused, and DeMarcus enters with two cups
of coffee, smiling shyly at Rosie, who finally smiles.

DEMARCUS

I'm DeMarcus Brooks. We could use
some coffee.

ROSIE

Very kind of you. Why did you come
here tonight?

Their eyes meet, and they share a moment.

DEMARCUS

I remember when you busted Sam at
our first Singles' Nite last year,
and I was happy to see you when you
came in tonight.

ROSIE

Why didn't you introduce yourself?

DEMARCUS

I knew you were promoted to
detective because you were in
uniform last year. And I was just
cut by the Raiders' practice squad.

ROSIE

I see. It doesn't get much worse
than that?

DEMARCUS

Actually, it gets better. They
hired me to do radio broadcasts
when the new stadium is finished.

ROSIE

Congratulations! That's fantastic.

DeMarcus looks away. He has short-term memory issues.

DEMARCUS
What's fantastic?

ROSIE
You're-- Did you suffer many
concussions as a football player?

DEMARCUS
My nickname was CP Brooks -- for
Concussion Protocol. They gave me
jerseys with my name on the front
so I could look down when I forgot.

He looks inside his leather jacket to see his embroidered
name. Rosie sees it too.

ROSIE
Nice chat, DeMarcus. Can you send
in Maggie?

DEMARCUS
The woman with the wide space
between her two front teeth?

ROSIE
That's her.

DeMarcus steps out, confused, and Maggie enters.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
What type of law do you practice,
Ms. Regan?

MAGGIE
I'm an estate attorney, and please
call me Maggie.

ROSIE
Do you handle Antoine's estate?

MAGGIE
Yes, we've met three times, but he
never looked me in the eyes.

ROSIE
I can see--

MAGGIE
Because of the gap between my front
teeth. He was obsessed with them.

ROSIE
Your teeth?

MAGGIE

But he still hired me, and I
admired him for that.

ROSIE

Did you ever meet him socially?

MAGGIE

Saints preserve us, no! It was the
teeth.

ROSIE

Huh? Do you know anyone who would
want to harm Antoine?

MAGGIE

Good heavens, no. He drank,
gambled, and womanized with the
prettier women, but he never
bothered me.

ROSIE

Do you know if he suffered from
poor eyesight, cataracts, or
macular degeneration?

MAGGIE

No. He could see the space between
my teeth all the way across the
bar, and he'd always make the same
disapproving look.

Maggie disturbingly wrinkles her face.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Maybe he didn't like redheads!

Rosie hits her head with her palm and then points to the
door.

Maggie exits, confused.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Rosie exits the office holding her smartphone in one hand and
a cup of coffee in the other.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - CONTINUOUS

Rosie sees a party going on with everyone laughing and having
a good time.

The patrons see Rosie and freeze for a moment before continuing the party.

Rosie YELLS.

ROSIE

Put down your drinks, sit back down at your preassigned tables, and don't move! You all came up with the same lame excuse, "I didn't do it, and neither did anyone else!"

Everyone shrugs innocently.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

But somebody is lying like Antoine is laying on the kitchen floor.

SAM

I think you mean lying on the floor.

ROSIE

Then, more than one of you is lying, that's for dang sure! No drinking and stay in your seats!

Rosie leaps to the kitchen, still in her stockings.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

I've got real work to do!

Rosie disappears into the kitchen.

SAM

(whispers)

Drinks are on Antoine.

Everyone cheers quietly and heads to the bar.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rosie grabs a small towel and investigates the kitchen area.

She turns on the video app on her phone to record everything.

She empties Antoine's pockets and finds car keys, house keys, nightclub keys, and his wallet.

She returns them.

ROSIE

It wasn't a robbery, but where is
his phone?

She uses a towel to open the freezer and looks around.

In the back corner, she finds his FROZEN phone.

She uses the towel to press the power button, but the phone
doesn't respond.

She studies the door that doesn't have a lock, taking close-
up video of both sides of the door.

She steps in, closes the door, and opens it easily.

She moves to the walk-in refrigerator next to the freezer.

She HEARS a bottle CRASH in the bar.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Goddam shingles! They never listen!

We see a small pool of water by Antoine's midsection.

She tries to leap over Antoine on her way to the bar, but she
slips and falls on her back. The glass front of Antoine's
phone shatters. She yells.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Ow!

She glares at Antoine's lifeless body.

She gets up, still a little wobbly, and RACES into the bar.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - CONTINUOUS

Rosie is angry and sore. Her right stocking has a run. Her
hair is messy in the back.

The crowd sees her, but keeps partying. Gerry stands on the
Bar, swinging his Hawaiian shirt over his head while taking a
video of the wild crowd on his phone.

Sam turns up the music as Rosie tries to speak.

ROSIE

I said, No drinking and stay in
your seats.

Gerry hoots and hollers from atop the bar.

GERRY

We're young, not stunned, and
having fun!

Rosie calmly uses her phone to take a photo of Gerry atop the bar and Sam by the music controls.

She points to them in anger.

ROSIE

You two are going in my report as
impeding my investigation.

The others quietly return to their tables.

Sam turns down the music.

Gerry jumps off the bar and puts on his shirt.

GERRY

Sorry, Detective.

Sam moves next to Gerry.

SAM

It was my fault. Gerry said that
none of us are suspects yet, but
we're all persons of interest.

GERRY

Because we all said we didn't do
it. Then I said, I think we should
"persons of more interest."

SAM

This is supposed to be a party.

GERRY

So we should be interesting, not
stick-in-the-muds.

SAM

Exactly, Antoine would have wanted
it this way.

The Detective sounds more authoritative, like she's sobering up, while everyone else keeps drinking and laughing.

ROSIE

I think he'd want to know who
killed him.

SILENCE

They stare at each other suspiciously.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Who among you went back into the kitchen at any time tonight?

They all raise a hand.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Prior to us all going back there after Sam found Antoine dead?

They all put down their hands, except Gerry.

GERRY

Sam sent me back to the fridge to fetch more lime slices.

SAM

For GNT's?

Rosie looks perplexed.

SAM (CONT'D)

Gin and tonics.

Dolph raises his hand.

DOLPH

I went to the fridge to get a jar of red cherries.

SAM

I asked him to, lots of Manhattans.

Ali raises her hand.

ALI

And mocktails.

Miguel raises his hand.

MIGUEL

I accompanied Ali so she wouldn't be alone.

DeMarcus raises his hand.

DEMARCUS

Me and Sofie snuck in looking for bar snacks.

SOFIE

Pretzels or peanuts.

Merry raises her hand.

MERRY

I followed them in to see if they were making out-- as part of my matchmaking duties.

(looks away, sad)

They were actually looking for snacks.

Maggie raises her hand.

MAGGIE

I stepped in for a quick second to see if Antoine was there. I didn't see him. He's charming in his own way.

DR. READY

I did the same, right after Maggie.

(glares at Maggie)

I don't trust Lawyers who fix their teeth to get attention!

ROSIE

So, basically, you all went back there. You have what we call "opportunity."

DR. READY

Anyone could have gone around and knocked on the back delivery door so numb-nuts Antoine would open the door--

ROSIE

It's wet out there; they would leave footprints. There were no footprints on either side of the door.

(beat)

This was an inside job!

Silence.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Sam, make another pot of coffee. I'm going to examine the kitchen again before we all start talking about motive! I'll be back to discuss motives.

Rosie trudges to the kitchen.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
No more drinks tonight! Got it?

Rosie exits to the kitchen.

SAM
Who needs a drink?

They all approach the bar.

SAM (CONT'D)
Who do ya think did it?

They all start talking at once, until Sam points to Gerry, who laughs and slaps a \$20-bill on the bar.

GERRY
My money's on you, Sam.

SAM
You can't be serious.

GERRY
For the money! Antoine had no wife
or kids, no next of kin.

Dr. Ready uses air quotes.

DR. READY
You were his "work wife."

DEMARCUS
Always putting the moves on Gerry
to make Antoine jealous.

Sam laughs and shakes her head no.

SAM
We were friends without benefits,
nothing more.

DOLPH
Didn't he want to make you his
business partner?

SAM
If I could come up with \$200K buy-
in funds, which I never could!

MIGUEL
Gerry could have killed Antoine out
of jealousy.

(MORE)

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

He obviously has the hots for Sam after your questionnaires matched up 57% of the time.

DR. READY

And he didn't want the French pervert moving in on his territory.

SAM

Sofie could have killed Antoine. Her white sports coup is always parked out back in the "owners" parking space.

SOFIE

When he's not here! He lets me use his parking space. I save \$12.50 per day.

SAM

He never lets me use that parking space.

SOFIE

Why do you care anyway? You covered up for Antoine when he would grope women with his snake-like hands.

DR. READY

Or with his mind.

SAM

Did he touch you, and did you report him?

SOFIE

Well, not exactly.

Sofie demonstrates with Dr. Ready by standing behind her and wiggling her hands behind Dr. Ready's butt.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

He'd do this and wiggle his body and moan.

Sofie never touched Dr. Ready, but her eyes open and she quietly moans with pleasure.

The others look on, perplexed.

Sofie stands in front of Dr. Ready.

Sofie wiggles her hands briefly in front of Dr. Ready's breasts.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

Then he'd do this from time to time.

Dr. Ready looks disappointed when Sofie stops.

SAM

That's lewd behavior unbecoming in a place of work. You should have reported him.

DR. READY

Because it was so short?

SOFIE

He'd smile harmlessly.

Merry, Maggie, Sam, Emily, and Ali nod, 'Yes,'

Everyone turns to see Miguel nodding 'Yes,' which he stops doing immediately.

The others look on, perplexed.

Rosie bursts in from the kitchen. She is still a bit tipsy and uses the bar for support.

ROSIE

Did anyone see my phone?

She looks behind the bar and acts surprised when she pulls it up.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Oh, here it is. And look! It was stuck on record. That voice memo app is something else, huh?

Everyone's eyes are wide open.

GERRY

That recording won't be admissible.

EMILY

Gerry's right.

ROSIE

I know that. I may be tipsy, but a bunch of barflies won't fool me.

Rosie paces and studies each of them.

SAM

You're looking for motives,
something you won't see on poor
Antoine's body in the kitchen.

ROSIE

That's right. And police academies
teach that the criminal mind allows
for four possible motives for
homicide: lust, love, loathing, or
loot.

Dr. Ready is distrustful and sarcastic.

DR. READY

All "l" words. Fascinating. You
could have turned loathing into
hate to have all four-letter words,
but NO, you had to use loathing. I
hate that word.

Everyone stares at Dr. Ready in silence.

ROSIE

Let's work backwards from loot.
Money causes lots of arguments, and
arguments can lead to murder. Who
stood to gain from Mr. DuBois'
death? Did he leave a will?

MAGGIE

Yes, he did. Three of them.

ROSIE

What do you mean, three of them?

MAGGIE

He had a will before the First
Annual Christmas Singles' Nite last
year.

Sam looks away.

SAM

When we weren't getting along.

DR. READY

More than that, I'd say.

MAGGIE

The day after you clobbered him
with a baseball bat, he had me
change his will.

GERRY
I saw that coming.

DR. READY
He didn't.

MAGGIE
Then, last week, out of the blue,
he had me change his will again,
but I can't tell you anything about
them.

ROSIE
Because of attorney-client
privilege?

MAGGIE
No, He hired me because of my
memory problems.

ROSIE
I'm sure you filed paper copies of
the three wills.

MAGGIE
No. He put them all in a safe in
his office.

Rosie paces, still with slightly unsteady feet.

ROSIE
What transpired last week that had
him change his will?

MERRY
Our Christmas Singles' Nite
planning meeting.

ROSIE
How many of you were at the
planning meeting?

They all raise their hands.

GERRY
It was a free lunch.

DR. READY
Worst food I've ever seen.

DEMARCUS
But it was free.

ROSIE

Could you take me back to that planning meeting? I'm still looking for motives.

Sam moves to the middle of the room.

SAM

I remember it like it was last week.

DR. READY

It was last week.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - NOON

The bar is undecorated. The tables are aligned in a circle with the chairs arranged in a circle. A food table is off to the side with deli sandwiches and cans of soft drinks.

Sam and Rosie are like the "Ghosts of Christmas Past" standing behind the bar, watching the meeting transpire.

Sam pushes a baby stroller in. The baby is covered with blankets.

Antoine sits impatiently at the table facing the door.

SAM (V.O.)

Antoine was in a sour mood at first. I think he was lonely, but he volunteered to email the invitations to 100 patrons. We hadn't been getting along well, and thoughts of the first Singles Nite may have brought back painful memories.

Antoine rubs his jar.

ANTOINE

The bar isn't yet decorated.

SAM

I'm a bartender and a single mother, not a decorator.

Antoine softens.

ANTOINE

I'm well aware that you're a single mother.

(MORE)

ANTOINE (CONT'D)

That's why I hired Merry to bartend
while you were on maternity leave.

SAM

Unpaid maternity leave.

ANTOINE

But I hired you back three months
later.

SAM

At my same salary with nothing more
for childcare.

ANTOINE

How is the little child?

SAM

She's fine.

Merry enters arm-in-arm with Miguel.

SAM (V.O.)

Then Merry and Miguel entered.

ROSIE (V.O.)

(stunned)

As a couple?

SAM (V.O.)

I don't remember. But I remember
Antoine jumping up from his seat to
hug Merry.

Antoine nudges away Miguel to hug Merry.

ANTOINE

I've missed you behind the bar,
Merry, and thanks for offering your
matchmaker skills for Singles Nite.

Maggie enters with a low-cut top and a big smile, showing her
straightened teeth. DeMarcus is right on her shoulder.

Antoine pushes past Merry and races to shake hands with
Maggie without taking his eyes off her cleavage.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)

Maggie, thanks for coming. I need
your services once again, when the
meeting's over.

Maggie shakes his hand as Marcus heads for the food table.

MAGGIE
Certainly, Mr. DuBois.

ANTOINE
Call me. Antoine.

Antoine guides Maggie to a table far from DeMarcus. Antoine secretly pats Miguel's butt on the way, which Rosie sees.

ROSIE (V.O.)
Antoine gets around.

Gerry laughs as he enters with Dr. Ready.

GERRY
Dr. Ready says she might be my date
for Singles Nite.

DR. READY
Not a chance in Hell, Loser.

Gerry goes immediately to the baby stroller to gaze at the sleeping child.

Antoine glares at Gerry.

Sofie enters with Dolph and Emily. They all carry coffee cups from Emily's coffee shop, and she wears her barrister's apron and ugly hairnet. Sophie glares at Antoine.

EMILY
Look who I found at the coffeeshop.

ROSIE (V.O.)
Sofie and Dolph were a pair?

SAM (V.O.)
I didn't notice.

Ali, dressed in a traditional Muslim gown and hijab, sneaks in and heads straight to the food table.

ALI
Are there any vegan options here?

DR. READY
An option to starve.

Antoine calls the meeting to order.

ANTOINE
I'll turn the meeting over to
Merry.

END FLASHBACK

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - NIGHT

Sam takes a seat, as Rosie is perplexed.

ROSIE

That's it?

SAM

Merry planned the Singles Nite and offered her matchmaking skills. Miguel and I decorated that day, while Gerry, DeMarcus, and Dolph ate awful sandwiches. The others left a few minutes later, except Maggie and Antoine, who did some work in the office.

Sam turns harshly to Merry.

SAM (CONT'D)

Antoine didn't email invitations to 100 patrons!

MERRY

No, but I sent eleven invitations out -- to you guys.

DR. READY

That explains the small crowd, jerk-wads.

Gerry looks sadly at Dr. Ready.

GERRY

I'm so sorry, Dr. Ready.

ROSIE

That's all that happened?

DR. READY

Except for Antione, the perv, who went to kiss Sofie, and she bit his lip.

SOFIE

The creep deserved it.

DEMARCUS

And I sort of punched him in the stomach.

ROSIE

Sort of?

DEMARCUS

For not noticing Maggie's
straightened teeth, and she spent a
couple of grand on 'em.

MIGUEL

And I kicked him in the butt for
patting mine earlier. He's weird.

DR. READY

I knew he was a pervert.

ROSIE

Geez, why do you people come to his
bar?

ALL

Christmas Singles' Nite.

MAGGIE

That's why Antoine changed his
will.

ROSIE

In the office? That day?

MAGGIE

I can't talk about it.

ROSIE

Attorney-client privilege?

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Selective memory loss.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

I see.

Rosie paces

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Can I get another Iced Tea?

Sam smiles.

SAM

Coming right up.

ROSIE

You people are driving me to drink!

(beat)

Then I'd like to see Maggie and Sam
in the office.

Sam delivers Rosie an Iced Tea in a tall cocktail glass with a fancy garnish and a cocktail umbrella.

SAM

Fine with me. I have to feed the baby anyway.

Rosie's eyes and Maggie's eyes open wide.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Rosie sits behind the desk, sipping her Iced Tea. She's quite relaxed.

Sam sits in the comfortable easy chair, with her tuxedo shirt unbuttoned, and her baby in her arms, hidden by a feeding shawl.

Maggie enters the crowded office and is left to sit on an upside-down wastebasket.

Rosie still sounds a little tipsy.

ROSIE

Thank you for joining me.
(to the baby)
We won't be bothering--

SAM

She's fine as long as we keep our voices low and friendly.

Rosie smiles and turns to Maggie, slurring her words.

ROSIE

I like to follow the money in a murder investigation.

Maggie's eyes open wide, but she smiles innocently.

MAGGIE

I can't talk about the wills.

Rosie speaks quietly and sweetly.

ROSIE

It's just us girls here--

There is a KNOCK on the door.

Rosie opens the door two inches to see Gerry trying to get in.

GERRY
Can I watch Sam feed the --?

ROSIE
No!

SAM (O.C.)
Such an idiot.

Rosie slams the door and sits back down.

ROSIE
And I think you two can help me.

Sam and Maggie glance at each other before Sam glares at Rosie.

SAM
How?

ROSIE
Exactly! Sam, were you and Antoine ever more than co-workers?

SAM
That's private.

ROSIE
Not in a murder investigation.

Sam looks away.

SAM
I will tell you that he treated me like a business partner after he first hired me.

Rosie checks her iPad.

ROSIE
A little more than a year ago.

SAM
If you have my bank records, you'll see that he never paid me like a business partner.

ROSIE
(smiles)
Yesh, I see that. Barely minimum wage.

Sam looks away.

SAM

He made promises he never kept.
I'll also admit to casually dating
Antoine and Gerry for a short
while, but neither of them would
take risks, make a grand gesture,
or sweep me off my feet.

Rosie glances at the baby.

ROSIE

Well, somebody swept you off your
feet at least once.

Sam looks away.

SAM

That's private.

ROSIE

(turns to Maggie)
And a little while later, Antoine
put you on a hefty retainer to
change his will.

Maggie nods, then looks away.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

Rosie opens the door two inches to see Gerry trying to get
in.

GERRY

Can I watch Sam feed the --?

ROSIE

No!

SAM (O.C.)

Such an idiot.

Rosie slams the door and sits back down.

MAGGIE

I can't talk about it.

ROSIE

But you can nod. Can we assume that
Sam might be mentioned in that
revised will?

Maggie glances at Sam and nods, "Yes."

SAM

I had no idea. But his business was booming with me running his bar.

Rosie smiles at Sam, then turns seriously to Maggie.

ROSIE

Soon after Sam's arrest following the First Annual Christmas Singles' Nite, Antoine paid you to revise his will again.

SAM

He never forgave me for clobbering him with the baseball bat.

ROSIE

But he revised his will.

Maggie looks sadly at Sam and nods, "Yes."

There is a KNOCK on the door.

Rosie opens the door two inches to see Dolph trying to get in.

DOLPH

Can I watch Sam feed the --?

ROSIE

No!

SAM (O.C.)

Such an idiot.

ROSIE

And tell Miguel that he can't come in either.

Rosie slams the door and sits back down, and turns back to Maggie.

MAGGIE

Look, Detective, I can tell you that Antoine had me change his will. That's all I can say to you.

Rosie stares at her iPad, but she raises her voice.

ROSIE

That retainer was for considerably more money, and days later, you paid to get your teeth straightened.

(MORE)

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Did Antoine pay to get your teeth
straightened? At any time was
Antoine more than just another
client?

The baby starts to CRY! Sam's eyes open wide. She glares at
Maggie, who stands abruptly and exits the office.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

I'd better go too.

Rosie grabs her drink and opens the door to see Dr. Ready
trying to get in, but she hears the baby crying and heads
back to the bar with Rosie.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - CONTINUOUS

The chairs are arranged in a tight circle, with an empty seat
next to Rosie, saved for Sam.

Rosie, still tipsy, steadies herself on her seat, regains her
composure, and then speaks softly as Sam reenters and sits
down.

ROSIE

I need to find out if any of you
had any financial dealings with Mr.
DuBois.

MERRY

His first name is Antoine.

Sam and Merry glare at Rosie.

SAM

At least she's speaking quietly
now.

ROSIE

I'm shorry. Antoine.

DeMarcus slowly raises his hand.

DEMARCUS

At the First Annual Christmas
Singles' Nite, Antoine saw me badly
stub my kicking toe on the bathroom
stall.

EMILY

I heard you scream.

DEMARCUS

We had a big game the following Sunday, and Antoine asked me if I'd ever consider throwing a game by purposely missing a field goal.

Rosie and DeMarcus talk over each other, not listening.

ROSIE

Naturally, you were insulted and quickly drawn to violence.

DEMARCUS (CONT'D)

I asked him, How much is it worth to you?

DeMarcus looks away.

DEMARCUS (CONT'D)

Normally, only really good kickers ever get asked that question.

DR. READY

'Cause he was gonna miss the kick anyway.

DeMarcus looks everyone in the eyes, one by one, and stops at Rosie.

DEMARCUS

So my first thought was, I could get paid twice by missing the same field goal.

DeMarcus lowers his head.

DEMARCUS (CONT'D)

Then, yes, I was drawn to violence when Antoine thought I would let down my teammates and my fan.

ALI

Don't you mean Fans?

DeMarcus gazes at Ali.

DEMARCUS

Just my mama.

Dolph raises his hand and sadly looks away.

DOLPH

I had financial dealings with Antoine.

ROSIE

Yes, Dolph.

DOLPH

As you all know, I attended the First Annual Christmas Singles' Nite, but none of you knew I brought a date, who hooked up with a stranger as we walked in, and I never saw her again.

SAM

Wow. What could be worse?

DOLPH

The girl that Merry matched me with was the person my date left with.

MERRY

I remember her. You guys matched up exactly 50 percent.

GERRY

So much for the coin flip.

DOLPH

Anyway, I saw Sam was in the motherly way, and I assumed she was spoken for.

SAM

I'm so sorry, Dolph. I should have gotten to know you better.

DOLPH

(sweet to Sam, with air quotes)

I asked Antoine about you, and he said you were "in trouble" but that he was even more "in trouble" with his bar going broke.

Everyone gasps.

SAM

The bastard never told me.

DOLPH

Neither did I, and I'm so sorry.

(beat)

But I promised Antoine I would loan him the money to keep the nightclub open.

Emily and Sofie raise their hands.

ROSIE

Take a number.

EMILY

I'd like to go next. Antoine comes into my coffee shop every day. To be annoying, he spells out his name slowly and loudly every damn time.

(as Antoine)

A-N-T-O-I-N-E. So, of course, I misspell it on his cup just to be funny. A-U-N-T space T-W-O-N, and every other conceivable way.

The group laughs.

ROSIE

And everyone gets a good laugh, right?

EMILY

Not my supervisor. Antoine almost got me fired, and you can't get fired from a coffee shop unless you're a serial killer.

DR. READY

Another motive for murder, big mouth.

ROSIE

Geez, you guys are good. We haven't even got to the jilted lover questions yet.

Sofie raises her hand.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Will I need coffee or tea for this next confession?

SOFIE

I'd go with the Iced Tea.

SAM

I'm on it.

Sam races to the bar as Sofie speaks seductively.

SOFIE

Yes, Antoine indeed always acts like a frisky Frenchman, but I think he was lonely.

Sofie gazes at Emily, Sam, Merry, Ali, quickly passes over Dr. Ready, and stops at Maggie.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

His eyes are surrounded by beautiful, strong women, who are not in his arms.

DR. READY

'Cause he's a jerk, dimwit.

Everyone ignores, Dr. Ready.

ALI

I see. We singles have not appreciated the things that Antoine has done to make us less lonely.

Sam delivers Rosie an Iced Tea in a tall cocktail glass with a fancy garnish and a cocktail umbrella.

SOFIE

Exactly, Ali. Even a poorly dressed immigrant like yourself--

ALI

Oh, I'm third generation--

SOFIE

Even someone from the third century deserves a chance to find love.

Rosie slams down the Iced Tea and makes a loud and tipsy pronouncement. She slurs some words with "Ss".

ROSIE

All of you, follow me to the kitshun, but don't touch anything!

The group follows Rosie to the kitchen.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, KITCHEN

Rosie leads the group straight to Antoine and yells.

ROSIE

Find a blanket to cover him!

Sam grabs a blanket from a cabinet and covers Antoine.

SAM

This is used for small oil and fat fires. Sorry, Antoine.

Rosie yells to the group again.

ROSIE
Who has the keys to this nightclub?

SAM
Only Antoine and I.

Rosie shakes her head in disgust.

ROSIE
That doesn't look good for you,
Sham!

The others gasp and stare at Sam sorrowfully, as Rosie continues quietly.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
You all see, what we have here is
called a "locked room myshtery,"
made famous by John Dickshun Carr
in his 1935 book, "The Hollow Man."

The others move in closer to hear Rosie.

GERRY
Like when a body is found inside a
locked room. Very perplexing.
Impossible to solve.

ROSIE
(with a slur)
Exactly. Antoine died earlier
today, probably between shix and
sheven. I'm guessing by his frozen
phone that he was in the freezer
for about three hours.

GERRY
You found his phone?

ROSIE
It may not be of any use to ush.
It's thawing out in a safe place.

ALI
Maybe he called someone for help.

ROSIE
The door wasn't locked. He wasn't
hit over the head-- no marks there,
but he could have been drinking. He
smelled like a distillery.

DR. READY
He drank like a fish.

ROSIE
Or he could have taken drugs, been drugged, or poisoned by someone here.

DEMARCUS
By one of us? Highly unlikely!

SOFIE
Who put him in there?

ROSIE
Maybe no one. We can't rule out suicide yet. What was his mood leading up to this afternoon?

SOFIE
At the planning meeting last week, he seemed distraught.

SAM
He was throwing down the scotch, and he drank up some profits that night at work.

MERRY
He always drank a lot, but remained functional while I covered for Sam on maternity leave.

GERRY
Remaining functional isn't the same as being okay. Robin Williams used to fake being okay!

Miguel looks away.

MIGUEL
And yet he took the time to help plan the Christmas Singles' Night for all of us lonely losers.

MAGGIE
Something was bothering him that day -- enough to have him revisit his will.

ROSIE
(glares at Maggie)
And we don't know the changes he made to his will.

(MORE)

ROSIE (CONT'D)

I'll need to get a court order after Christmas. But the law demands that I treat any suspicious death as a murder until proven otherwise, and you're all shushpects.

Rosie glares at each of the suspects and freezes at Sam at the end.

Rosie checks her notebook.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Was the front door locked when you arrived at 5:04 PM?

SAM

Yes, I used my key to get in.

ROSIE

The only other key to the nightclub was in Antoine's cold pockets.

SAM

Antoine could have let anyone in the door earlier, and it would have locked automatically when they left.

ROSIE

Shmart woman. I thought of that, which is why I'll have to recheck your alibis for today.

They all look at each other suspiciously.

SAM

I was home playing with my baby, getting her tired so she would sleep tonight.

Sam checks her baby monitor app on her phone.

SAM (CONT'D)

Still sound asleep.

ROSIE

I believe babies sleep a lot at that age. Maybe you snuck away with that baby stroller of yours. We don't know.

(MORE)

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Antoine had the only modern nightclub in the state without security cameras -- although I'll be checking some on the street and nearby businesses.

Some of the suspects shuffle uncomfortably.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Let me check one more thing.

Rosie opens the freezer door with a towel.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Gerry, sit down in the back of the freezer for a second.

Gerry's eyes open wide.

GERRY

Why?

ROSIE

So I can watch how Sam extricated Antoine from the freezer by herself.

Sam's eyes open wide, but Sam and Gerry do as told.

Rosie shuts the door and hands Sam the towel.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Fetch your ice, Sam.

Sam uses the towel to open the door.

SAM

Antoine looked dead. I screamed for help. And pulled on his two legs. He slid right out.

ROSIE

So pull out Gerry before he freezes to death.

Sam starts to pull out Gerry, who slides out easily.

GERRY

Hurry! It's cold in here!

Gerry hops up and shivers in his Hawaiian shirt.

Everyone stares at the blanket covering Antoine.

SAM

Antoine wasn't so lucky.

ROSIE

All I know is, no other patrons joined us after 5:04 but the folks in this kitchen. I'll learn more when Antoine's phone thaws out, unless there was damage to the electronics.

(beat)

Okay, everyone, back to the bar.

Everyone exits to the tables in the bar.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - CONTINUOUS

Rosie's phone RINGS. Everyone stares at her.

ROSIE

Detective Eshtrada.

Rosie turns and walks away from the crowd.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

No, Shir. I bit my tongue earlier.

Rosie listens.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Shir. It could well be a shuicide. We'll know more soon.

Rosie listens.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Shir. The Coroner will be here soon. But no CSI team, Shir?

Rosie listens.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Shir. Wrap it up. Ice my tongue. Yes, Shir. Merry Christmas.

Rosie turns to see everyone staring at her.

SAM

I'll put a fresh pot of coffee on, Detective.

ROSIE

I need a Murder Board! Move these tables together and find me some big paper.

SAM

We've got butcher paper in the kitchen.

ROSIE

I'll get it -- you guys are not to enter the kitchen for any reason.

Rosie exits to the kitchen while the others move the tables together.

Rosie returns with a roll of butcher paper and spreads out three rows of paper across the tables.

Rosie draws a circle with Antoine's name in the middle. She draws 11 boxes around the Antoine, and writes a suspect's name in each box.

Rosie draws a straight line from each suspect's box to Antoine.

Rosie steps back and sips coffee.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

We'll assume everyone had the means and the opportunity to harm Antoine. I want to hear motives, people.

EMILY

But Sam had a key.

Sam glares at Emily.

ROSIE

But Antoine could have opened the door earlier for any one of you.

MAGGIE

But others may not have been in Antoine's will.

ROSIE

But you won't tell me who is in the will.

MAGGIE

Three wills. But I have no idea which he may have signed.

ROSIE
How about life insurance?

MAGGIE
He told me he had a considerable policy, but he remained quiet about beneficiaries.

ROSIE
Great!
(beat)
Maybe I'll check his phone again to see if it's thawed.

Rosie checks Antoine's phone in the corner of the bar while the suspects whisper angrily at each other.

MERRY
Why don't you admit Sam so we can all go home?

SAM
Because I didn't do it. I liked Antoine. I didn't love him, but I would never want to see him dead.

DR. READY
I didn't love him, but I might mourn his loss if it were by torture.

DEMARCUS
He had good and bad sides to him, like all of us.

ALI
He drank a bit too much.

GERRY
If they try to cremate him, it'll take three days to put out the fire.

SOFIE
We had good times and bad.

DOLPH
He wasn't the best businessman.

MIGUEL
He wouldn't invest in my film, "Gums." It was like "Jaws" except the shark had no teeth.

DR. READY
 (sarcastic)
 Too scary for me.

Maggie races over to Miguel with a big smile!

MAGGIE
 I love that idea for a movie! I'd
 invest in that one. It would show
 sharks as less dangerous. It's a
 comedy, right?

Miguel smiles at Maggie, and they share a moment.

MIGUEL
 It is now! It would be kinda funny
 having a shark gnawing on someone's
 leg and tickling them.

Miguel and Maggie are giddy with excitement.

MAGGIE
 "Gums" -- don't be afraid to go in
 the water! I could play the damsel
 in this dress! Get it, in distress?

They laugh hysterically while the others think they're nuts.

MERRY
 And to think, Antoine said I was
 too perky for him!

DR. READY
 You're too perky for everyone.

Rosie trudges over to the group.

ROSIE
 I got his phone to work, but it's
 very sad news.

Everyone squeezes in to look over Rosie's shoulder.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
 It's his final text message at 5:31
 PM.

The text reads, "i'm so sorry, Antoi."

ROSIE (CONT'D)
 He was in the freezer when we were
 all having drinks!

SAM
I feel so awful for not checking
the freezer.

GERRY
You had no reason. You didn't need
ice.

MERRY
Why didn't any of us see the
warning signs of deep depression?

DOLPH
We should feel awful.

They all drop their heads in a moment of SILENCE.

Suddenly, Antoine struggles to walk into the bar from the
kitchen.

Everyone GASPS, shocked, but they don't move to help him.

His legs are unsteady like Frankenstein's.

Sam RACES to steady him. She hugs him and guides him back to
her table.

SAM
You're alive! But Dr. Ready said
you were dead!

Rosie glares at Dr. Ready and checks her iPad.

ROSIE
That's because Dr. Ready isn't a
medically trained physician. She's
a clinical psychologist.

GERRY
(yells)
You're freaking kidding me!

ROSIE
And her books on psychiatry have
made her millions.

GERRY
But you checked his pulse!

ROSIE
Cram it, Gerry, you dipwad.

ANTOINE

I feel dead. I don't remember anything.

ROSIE

Sounds like ruffies -- the date rape drug of choice. Probably mixed with Scotch.

ANTOINE

That would be me. I just don't remember.

ROSIE

While you were doing your Rip van Winkle impression in the freezer, your phone saved your text message you were in the middle of composing, in the freezer, which read, "I'm sorry, Antoi."

ANTOINE

I don't remember sending it.

ROSIE

And you made no additional calls or text messages. That's very odd.

DR. READY

They don't come much odder than him!

ROSIE

While exact official statistics vary, estimates suggest around 60 deaths per year in the U.S. from walk-in freezer accidents. But this case is different. The freezer wasn't locked.

Rosie paces, thinking and glaring at the singles who sit down around the crammed tables and Murder Board. Antoine is groggy and bewildered.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

When I arrived here this evening, I entered the nightclub just like all of you did.

EMILY

Except with only one shoe on.

Rosie yells at the group.

ROSIE

Except I wasn't planning on killing anyone!

Rosie spins to Dr. Ready.

DR. READY

His text message at 5:31 proves it was a suicide.

MERRY

Maybe this is one of those Lazarus stories -- back from the dead.

Dr. Ready goes off on a swearing spree under her breath.

GERRY

I knew she wasn't a medical doctor! Normal-headed rich doctors don't stay single that long.

Dr. Ready dives at Gerry and starts throwing weak punches to his stomach.

Dolph and DeMarcus leap to separate them.

ROSIE

Wait. There's something I need to confess.

ANTOINE

Like what, Sherlock?

ROSIE

First, Sam recognized me when I first came in, and you remembered that I was law enforcement.

Emily hops up, excited.

EMILY

I knew it, too. I recognized you, and I told you so.

ROSIE

Yes, you did, Emily.

(paces)

But you were the only one who admitted recognizing me from a year ago when I arrested and booked Sam for assault. And that suggests that you weren't in on the plan.

ANTOINE

What plan?

Rosie turns to Antoine.

ROSIE

The plan to kill you!

His eyes open wide, and Emily's eyes open wider.

Sofie stands and parades like a princess.

SOFIE

I've had enough! I'm leaving! I
came to this backwoods watering
hole to escape my estranged husband
and our privileged lifestyle, to be
among the perpetually angry,

(smiles at Dr. Ready)

the hopeless,

(smiles at Sam)

the destitute,

(smiles at Gerry)

the aimless,

(smiles at Dolph)

the pointless,

(smiles at DeMarcus)

The misinformed,

(smiles at Merry)

And the professionally struggling,

(smiles at Miguel, then
everyone)

Well, and Antoine and everyone
here.

Rosie is elated and yells.

ROSIE

Sofie, sit down! Nobody is going
anywhere! I figured it all out.

(beat)

When I arrived tonight, Emily
ordered me potent New England Iced
Teas instead of regular Iced Teas.
It was not her fault, and Sam
didn't know they were for me.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. NIGHTCLUB, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Rosie stumbles into the kitchen with one broken heel and one
good shoe to see everyone surrounding Antoine on the floor.

Sam whispers and apologizes to Rosie as she enters.

SAM

I had no idea it was you. No more alcohol, I promise.

ROSIE (V.O.)

I was tipsy, alright. But given the situation, I thought I could use it to my advantage, getting you all to open up to me, the drunken detective.

END FLASHBACK

SAM

I served her black coffee and regular iced tea the rest of the night on her orders.

ROSIE

True confession. When I went back into the kitchen a while later, I felt for a pulse on Antoine and didn't find one. Many professional EMTs encounter similar challenges with patients who are barely alive.

Dolph stands, angry.

DOLPH

So you were fooling us into confessing things later on!

ROSIE

I was getting to know my persons of interest. Let me start with Sam, whom I arrested one year ago.

ANTOINE

My jaw still hurts.

SAM

(laughs)
It should.

ROSIE

Sam is Antoine's only employee, making her more like a business partner, albeit underpaid.

Antoine looks away.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

She's smart and capable. She may have held grudges against Antoine for his flirtatious behavior, but she's a single mom who wouldn't risk 20 years to life in prison away from her precious baby.

The others nod, "Yes."

Rosie scribbles through the line between Sam and Antoine on the Murder Board.

Rosie looks around.

ANTOINE

It was DeMarcus, wasn't it? After I bribed him to miss a kick?

Rosie smiles at the group, then walks to DeMarcus.

ROSIE

No. It wasn't DeMarcus. Tell them why?

DEMARCUS

After I got fired from the team anyway, I came charging into the bar, then into the kitchen--

GERRY

And you killed him, didn't you?

Everyone glares at Gerry.

GERRY (CONT'D)

Right! He's not dead.

DEMARCUS

No. I gave him back the twenty Gs.

SAM

But you missed the field goal. I remember that game against the Niners.

DEMARCUS

Because a six-foot-eight defensive lineman broke through and tackled me. Broke two of my ribs. Fifteen-yard penalty, and we won the game on the next play.

Rosie stares at her iPad.

ROSIE

But Antoine still lost his bet. His bank records show his payment to you, and his financial difficulties from gambling, so you're telling the truth.

DEMARCUS

(sorrowful)

Yes, but I took the payoff first.

Rosie gets in DeMarcus's face.

ROSIE

During your interview with me in the office, why didn't you tell me all this about the bribe?

DEMARCUS

What bribe?

Rosie senses Marcus is having serious short-term memory issues. She speaks to him softly and with a smile.

ROSIE

Never mind, DeMarcus. It's not a payoff if you gave it back. It was a loan.

GERRY

And you lost your kicking job, anyway, so it's a lose-lose.

DeMarcus snaps his fingers like he remembers something. He gets excited.

DEMARCUS

(to Gerry)

No. I got a job as a commentator on Sports News Radio for the Raiders, starting next week, as long as they don't find out that I took a payoff because of the morality clause in the contract.

DR. READY

The Raiders have a morality clause?

ROSIE

So you came to the planning meeting last week to beg Antoine to keep quiet.

DEMARCUS

But he demanded another twenty Gs
to keep silent.

ROSIE

That's blackmail!

DR. READY

And a motive for murder, big mouth!

DeMarcus pulls out twenty grand from his leather jacket and hands it to Antoine.

DEMARCUS

I couldn't bring myself to talk to
him. I decided to let him ruin my
life if he wanted to. It was my own
fault anyway.

Rosie plucks the money from Antoine and hands it back to DeMarcus.

ROSIE

You're an honest man, DeMarcus, and
Antoine can't hurt you anymore.

Rosie scribbles out the line between DeMarcus and Antoine.

Antoine looks away, then turns back to Rosie.

Antoine glares at Dolph.

ANTOINE

It was Dolph who tried to murder
me!

Rosie walks to Dolph and smiles.

ROSIE

No, it wasn't Dolph. I bet he put
stipulations on the loan he gave
you after seeing Sam was pregnant.

DOLPH

(lovingly to Sam)

I gave Antoine the loan, provided
he guaranteed you a job. And when I
found out he didn't give you paid
maternity leave, I could have
killed him.

Sam RACES over to Dolph and hugs him joyously.

DR. READY

Another motive for murder, big mouth.

DOLPH

I was going to confront Antoine tonight, but somebody beat me to him.

Rosie scribbles out the line between Dolph and Antoine.

ROSIE

Get in line. Anybody else, Antoine?

Antoine glares at the others.

ANTOINE

It was Emily!

Rosie strides over to Emily.

ROSIE

(laughs)

Emily? For being a rude customer and a bad tipper at her coffee shop?

Antoine looks away.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Let me remind you why we're all here in the first place. That First Annual Christmas Singles' night was a disaster for each of you. Emily was ignored in her barista uniform, although Dolph was eyeing you from his seat at the bar.

DOLPH

I found your hairnet intriguing. I never had a job requiring a hairnet.

EMILY

Thanks, I guess.

Rosie scribbles out the line between Emily and Antoine.

ROSIE

Miguel was awkwardly kissing Ali on both cheeks, unaware that it is frowned upon in Muslim cultures.

MIGUEL

How was I supposed to know?

ALI

I thought it was sweet.

ROSIE

No, our killer wasn't Ali or Miguel. That sweet couple is too busy looking for their soulmate to commit murder.

Rosie scribbles out the line between Ali and Antoine, and between Miguel and Antoine.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Sophie was hitting on DeMarcus, but that went poorly; Dr. Ready was insulting everyone, and Gerry was his typical self.

GERRY

What's that supposed to mean?

ROSIE

It all means we're all here for the same wonderful purpose - to find love.

(beat)

That's partly why you all volunteered to help plan the Second Annual Christmas Singles' Nite. However, the way Sam described that event to me, some motivations had changed.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - DAY

The bar is undecorated. The tables are aligned in a circle with the chairs arranged in a circle. A food table is off to the side with deli sandwiches and cans of soft drinks.

Sam and Rosie are like the "Ghosts of Christmas Past" standing behind the bar, watching the meeting transpire.

Sam pushes a baby stroller in. The baby is covered with blankets. The scene rolls on without the original audio.

ROSIE (V.O.)

Sam had her baby girl with her, and Merry enters arm-in-arm with Miguel.

(MORE)

ROSIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Antoine nudged away Miguel to hug Merry. Maggie enters with a low-cut top and a big smile, showing her straightened teeth. And with DeMarcus right on her shoulder. But it wasn't a date. DeMarcus was there for the food.

DeMarcus turns to smile weakly at Maggie.

ROSIE (V.O.)

Then Antoine pushed past Merry to shake hands with Maggie without taking his eyes off her cleavage.

ANTOINE (V.O.)

I'm human.

DR. READY (V.O.)

That's open to debate.

ROSIE (V.O.)

Maggie shook his hand, and Marcus headed for the food table.

Antoine guided Maggie far from DeMarcus and secretly patted Miguel's butt on the way.

ANTOINE (V.O.)

He's a fine-looking man.

DR. READY (V.O.)

Any port in the storm, hey pervert!

ROSIE (V.O.)

Sam said Gerry and Dr. Ready entered together. And it surprised me to hear Gerry was the most attracted to Sam's baby, much to Antoine's despair.

Sam and Gerry share a smile as Antoine grimaces.

ROSIE (V.O.)

I was also surprised to hear that Sofie entered with Dolph and Emily. I think Sophie was trying to endear herself to your little singles group!

END FLASHBACK

Sofie gets up and begins to stomp out.

SOFIE
I'm leaving!

Rosie leaps to cut off her escape.

ROSIE
I don't think you did it, Sofie.
You need real friends, and these
fine people might be the best you
can do for now.

Sofie, dejected, returns to her seat.

SOFIE
Sorry, everyone.

Everyone smiles at Sofie, and she smiles for the first time
all night. All but Antoine move to hug her one at a time.

ROSIE
No, the person we're after tonight
has a compassionate motive and
experience behind a bar.
(glares at Gerry)
Isn't that right, Gerry?

Gerry looks stunned and defensive. The others gasp and stare
at Gerry.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
Let me walk you through the how,
the why, and the who of tonight's
attempted murder.

SAM
(sorrowfully)
Gerry, how could you?

ROSIE
(to Sam)
I'm getting to that.
(to the group)
I needed the alcohol to wear off to
figure this one out. No one here
hated Antoine enough to kill him.

Antoine's eyes open wide. Then, he smiles weakly.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
He likes to drink, gamble, and
flirt in awkward ways, but no one
said they didn't like him. To the
contrary, they recognized his
compassion.

(MORE)

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Sam hit him in the jaw with a baseball bat, but it was Antoine who came to bail her out of jail. They went right on working together.

Sam goes to hug Antoine, and they share a moment.

SAM

That's true. Thanks, Antoine.

ROSIE

Antoine knew that you eleven lonely barflies needed a second chance at finding love, so he okayed the use of his nightclub for the Second Annual Christmas Singles' Nite, even though it was Christmas Eve, a traditionally slow night, it was the night of a big college football game--

DEMARCUS

Oregon versus Alabama, and I think one of them was my alma mater.

Rosie checks her iPad

ROSIE

No, you went to Notre Dame, but you spent four years under Concussion Protocol.

DEMARCUS

Oh yeah.

ROSIE

And after last year's disastrous ending involving the police, Antoine knew it would be a small crowd tonight.

Antoine looks more alert.

ANTOINE

That's right. I remember that now.

GERRY

(mumbles)

Uh-oh.

Rosie moves to pat Antoine's shoulders.

Antoine looks up to Rosie.

ANTOINE
They're my friends.
(beat)
My only friends.

ROSIE
Here's where things get a little
fuzzy for me after the two New
England Iced Teas.

EMILY
My bad.

SAM
I didn't know it was you.

MERRY
I thought you were very funny.

Everyone nods, "Yes."

ROSIE
My first real memory of tonight was
when Sam yelled my name from the
kitchen door.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - NIGHT

Sam exits the kitchen into the bar area and SCREAMS again.

SAM
Is there a Detective Rosie Estrada
here?

Silence.

SAM (CONT'D)
A detective or a Rosie Estrada?

Rosie's head stays on the table, but she ceremoniously lifts
one arm high in the air and slurs her words.

SAM (CONT'D)
New England Iced Tea -- the only
tea on the menu! Come on!

Sam leads Rosie, who staggers to the kitchen in her stocking
feet. Rosie is, and remains, tipsy, and slurs her words.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rosie glares at Antoine's body on the kitchen floor and sees Dr. Ready checking for a pulse.

ROSIE (V.O.)

But now I remember something else I saw.

END FLASHBACK

ROSIE

Behind Dr. Ready, I noticed the freezer door remained open. That proves that Sam was in such a hurry to save Antoine from the cold that she didn't care about wasting electricity.

DR. READY

So what?

ROSIE

That was around 7 PM, which means any one of you could have slipped Antoine's phone in the freezer at that time.

SAM

But later you said his phone was frozen.

DOLPH

And Antoine's text message.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - NIGHT

SAM

Gerry, I haven't seen my slacker partner all night! Watch the bar while I fetch some ice.

GERRY

You got it, Luv.

Sam exits to the kitchen.

ROSIE (V.O.)

That's how I knew Gerry, someone with bar experience, was involved.
(MORE)

ROSIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Sam asked Gerry to cover the bar
while she went to the kitchen to
fetch the ice.

Behind the bar, Gerry secretly removes Antoine's smartphone
from his back pocket.

He pours liquid nitrogen on both sides of the phone.

ROSIE (V.O.)
Most bars are equipped with a
pitcher of liquid nitrogen to cool
glassware for frozen drinks.

INT. NIGHTCLUB, KITCHEN

Everyone gathers around Antione while Dr. Ready checks his
pulse.

ROSIE
Then, in the chaos after Sam
dragged Antoine from the freezer,
Gerry could have slid the phone to
the back of the freezer.

Gerry slides Antoine's phone to the back of the freezer.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
It was almost the perfect crime.

Antoine stands and stares sadly at Gerry.

ANTOINE
Did you try to kill me, Gerry?

Gerry looks lovingly at Sam.

GERRY
I like you, Antoine. But I'm in
love with Sam.
(looks to the office)
And the baby.

ROSIE
I knew that when Sam told me that
during the planning meeting, Gerry
was the only one who fussed over
the baby.

Gerry stands and looks sadly at Antoine.

GERRY
Detective Estrada is mostly right.

ROSIE

Mostly?

GERRY

I came to see Antoine today after lunch. I was worried about him since the planning meeting. He seemed down.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. NIGHTCLUB, BAR - DAY

Gerry and Antoine sit at a table, drinking. Gerry is smiling, but Antoine is sad.

GERRY (V.O.)

He let me in the front door and locked it behind me. We had a few too many glasses of Scotch from the top shelf.

DR. READY (V.O.)

Scotch -- the original date-rape drug! What could go wrong?

END FLASHBACK

Antoine stands, leaps to Gerry's side, and hugs him.

ANTOINE

I have a confession to make.

GERRY

You don't need to do this, Antoine.

Antoine is proud and defiant.

ANTOINE

Yes, I do, Gerry. I don't want you to get in any trouble for planning my murder.

ROSIE

Attempted murder is a serious offense!

ANTOINE

It was all my fault.

Gerry starts laughing.

GERRY

I'm partly to blame.

ROSIE
Okay, come clean, you two!

Antoine smiles at Rosie.

ANTOINE
I admit that I was in a bad place when Gerry arrived, mostly because the first singles night didn't help the people I cared about most.

ALL
Aww.

ANTOINE
Then, over a few glasses of Scotch, I confessed to Gerry that I used to love Sam.

Sam looks puzzled.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)
Then I loved Sofie.

Sofie smirks.

SOFIE
I wouldn't call that love. Maybe like.

ANTOINE
I liked you enough to let you use my parking space without being towed. You're a married woman!

Sofie takes off her ring and shoves it in her purse.

SOFIE
We divorced last year after the First Annual Christmas Singles' Nite. He took me to court, and I took him to the cleaners.

ANTOINE
Now you tell me.

SOFIE
I didn't like your drinking, gambling, or womanizing.

Gerry elbows Antoine.

GERRY

A guy has three tiny issues, and he gets labeled.

ANTOINE

(to Sofie)

You told me you liked Dolph!

Dolph is amazed and sits up tall.

DOLPH

I'm not even a billionaire.

Dolph and Sofie share a moment.

SOFIE

You just have to be more ruthless and less considerate of the poor.

DOLPH

I could learn.

Dolph goes to Sofie for a hug, but she kisses him passionately and doesn't let up while Antoine continues.

ANTOINE

I hired Merry while Sam was on maternity leave.

SAM

Unpaid maternity leave.

ANTOINE

Anyway, Merry was too cheerful and optimistic for me.

DR. READY

Perkiness is an illness.

ALI

Merry, I can help with that.

EMILY

I suffer from that too. Let's meet and discuss that over coffee at my place on --

ROSIE

Do you mind? We're listening to Antoine!

They hush, but Ali, Emily, and Merry smile at each other.

ANTOINE

My real problem was Sam.

Sam is perplexed.

GERRY

Mine too.

Sam is more perplexed.

ANTOINE

My gambling and drinking left me in a hole financially, and it killed me that I couldn't pay for your maternity leave.

Sam turns angry.

SAM

But you could give DeMarcus twenty grand to miss a few kicks?

ANTOINE

I was hoping to win three to one and pay for your leave, but DeMarcus didn't follow through.

DEMARCUS

I gave the Detective back your money, then she gave it back to me.

ANTOINE

It doesn't matter. I already made up my mind to kill myself so Sam could collect on my life insurance policy.

Sam is shocked.

MAGGIE

That's right. I was the witness on that policy.

GERRY

Antoine figured out that he was worth more money if he died.

ANTOINE

You'd get the nightclub too.
(lovingly to Sam)
Partner!

Sam races to hug Antoine.

SAM

I'd rather be poor and have you
alive, partner.

ANTOINE

That's what Gerry said you'd say.
That's why he planned this
elaborate scheme in case I died in
the freezer.

SAM

Gerry planned this? For me?

Gerry looks away.

GERRY

I wanted to impress you.
(looks into Sam's eyes)
Antoine wanted you to get the life
insurance payout, but there is no
payout if the death is reported as
a suicide.

ROSIE

(angry)
So you staged a murder?

Sam moves to hug Gerry.

GERRY

Not just any murder. A locked-room
murder.

ANTOINE

Gerry says they are the toughest to
solve. It was going to be his grand
gesture to Sam!

Everyone turns lovingly to Gerry.

SAM

A grand gesture it was.

Gerry dances in happiness.

GERRY

Oh, and risk-taking!

ROSIE

Except Antoine didn't die, and I
solved the case.

Antoine and the others get in Rosie's face.

ANTOINE
You spoiled everything.

The others shake their heads in disapproval.

ROSIE
I am doing my job!

GERRY
Just great! Now, Sam and the baby
don't get the million dollars.

Sam yells.

SAM
A million bucks!

ANTOINE
I could still give her the bar.

ROSIE
And what would you do for money,
Antoine?

Antoine looks slowly around the crowd, and his eyes stop
surprisingly on Dr. Ready, whose eyes open up wide.

ANTOINE
I'd finally get to propose to the
woman of my dreams. The only woman
who totally understands me, warts
and all, is Doctor Evelyn Ready.

Dr. Ready leaps to Antoine and jumps, arms out, into his arms
with her legs around his hips. She kisses him madly and won't
stop for an embarrassingly long time.

ROSIE
I did not see that coming.

Dr. Ready whispers into Antoine's ear.

DR. READY
They're not genital warts, are
they?

He shakes his head no and turns to Rosie, and Dr. Ready
resumes kissing Antoine.

ANTOINE
And I'm not pressing charges on my
buddy, Gerry.

ROSIE
I'm not surprised.

Sam snuggles close to Gerry.

SAM
Gerry, I have a surprise for you.

Gerry gets down on one knee in front of Sam.

SILENCE

Everyone is staring at Gerry.

DR. READY
Pop the question, you idiot.

GERRY
Will you... want to date me again?

Everyone hits their forehead with a palm.

SAM
A little bit bigger surprise.

Sam yells.

SAM (CONT'D)
Why hasn't anybody asked what I
named my baby girl?

ROSIE
Let me guess, Geraldine. Gerry's
been smiling at you all night!

Gerry raises his glass.

GERRY
Drinks are on me. I'm going to be a
daddy! Oh, and will you marry me?

SAM
(laughs)
I'll think about it, Gerry. But
it's your turn to change her
diaper.

Gerry and Sam kiss wildly.

Everyone laughs and cheers.

Gerry raises his hand to order drinks.

Sofie sneaks in close to Gerry and whispers in his ear.

SOFIE

Dolph and I want to hire you to
kill my ex-husband. I'm the
beneficiary of his life insurance
policy.

Meanwhile, Merry whispers to the Detective as DeMarcus works
his way over to them.

MERRY

My questionnaire aligned your
answers with DeMarcus's 49% of the
time.

ROSIE

That's less than a coin flip.
(smiles)
You gotta like those odds!

MERRY

(winks)
And, he has concussion issues.

Merry joins Ali and Emily at a table off to the side.

DEMARCUS

Did you mean it when you said that
I was an honest man?

ROSIE

Yes, I did.

They share a moment.

DEMARCUS

I'd honestly like to ask you out
for drinks sometime.

ROSIE

(smiles)
How about here and now?

DeMarcus smiles and raises his hand to Sam and Gerry, who are
behind the bar.

Christmas rock music starts to play in the bar, and drinks
are flying at the bar.

At a table off to the side, Merry, Emily, and Ali plan the
Third Annual Christmas Singles' Nite for next year on Merry's
iPad.

Emily kicks a gift-wrapped package under the table and pulls
it out.

EMILY

Rosie brought that for the "Toy For Tots" box that was cancelled.

Merry yells to Rosie.

MERRY

Rosie, we found your gift.

Rosie yells back.

ROSIE

It's for the baby.

Sam and Gerry leap over to examine the gift. Merry, Ali, and Emily are tearing the paper to reveal the game of "Clue."

Maggie and Gerry yell from the bar.

MAGGIE

Dibs on Miss Scarlet.

GERRY

Professor Plum.

ALI

Next year, let's dress up like Clue characters.

MERRY

And we'll each bring lots of extra toys for the box!

Everyone cheers and laughs as they set up the game to play.

FADE OUT.

THE END