

## **Poker Nights**

"The Set Up - Part 1"

#0101

Written by  
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**NOTES:**

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INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Our condo living room. TIM (27ish, fit, biracial) places a set of poker chips on a nice poker table with chairs all around.

TITLE: 6:49 pm - Set Up

SFX: Door Knock

Tim crosses and opens the door. ALEX (Max) and JON (Late 20s, nerdy writer) enter carrying snacks & beers.

JON

(to Alex)

That's such bullshit! Just because he's a standup doesn't make him a writer.

ALEX

What makes him a writer is he has a kick ass late night packet.

JON

That doesn't qualify him to write on a fucking network sitcom.

ALEX

Well Ben Wexler and the execs at NBC disagree.

JON

But he's just a standup.

ALEX

Would you be saying the same thing about me if I got hired to write on a sitcom?

JON

(beat)

Yeah, probably, because you're not a writer.

ALEX

You are such a shit.

(to Tim)

Is Sasha here? I thought I saw her car outside?

JON

Umm...

## FLASHBACK #1 - BROADCAST NEWS SASHA'S VERSION:

Tim and SASHA (20s, female, actress) set up the poker table. No chairs yet. Sasha approaches a slightly nervous Tim.

SASHA

We need to talk about yesterday.

TIM

Sasha, you've been great trying to help me with the acting thing, but-

SASHA

Tim, you're an actor.

TIM

I don't think I have it.

SASHA

You totally do.

## FLASHBACK #2 - BROADCAST NEWS - SASHA'S VERSION:

Sasha sits on a table wearing a dress as similar as possible to Holly Hunter's. Tim stands in front of her in a tux. He holds her hand, staring at her.

TIM

(loudly to himself)

Why can't I let go of this woman?

SASHA

Well...

He interrupts her with a brief and delicate caress of her dress near her cleavage while continuing to look at her.

SASHA (CONT'D)

(flustered)

At least kiss me when you do that.

TIM

(a grin)

You can't stop editing me, can you?

SASHA

(nervous laugh)

This is hysterical.

He kisses her. She gets way into it...

BACK TO SCENE:

Tim takes a step back as Sasha steps into him.

TIM  
I just don't think I'm an actor.

SASHA  
You have all this great potential.

TIM  
But I don't really get it.

FLASHBACK #3 - BROADCAST NEWS TIM'S VERSION:

Sasha sits on a table wearing a jeans and T-shirt. Tim stands in front of her in workout clothes. With one hand he holds her hand, in the other is a script.

TIM  
(too loud)  
Why can't I let go of this woman?

SASHA  
Well...

He doesn't interrupt her, but after reading he puts his hand near her breast.

SASHA (CONT'D)  
(passionate)  
At least kiss me when you do that.

TIM  
(reading)  
You just can't stop editing me.

SASHA  
(nervous laugh)  
This is hysterical.

She slaps the script out of his hand, and slips her hand behind his neck and forces a kiss.

BACK TO SCENE:

Tim takes another step back.

SASHA  
What's wrong?

TIM

I think I need to work on  
different kinds of scenes.

SASHA

These have been some of the best  
scenes in American film.

TIM

They're all romantic comedies.

SASHA

Yeah. Look at you. That's your  
type, romantic lead.

TIM

But I'm starting to have...  
feelings.

SASHA

That's fantastic! That's acting.

TIM

Really?

SASHA

Yes! Acting is all about tapping  
into your emotions.

TIM

But what if I don't want those  
emotions.

SASHA

You don't?

TIM

I don't think so.

SASHA

Really?

TIM

Yeah, sorry.

She chokes up, but covers by running to the bathroom.

BACK TO SCENE

TIM

(befuddled)

Bathroom. She's in the bathroom.  
Sorry, what were you saying?

ALEX

Jon doesn't think I'm a writer.  
(to Jon)

I write twenty plus jokes a day,  
every day.

JON

It's not narrative.

ALEX

Bullshit! My act-outs are awesome,  
because I'm a storyteller.

TIM

(to Alex)

What's set him off?

ALEX

Ronnie got a staff job on "Don't  
Call Me Buddy."

TIM

That's great.

JON

Not for that show.

ALEX

Let it go, Dude.

JON

No. I'm a writer. I studied sitcom  
writing in college, with a minor  
in psychology. I have eight specs,  
twelve pilots, and I can't even  
get a general at NBC.

TIM

That beer should go in the fridge.

JON

Yeah, yeah.

Jon crosses off.

ALEX

(sotto to Tim)

So I'm definitely going to ask  
Sasha out tonight. Any advice?

On Tim's conflicted reaction we...

FADE OUT.