

Poker Nights

"The Setup Part II"

#0102

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NOTES:

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INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Tim and Alex stand by the poker table.

TIM
This might not be the best night
to ask out Sasha.

ALEX
Why?

TIM
I just... I...

Jon enters from the kitchen.

TIM
Hey, Jon, can you bring me a beer?

JON
Really, Dude?

TIM
Yeah, please.

Jon heads into the kitchen. Tim leans into Alex.

TIM
(sotto)
Not tonight.

SFX: Refrigerator opening and beer bottles rustling

ALEX
Why?

TIM
I'll explain later.

Tim sits down and starts setting out the poker chips. Jon enters and sets a beer down next to Tim.

TIM
So what were you guys talking
about?

JON
Ronnie!

TIM
Right. You know, maybe they were
just looking for a joke writer.

JON

Fuck this business. Some hack standup does five minutes at the Ice House, those chuckle monkeys yuck it up, and he gets staffed?

TIM

He was funny when you brought him for poker night.

JON

He was annoying as fuck.

FLASHBACK #1 - RONNIE

RONNIE (Schlubby comedian) sits at the table looking at Sasha like a fat kid looks at a triple scoop ice cream cone. He picks up his phone, and taps the screen twice.

RONNIE

(into the phone)

Bit idea: dating a wannabe actress - I try to be supportive, but know she's not going to make it.

BACK TO SCENE

TIM

That was pretty funny routine.

Jon and Alex roll their eyes.

JON

Hack.

ALEX

Get over it.

JON

He doesn't know structure or story, which I do, and I'm funny.

ALEX

I'd say more humorous than funny.

Sasha enters.

TIM

Maybe not laugh out loud funny.

SASHA

But, I like your characters and stuff. You're a good writer.

JON

And stuff?!

ALEX

(to Sasha)

You're always here early lately.
(trying to be funny)
People are starting to talk.

JON

And stuff?!?!?

SASHA

(frustrated, to Jon)

It was just an expression, and -
(angry, to Alex)
Tell the people to stop talking.

This shuts everyone up for a beat.

JON

So, who's the new guy tonight?

TIM

Chiropractor, He's a little older,
but he's hilarious.

JON

Great! A funny chiropractor. But
does he know story?

ALEX

Seriously, Dude. Take a breath,
crack open a beer and relax.

SASHA

So how do you know this old
chiropractor?

TIM

He's not old. He's just older than
we are. He's mobile and he was
treating one of my clients...

FLASHBACK #2 - DR. MIKE

A client lies on a chiropractic table. DR. MIKE (40s,
professional) stands over him.

CLIENT

So you don't have an office?

DR. MIKE

I used to. It was called the Crack House... But then the DEA raided me and I had to make some changes.

Tim chuckles.

BACK TO SCENE

And we're back. Jon is holding an open bottle of beer.

JON

That was hilarious?

ALEX

(to Jon)

Drink.

JON

You fucking drink.

Alex twists open a beer.

SFX: Door Knock

Tim opens the door and Mike enters with a large foil wrapped tray and a grocery bag of stuff.

TIM

Mike, welcome. Thanks for coming.

DR. MIKE

My pleasure. I love poker.

TIM

Everyone, this is Dr. Mike.

DR. MIKE

You can just call me "Doctor."
Kidding, call me Mike. I brought baked tacos, and all the fixings.

JON

Okay, maybe this guy is okay.

INT. CONDO - LATER

The five of them sit around the table, eating, drinking, ready to start playing.

DR. MIKE

So how do you all know each other?

SASHA

We took an improv class together a couple of years ago.

ALEX

And we discovered that we all like playing poker, so it's time for House Rules.

TIM

Dealer's choice, but we mainly stick to draw and 5 & 7 stud.

SASHA

And Hold 'em. I love hold 'em.

JON

And no foofy games like Night Baseball, or Anaconda.

TIM

But the occasional Pass The Garbage, or Red Montana is fine. We also throw in Hi/Lo in the stud games, just to spread the wealth.

DR. MIKE

Got it. Nothing crazy. I'm a stud and hold 'em guy. My question is: Tim, is Sasha the girlfriend?

TIM

No.

Sasha takes a long draw on her beer.

DR. MIKE

(to Jon)

And you're the writer.

JON

Bingo.

DR. MIKE

And Alex, you're the standup?

ALEX

Flappers in Burbank, three nights next week.

DR. MIKE

So I'm auditioning for a regular seat?

TIM

Yeah, it's tough to find someone who's a good player and not...

JON

Insane.

DR. MIKE

And that's been a problem?

ALEX

You'd be surprised.

FLASHBACK BAD PLAYER MONTAGE

- Hold 'em only Guy
- Hoodie Table Stakes Guy
- The psychic
- Alex's GF -
- Funny VO Artist (Ken)
- Flatulent Person

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Everyone is a bit shell shocked at the memory. Jon and Alex chuckle as...

SASHA

Grossest night ever.

TIM

Our cat ran away that night.

DR. MIKE

Wow.

TIM

Let's play.

He fans the cards and everyone picks as we...

FADE OUT.