

ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out.)

A play by Israel Horovitz.

NOTE: This play is available to you for reading purposes only.
The play is copyrighted and all rights are reserved by the author.

© Israel Horovitz 2019. All rights reserved.

Represented by Marie-Cécile Renault, MCR-Agence Littéraire, Paris.
Represented in Germany by Bettina Migge, Gallansis, Berlin.

Represented in Italy by The Tolnay Agency, Roma.
For US and UK performance rights, contact horovitzplays@gmail.com

May 2019.

THE PEOPLE OF THE PLAY

GEORGE. Nearing 80, retired construction boss, heavy-set, tough. George lived and worked outside Cleveland; has lived at Lakeside Apartments for 25 years.

DONALD. Nearing 80, retired junior high school teacher, gentle, worried. Donald lived and worked in a suburb of Boston; has lived at Lakeside Apartments for 15 years.

ROSIE. Nearing 80, retired shopkeeper (ladies outside dresses), small, wiry. Rosie lived and worked in Baltimore; has lived at Lakeside Apartments for 20 years.

KILEY. Nearing 60, a mystery.

DAVE. Nearing 80, retired NYC cab driver, slim, does Yoga. Dave lived and worked in NYC; has lived at Lakeside Apartments for 25 years.

PACQUI. Nearing 80, retired greengrocer, unwell and unhappy. Pacqui lived and worked in Hartford, Connecticut; has lived at Lakeside Apartments for 20 years.

IRENE. Nearing 60, good natured, earthy.

AUTHOR’S NOTE on casting: All ethnic backgrounds okay.

THE PLACE OF THE PLAY

Back room of restaurant, on the waterfront, Lantana, Florida, three miles from Lakeside Apartments, six miles from Mar-a-Lago.

THE TIME OF THE PLAY

The present.

The circle of my friends
has tightened to a pencil dot,
its periphery fading long ago
with your memory of our love.
I embrace my age as a snail endures its shell,
without choice,
no real explanation.
The loneliness I feel is my sole companion.

ACT ONE: STARTERS.

LIGHTS UP in back room of restaurant in South Florida.

The room is empty, but for four large round tables, preset with water-glasses and silverware wrapped in cloth napkins. Each table seats eight diners.

The walls are decorated with copious, large, framed pictures of palm trees and Florida landscapes. Large, potted (fake) palm trees are placed wherever possible. Perhaps, we also see an extremely large picture of an extremely large alligator?

GEORGE enters. HE pauses at door, looks around. Satisfied HE is alone in room, HE selects a seat, puts his jacket over back of a chair, carefully; sits. After a moment, HE stands and selects a different chair; sits. After another moment, HE stands, selects still another chair. For some reason satisfied, HE retrieves his jacket, places it over back of newly-selected chair, carefully; sits, settles in, drinks from glass of water pre-set on table.

DONALD enters, pauses at door, spots GEORGE.

DONALD

Just you?

GEORGE

You see anybody else?

DONALD

Where is everybody?

GEORGE

Late ... like you.

DONALD

I'm on time. One o'clock for lunch, it's...

(Looks at his watch.)

There was traffic. Where should I sit?

GEORGE

Where do you normally sit?

DONALD

Where you're sitting.

GEORGE

So, sit someplace else. Change is opportunity.

DONALD

(Looks at ceiling, checks location
of air-conditioning ducts.)

These seats are in line with those two A-C ducts.
I catch colds.

(And then.)

Where the hell is everybody?

GEORGE

I've been waiting forty-five minutes.

DONALD

Why? It's only ten past one.

GEORGE

I like to be early, so I'm in my seat, on time.
It's, like, a good-manners thing, Donny. You
don't make people wait. It's selfish.

DONALD

There was wick'id traffic, George.

GEORGE

Sit anywhere. It's a free country.

DONALD

You're in my fucking seat.

GEORGE

Anywhere but your fucking seat.

DONALD selects a seat, removes his
jacket, places his jacket over
back of seat, changes his mind,
puts jacket back on; sits.

DONALD

He's back. The whole of A1A* along the ocean is
closed down. Cops everywhere.

(*Pronounced "Ay-One-Ay".)

GEORGE

You came by way of Palm Beach?

DONALD

Of course not! I'm just sayin'.

(Beat.)

I saw on TV. Terrible traffic, people screaming at the cops. I saw them turn back a skinny old lady on a bicycle, made her pedal all the way back to the bridge. The TV guy interviewed her. She was furious.

(Beat,)

Somebody's gonna' shoot him.

GEORGE

From your mouth to God's ear.

DONALD

They've got sharpshooters on the beach.

GEORGE

Whose side are they on?

DONALD

Don't be ridiculous! They're U.S. military guarding the son of a bitch. I'm tellin' you, A1A looks like a war-zone.

GEORGE

Normal. Every time he's here.

DONALD

He's a disgrace to my name.

(Shivers.)

I'm freezing! Where the hell is everybody? It's nearly quarter past!

GEORGE

You got plans, Don?

DONALD

That's not the point.

GEORGE

The new guy's coming.

DONALD

He's a renter.

GEORGE

Not for long. He's got an offer in on Arnold's unit. Arnold's holding a check. New guy meets with the Board on Tuesday night.

DONALD

He's kind of an oddball.

GEORGE

I think he's weird. Rosie thinks he's in Witness Protection.

DONALD

You're kidding.

GEORGE

We were talking about him at darts, Thursday night. Dave says "He never goes out. He's always in, or just taking walks on South Palmway, once the sun starts goin' down." Rosie says "I'm thinkin' Witness Protection."

DONALD

He's paying Arnold's askin' price?

GEORGE

That's what Arnold's tellin' people.

DONALD

Incredible price for that unit.

GEORGE

Prices are bouncing back.

DONALD

Can people in Witness Protection own anything?

GEORGE

Can't see any reason why not. Whitey Bolger owned a place.

DONALD

He wasn't in Witness Protection.

GEORGE

Yuh, but he was hiding out.

DONALD

Arnold must'a been stunned to get his askin' price.

GEORGE

I imagine so.

DONALD

What's his name?

GEORGE

Arnold's name is Arnold.

DONALD

Don't be a wiseass, George. The new guy.

GEORGE

I can't remember. I met him. He told me his name, but I wasn't really listening. He has a first name that sounds like a last name. I remember that.

DONALD

I met him, myself, maybe two-three times.
(Thinks. Fails to remember.)
My memory is shot.

GEORGE

Tell me! Soon as I hit seventy-five,
fuggetaboutit! I can't remember anything.
(As if to prove his point.)
Who are you?

DONALD

Comical. We'll ask Dave when he gets here.

GEORGE

If he gets here.

DONALD

Dave remembers stuff. He's the only one of us with working neurons.

GEORGE

What's "working neurons"?

DONALD

Neurons fire memory. That's how memory works.

GEORGE

Explain please.

(Beat.)

DONALD

I can't remember. I used to know.

GEORGE

I used to know the new guy's name. He's got a first name like a last name. Like, I dunno, Clinton.

DONALD

It's not Clinton.

GEORGE

I know it's not Clinton. I was just sayin' "like Clinton."

DONALD

We'll ask Dave. Dave's got a wick'id sharp memory.

GEORGE

You're jerkin' my leg! Dave lost his car in the parking lot after we had a Romeo lunch upstairs at Benny's. Had us all searching.

DONALD

That I remember.

GEORGE

Pacqui* found it.

*Pronounced "Packy".

DONALD

I remember. That was an exception.
(Beat.)

I wonder how Dave's heart is doing. He doesn't talk about it much.

GEORGE

Just extra heartbeats. It's not so bad. My brother-in-law had that and they fixed it.

DONALD

I thought he died from that.

GEORGE

He did. That's true.

(Beat.)

Pacqui's listing his unit, also.

DONALD

You're kidding me! Pacqui's selling?

GEORGE

God's honest. Dave told me yesterday. Arnold told Rosie, Rosie told Dave.

DONALD

I can't believe ... Pacqui also. What's going on?

GEORGE

Prices are bouncing back. People are cashin' in their chips.

DONALD

Are you and Pacqui talking?

GEORGE

Not my choice.

DONALD

Rosie took his unit off the market. He thinks there are too many empty units for sale. People dying and all. Another funeral every time you turn around.

GEORGE

Rosie was asking too much.

DONALD

I dunno. He and Ruthie put some real money into fixing the place up. Ruthie had it lookin' elegant. Old Florida furniture, very nice art on the walls, this and that. And they were offering the unit turnkey ... furniture, dishes, art and all. Plus, it's a D-Line unit with a partial water-view, so it's gotta be worth a little more.

GEORGE

He was asking too much.

DONALD

He turned down offers. This I know for a fact.

GEORGE

He doesn't want to sell. Not deep down. He's got too many memories tied up here. He told me that himself. It's too soon after the funeral

DONALD

So, why did he list it? Just to test the water?

GEORGE

Do I know? People do strange shit when they're bereaved.

(Angrily.)

Where the hell is everybody?

DONALD

What time is it?

GEORGE

You don't have a watch?

DONALD

It's being fixed.

GEORGE

Rosie said you swam with it.

DONALD

It was in my bathing-suit pocket. I took it off to go in the pool and got to talking with Rosie and his sister-in-law ... Ruthie's sister. I put it in my bathing-suit pocket and I forgot. I got hot standing there, jumped in the pool...

GEORGE

Can they fix it?

DONALD

Watch guy said yes. It's gonna cost, but, it was my father's so, ya' know...

GEORGE

It's worth fixing.

(Looks at his watch to check the time.)

One-Nineteen and Forty Seconds ... Forty-two seconds ... Forty-four seconds ...

(Holds up his wrist to show his watch.)

Digital. CVS. Twenty bucks. With many features. I've been timing my eggs.

(And then.)

I'm done fixing watches. When they stop workin', I toss 'em in the garbage. Twenty bucks, tax included.

DONALD

Yuh, but, it's ugly.

GEORGE

I'm ugly, so I got a watch to match.

(Without warning, angrily.)

Where the fuck is everybody?!

ROSIE stands in doorway.

ROSIE

I'm here. There was traffic like you never saw! Orange is comin' back. It's crazy out there! I'm talkin' roadblocks, everywhere. Make America late again.

DONALD

He's back already. He landed. I saw it on TV.

ROSIE

Yuh, he landed, but he's not there yet. There are still crazies with "Build The Wall" signs at the rotary, maybe fifty of them.

GEORGE

He pays them.

ROSIE

There are also fifty crazies with "Impeach" signs on the side opposite. Them he's not paying. And I counted maybe two dozen cop-cars with their lights flashing. And roadblocks. It's Hanoi '65, I'm tellin' ya's.

DONALD

I saw on TV.

ROSIE

I just lived it. I need a beer. Where's Irene?

(Shivers.)

It's freezing in here. It's 85 outside and 35 inside. No wonder I get sick after Romeo lunches.

(Without warning.)

Where is everybody?

(And then, to GEORGE.)

Aren't you in the wrong seat?

DONALD

He's in my seat.

ROSIE

But you're in my seat.

GEORGE

Pick another seat. Change is opportunity.

ROSIE

I always sit there,

GEORGE

It's a whole new game.

ROSIE

(Motions to empty seats.)

These are right under the A-C ducts.

DONALD

(Motions above.)

That duct's half-closed. Try that seat.

ROSIE

(Moves to chair, obviously annoyed.)

What the fuck is this? Musical chairs?
(Puts on his jacket.)
I'm keepin' this on.
(Sits; looks at doorway.)
Where's Irene? I need a beer. Who's missing?
(Answers his own question.)
Dave. Who else?

DONALD

The new guy. What's his name? You remember?

ROSIE

The one who's buyin' Arnold's unit?
(Thinks.)
I met him. Arnold introduced me. Skinny guy.
Funny name.

GEORGE

That's what I was sayin'. He's got a first name
sounds like a last name.

ROSIE

(Thinks harder.)
Naw. Can't remember.

GEORGE

You like him?

ROSIE

I don't really know him. You like him?

GEORGE

Don't know him. That's why I was askin'.

ROSIE

(To DONALD.)
You know him?

DONALD

Uh uh. Met him once or twice in passing. Couple'a
days ago, he was in the laundry room loading a
washer when I was unloading the dryer and folding
my stuff. We chitchatted but nothing substantial.
Can't even remember his name.

ROSIE

Arnold put a St. Joseph statue in a flower pot in
his unit and he got his price from the new guy,
first week it was on the market. The St. Joseph
statue worked.

GEORGE

What's this?

ROSIE

St. Joseph is the patron saint of real estate or
somesuch. You don't know about this, George?

GEORGE

I'm not Catholic.

DONALD

Me, neither.

ROSIE

I'm not Catholic, either, but I'm gonna' try it,
just in case. You buy a little St. Joseph kit at
a Catholic religious store - there's one in
Boynton Beach. Arnold gave me the address. You
put the statue in a flower pot, cover it with
dirt with the flower on top ... with St. Joseph
standing right side up ... important. Then you
put the flower pot in the unit you're selling.

GEORGE

That's bullshit.

ROSIE

It works. Look how quick Arnold's unit sold to
the new guy.

KILEY (the new guy) pokes his head
into the room.

KILEY

Excuse me, is the Romeo lunch here?

(Spots DONALD.)

Oh, hey, Donald.

DONALD

Oh, hey. How's it goin'?

KILEY

Sorry I'm late. I was standing outside at the
rotary, waiting for the president's motorcade to
pass. Great turnout, but traffic was insane
afterwards. Took me forty minutes to go three
miles. Police cars everywhere.

(Enters.)

Wow. Cold in here.

(Moves to chair; nods to GEORGE.)

Hi.

(To DONALD.)

Okay to sit here?

DONALD

Sure.

Before KILEY can sit, DONALD makes introductions ... but doesn't know Kiley's name.

DONALD
You know everybody? This here's George.

GEORGE
Pleasure.

KILEY
We met at the pool after Donald wrecked his watch.

GEORGE
I remember.

DONALD
It's getting fixed.
(And then...)
This here's Rosie.

ROSIE
Pleasure.

KILEY
You were at the pool talking to Donald, right?

ROSIE
When's that?

GEORGE
When he jumped in with his watch.

DONALD
It was in my bathing suit pocket.

KILEY
(To ROSIE.)
I'm sorry for your loss. I've just been through that.

ROSIE
Your wife died?

KILEY
My Cairn terrier. I had to put her down.

ROSIE and GEORGE exchange a "What the fuck?" look. GEORGE shrugs.

ROSIE
I'm sorry for your loss.

KILEY

I mean, I know it's not like losing a wife, but losing a loved one is tough ... human, dog, or whatever, right?

(KILEY moves to window, looks outside.)

Great to find a place right on the water like this. Bunch of pelicans outside.

(No reply. KILEY smiles.)

So. Where should I sit?

GEORGE

You've got choices. Any of those.

KILEY

They're all kinda' under A-C ducts. I catch colds, easily.

ROSIE

It's Florida.

KILEY

(Chooses.)

This okay?

GEORGE

Go for it.

KILEY

I think I'll keep my jacket on.

(And then.)

Anybody else expected?

DONALD

Dave ... from the North Building?

KILEY

Right. I know Dave.

DONALD

And maybe Pacqui.

GEORGE

I wouldn't bet on Pacqui comin'.

DONALD

He said he might.

DONALD looks at GEORGE, mimes the words "What's his name?". GEORGE shrugs.

KILEY smiles at the GUYS

KILEY

I'm buying Arnold's place.

DONALD

I heard.

ROSIE

I heard.

GEORGE

I heard.

KILEY

Meeting the Board on Tuesday night. Any tips?

GEORGE

Don't try to kiss Mary-Louise.

KILEY

Which one is Mary-Louise?

GEORGE

Our president.

KILEY

Isn't she about 90?

GEORGE

That's what I'm sayin'.

The MEN laugh. KILEY is confused.

KILEY

I wouldn't want to, really.

GEORGE

I was just sayin'.

DONALD

Where's Arnold movin' to?

KILEY

I think he's buying a place in Pleasure Village,
down in Delray.

GEORGE

Pleasure Village?

KILEY

Something like that. He told me the name, but I
can't remember exactly. Names down here make me
laugh. Serene Estates, Happy Farms, Peaceful
Acres, Lake Bliss ... and then, you've got all

the pretentious British names: The Cornwall...
Aberdeen Acres, The Prince Charles...

GEORGE

(Suddenly, with inappropriate
anger.)

What the fuck's your name?!

KILEY steps back, surprised,
worried. DONALD giggles.

KILEY

Excuse me?

GEORGE

Your name. What's your name?

KILEY

(After a pause.)

Kiley. Kiley Robb.

ROSIE

That's it.

DONALD

That's it.

GEORGE

It's Kiley Robb, not Rob Kiley? ... Sounds
backwards.

KILEY

I know. My mother's maiden name was Kiley, and my
father's last name was Robb ... two Bs.

GEORGE

You sure? You were born that way?

KILEY

Absolutely.

GEORGE

Something's odd there. Sounds backwards to me.

ROSIE

George thinks Steely Dan was really a guy named
Dan Steely.

DONALD laughs.

DONALD

Good one.

GEORGE
Could'a been Dan Steely. Google him.

DONALD
Where did you grow up?

KILEY
Oh, you know, here and there.

GEORGE
Here and there?

KILEY
Yuh, here and there. I'm an Army brat.

ROSIE
Oh. Right.

GEORGE
Whose Army?

ROSIE and DONALD give GEORGE a
“What's with you?” look.

GEORGE
What? I'm just askin'. Could've been Canadian.

KILEY
USA. We lived all over.

ROSIE
Overseas kinda' thing?

KILEY
Oh yuh. That too.

DONALD
You never got married?

KILEY
Oh yuh, I did ... once or twice.

GEORGE
Once or twice?

KILEY
Twice. The second one was quick.
(Beat.)
Two divorces.

ROSIE
Rugged.

DONALD
Kids?

KILEY
I'd rather not say.

GEORGE
... If you have kids? You'd rather not say if you have kids?

KILEY
It's, you know, a complicated divorce situation. I don't like talking about it.

ROSIE
So, where did you live just before coming here?

KILEY
Places. Around. Like I said, here and there.

ROSIE exchanges a knowing glance with GEORGE and DONALD.

GEORGE
Up North?

KILEY
Couple'a times.

DONALD
New York?

KILEY
Not really.
(Long pause. And then...)
I tried living in New York. I didn't like it. Filthy and hectic.

DONALD
Dave's from New York. He always says it was great growing up there. He's got a million stories.

KILEY
Yuh, well, maybe if you're born there.

DONALD
I'm from Boston. Ever lived there?

KILEY
Yuh, as a matter of fact, I did. Just for a while.

ROSIE
Kiley's an Irish name, right?

KILEY

My mother had some Irish in her, I think.

ROSIE

“Kiley” sounds like Boston.

GEORGE

Where was she from? Your mother.

KILEY

My mother? Here and there. Middle of the country somewhere, mostly.

GEORGE and ROSIE share a discreet
“palms-up” shrug.

DONALD

When you lived in Boston, were you in the city of Boston or out in the suburbs? I’m from the North Shore.

KILEY

I lived in the city for a while.

DONALD

College kind of thing?

KILEY

No, not really.

ROSIE

You go to college?

KILEY

Never finished. I wasn’t, like, a distinguished student.

ROSIE

College up North or down here?

KILEY

Here and there.

GEORGE

Word is you paid Arnold his askin’ price.

KILEY

Oh well, no, not really.

DONALD

Oh?

GEORGE
See that?

ROSIE
You go way under?

KILEY
Actually, I may have gone a bit over.
(Beat.)
I wanted to be sure I got it.
(Beat.)
I like his place a lot. Happy to finally own something.

GEORGE
You never owned nothing?

KILEY
Not so much, really.

GEORGE
How old are you? You have to be fifty-five for our place.

KILEY
Oh, yuh. I qualify okay.
(Looks at his watch. And then...)
Are we gonna order our food?

GEORGE
We're still waiting on a couple of guys.

ROSIE
Where the hell's Irene?

DONALD
We're waiting on Dave and maybe Pacqui.

ROSIE
Pacqui's not coming.

GEORGE
He told you definite?

ROSIE
No, but he never comes. Not since you two argued.

GEORGE
He was way out of line.

ROSIE
I'm just sayin'.

GEORGE

(To KILEY.)

Why don't you go out front and ask for Irene?

DONALD

She's our waitress.

KILEY

Oh. Okay. I can do that.

KILEY exits the room. As soon as
HE's out of earshot...

ROSIE

Witness Protection, I'm tellin' ya's!

DONALD

He's pretty oddball.

ROSIE

Witness Protection. He's hiding out.

GEORGE

Could be.

DONALD

I don't think Witness Protection people buy
apartments. I think they rent and pretty much
live with their suitcases packed.

ROSIE

Man's got serious secrets. It's obvious. Lived
here and there, won't talk about his kids...

GEORGE

Phoney fuckin' made-up name!

DONALD

He's pretty slippery with his answers, I'll give
you that.

GEORGE

My hunch is he ratted somebody out and got
Witness Protection as a trade-off.

ROSIE

How old do you think he is? He looks youngish.

GEORGE

Probably fifty-five on the button or thereabouts.

ROSIE

He's gonna' hav'ta' show ID to the board, plus info for a background check. "Here and there" doesn't cut it.

GEORGE

He looks a ton younger than us.

ROSIE

Everybody looks a ton younger than us! I read the obits in my Miami Herald every morning. Half the dead people look a ton younger than us.

GEORGE

You still get the paper delivered?

ROSIE

Uh uh. I read it online.

GEORGE

You hav'ta pay for that?

ROSIE

Doesn't cost much. You gotta' keep up.

DONALD

I read the New York Times online.

ROSIE

There you go.

DONALD

I was exactly fifty-five when I bought our place. Eleanor was fifty-six, a year older than me.

GEORGE

Same as us. I was fifty-six and Cookie was fifty-five. Different planet then.

ROSIE

My parents bought our place when I was still a kid. Maybe thirteen. I loved coming' down here on vacations. Then, I started comin' down here with Ruthie afta' my parents passed. Ruthie started out sayin' she'd rather be dead than be livin' in Florida, but she ended up lovin' it here. Really lovin' it?

DONALD

Your parents live here full time, Rosie?

ROSIE

Uh uh. They were snowbirds till they retired. They both worked for a golf course outside

Baltimore. Fancy private club. My father was headwaiter in the dining room, my mother worked in the office. They would come back here as soon as the club closed down for the winter.

(Beat.)

I was already a teenager when they started comin' down here Wintah's. I stayed with my Aunt Bootsie, my mother's sister. She lived upstairs from us and I would stay put with her till school vacations, then I hotfooted it down here by Greyhound. Back in the day, there would be twenty-thirty kids my age staying here during school vacations. I had plenty of friends here.

DONALD

I never knew this.

ROSIE

Sure. And I'll tell ya's something else ... My old man never missed a Romeo lunch. Never. There could be maybe twenty guys at the Romeo lunches, back then.

(Beat.)

My folks had good friends livin' in our building when I was growin' up. Good friends. My father and his cronies used'ta throw horseshoes for quarters ... every Tuesday and Thursday, three o'clock sharp ... in Bryant Park, down from us. I used'ta watch. My mother had her Canasta club. Maybe twenty-thirty women playin' and gabbin', nonstop.

(Beat.)

They had good friends.

DONALD

We're good friends.

GEORGE

Speak for yourself, Don.

ROSIE laughs, but then...

ROSIE

Not the same without the girls, is it? Doreen and Ruthie and Cookie were really fun-lovin'. Angela and Evelyn, too. Not the same without them.

(Chokes back a sob.)

Chokes me up to think about them.

DONALD

We had great times.

GEORGE

I've still got Cookie's stuff hanging in her walk-in closet. I gave a bunch of her stuff to Goodwill, but I don't need the closet space. I've got my own walk-in, so, ya' know, I left most of her stuff hanging. It's not hurting anybody and, ya' know, for me it's, ya' know, memories.

ROSIE sobs and turns away; regains control.

ROSIE

I can't bring myself to throw anything of Ruthie's away. I even go outside every morning and deadhead the Hibiscus bushes by the clubhouse, like she did, and I put a few Hibiscus blossoms in glasses of water around the apartment, like she did.

(Sobs.)

I've got'ta stop doin' it, because, honest ta' God, it makes me so ... fuckin' ... sad. I get back in the apartment with the Hibiscus blossoms and I'm a fuckin' wreck.

ROSIE wipes away a tear. DONALD reaches across and pats ROSIE's shoulder, awkwardly, in the way men try to console other men.

KILEY re-enters.

KILEY

The owner says Irene called in from her car. She's stuck in terrible traffic and I should take your drink order. It's busy out front. He's got nobody else for the back room here.

(Sees ROSIE's upset.)

You okay?

ROSIE

Sure. Dirt's blowin' out of the A-C duct. Got in my eyes.

GEORGE

He's okay.

KILEY

You want to tell me what you want to drink? I'll bring it in to the bar.

DONALD

Do you mind doin' that?

KILEY

Happy to. I worked as a waiter when I was younger.

GEORGE

Oh yuh? Where like?

KILEY

Oh, well ... here and there. What are you drinking?

ROSIE

Beer. Bud on draft.

GEORGE

Same as Rosie.

DONALD

Cranberry juice and soda water. I don't drink.

KILEY

Got it. Be right back.

The MEN watch KILEY leave the room. And then...

DONALD

You notice how he didn't write our orders down?

GEORGE

Two Buds and a cranberry juice. Even I can remember that.

DONALD

Uh uh. Two draft Buds, plus a cranberry juice and soda water. He didn't write anything down, 'cause he was a waiter. He remembers perfect.

ROSIE

He's also twenty/twenty-five years younger than us, so he remembers.

DONALD

Seriously. I got a hundred percent waiter-vibe from him then.

ROSIE

Okay, so, he was a waiter at some point. I was a Boy Scout and delivered newspapers at some point. What does that prove?

GEORGE

You make Eagle?

ROSIE

What's this?

GEORGE

Eagle Scout. You make Eagle?

ROSIE

Not even Pigeon. Only thing I learned in Boy Scouts was how to hold a cigarette and how to jerk off.

DONALD

(To ROSIE.)

George was sayin' that Pacqui listed his place.

ROSIE

Yuh, Arnold told me.

DONALD

Unbelievable. Where's Pacqui thinking of goin'?

ROSIE

West Coast, near Tampa. Angela's sister's there with her husband.

DONALD

That's why he's goin' there?

ROSIE

I think he's fed up here. I dunno'.

GEORGE

He told you that? He said "I'm fed up here"?

ROSIE

Yuh. I dunno. I don't wanna' get into the middle of nothin'.

GEORGE

That's what he said?

ROSIE

What's between you and Pacqui is private stuff, George. It should stay between the two of ya's.

GEORGE

He's the one talkin' ta' people, not me.

ROSIE

Well, Jesus, Georgie, I kinda' think he's got that privilege and maybe you don't, given what went on.

GEORGE

What went on?

ROSIE

I don't wanna' get into the middle of this,
George.

GEORGE

What the fuck went on?

ROSIE

You want me to say it out loud?

GEORGE

Yuh, Rosie. Say it out loud.

ROSIE

You kinda had a thing with Angela.

GEORGE

Oh really? Were you there? Did you see something?

ROSIE

I'm just sayin', George. 'Course I saw nothin'.
I'm just repeating what Pacqui told me.

GEORGE

Why? He's got pictures? You saw pictures, so
that's why you believe him and not me?
(Angrily.)

I'm asking you a fucking question, Rosie. Did
Pacqui show you pictures?

ROSIE

No.

GEORGE

No what?

ROSIE

No, Pacqui did not show me pictures, George.

GEORGE

So, why would you believe him and not me?

DONALD

Guys, let's just have our lunch, huh?

GEORGE

Oh, really, Donny? If it were you Pacqui was
tellin' bullshit stories about, would you just
eat your lunch, or would you wanna straighten
things out?

DONALD

I don't know.

ROSIE

This is something you and Pacqui hav'ta resolve without puttin' me or Donny in the middle.

GEORGE

But I'm askin' you a real question, Rosie. If you weren't there seein' stuff, and you haven't seen pictures or any kind of proof besides the bullshit that Pacqui speaks from his warped fuckin' mind, how come you don't believe ME? How come you believe HIM? That kinda' puts you in the middle of this, don't it?

KILEY arrives at the door carrying a drinks tray. DONALD spots him.

DONALD

Cool it! The new guy!

KILEY

(Brightly.)

Two draft Buds. One cranberry juice and soda.

KILEY serves the drinks.

DONALD

Thank you.

GEORGE

Thank you.

ROSIE

Thank you.

KILEY

(Lifts whiskey glass from the tray.)

And a scotch and water for the waiter.

(Drinks.)

DONALD

Wow. You can drink whiskey in the daytime?

KILEY

After twelve-thirty or one, I figure it's street-legal.

(Raises his glass in a toast.)

Cheers. To Romeo.

(EVERYBODY drinks. And then...)

KILEY

Why's it called Romeo?

DONALD

Retired Old Men Eating Out. Rosie's father named it, years ago.

ROSIE

My father named it. There are Romeo lunches all over. He went to one in Miami, and came back and named the lunch group "Romeo". And it stuck.

KILEY

(Raises his glass.)

To Rosie's father.

ROSIE

Julius.

KILEY

To Julius.

ROSIE, DONALD AND GEORGE

To Julius.

ROSIE

(Downs his beer.)

Just what I needed.

(And then.)

Anybody mind if I open the window, let some warm air in here? I'm freezing in here.

GEORGE

Go for it.

ROSIE opens the window overlooking the Intracoastal.

ROSIE

Must be twenty pelicans out there.

GEORGE

Must be somebody fishing.

ROSIE

Two guys. Pelicans are smart. Fisherman use bait to draw the fish in, pelicans grab half of them.

KILEY

You all know what you want to eat?

GEORGE

You takin' our orders?

KILEY

Happy to. I told the manager I would. The waitress who covers the back room is still stuck in traffic. You know what you want?

DONALD

I always get the haddock special with a sweet potato and a side salad.

KILEY

Haddock special with a sweet potato and a side salad. Got it. George?

GEORGE

You're not writing stuff down?

KILEY

No need.

GEORGE

You're kidding.

KILEY

No need.

GEORGE

Egg plant parm, hold the garlic, side of pasta.

KILEY

Egg plant parm, hold the garlic, side of pasta. Got it. Rosie.

ROSIE

Dinner-size Caesar salad, double anchovies.

KILEY

Dinner-size Caesar salad, double anchovies. Got it.

(To DONALD.)

I'm going to try the haddock special myself. Sounds yummy.

(Smiles.)

I'll turn these in and be right back.

KILEY exits. There is a small astonished pause.

GEORGE

He wrote nothing down.

DONALD

I'm tellin' ya's ... That is a definite waiter.

Offstage, we hear DAVE speaking to KILEY.

DAVE (OFF.)

Steak tips, medium rare, mashed potatoes, hold the gravy, definitely. I'm on a diet.

DONALD

Dave. He must be giving the new guy his order.

KILEY (OFF.)

Got it.

DAVE (OFF.)

You wanna write that down?

KILEY (OFF.)

No need. I've got it. Steak tips, medium rare, mashed potatoes, hold the gravy, definitely.

DAVE enters. HE is limping.

DAVE

Ninety fuckin' minutes to drive three miles! I did my Thursday hot Yoga class upstairs on Lake Street. Pulled something in my groin. Killin' me! I leave class early to not be late getting' here, limp down the goddam stairs, hop in my car. As soon as I get on AlA, the cops stop me, pull me over and inspect my car. They have me standing outside the car with my hands on my head like I'm caught sellin' drugs. Then, they turn me back to the bridge and I hav'ta drive all the way around in traffic that looks like a parking lot. What are we? At war?

(To DONALD.)

You see the pelicans out there? Must be twenty of 'em. Weird-lookin'.

DONALD

Two guys fishing, attracting the fish .. and the fish attract the pelicans.

DAVE

(To ROSIE.)

You're in my seat.

ROSIE

Donny's in my seat.

DONALD

George is in my seat.

GEORGE

Change is opportunity, Dave.

DAVE

My seat is my seat.

(And then...)

My groin is killin' me.

(To ROSIE.)

Get out of my seat.

ROSIE

(Stands. And then, to DONALD.)

Get out of my seat.

DONALD stands. DAVE sits in his regular seat. ROSIE sits in his regular seat.

DONALD squares off with GEORGE.

DONALD

That's my seat, George.

GEORGE

Not today.

DONALD

For God's sake, George. You're in my seat.

GEORGE

You got four seats to choose from, Donny. Choose.

DONALD

You're in my seat.

GEORGE

(Motions to KILEY's seat.)

Sit there.

DONALD

That's the new guy's seat.

GEORGE

So? He can move.

ROSIE

You're bein' an asshole, George.

GEORGE

Takes one to know one.

DAVE

Sit anywhere, Donny. It don't matter.

DONALD

Yuh, but that's my seat.

DAVE

Take a breath. Think. Is it worth it?

DONALD

Yuh, but it's my seat. I always sit there.

DAVE

George is having his period. We have to be understanding.

DONALD sits in KILEY's seat.

DONALD

I don't like this.

DAVE

They teach us in hot Yoga how to deal with stress. Deep breaths, in and out. In through the nose, out through the mouth.

(Demonstrates.)

In through the nose, out through the mouth.

EVERYONE but GEORGE takes a deep breath.

DAVE

In through the nose, out through the mouth.

There is a small silence that DAVE breaks...

DAVE

So, listen up. Pacqui got some terrible news. Did any of ya's hear?

GEORGE

What's this?

DAVE

This is no joke. Listen up.

DONALD

His cancer's back?

DAVE

Big time. They're not gonna' operate or nothing, this time. It's too far gone.

DONALD

Oh my God!

ROSIE

He told you this?

DAVE

Just a while ago. He had a scan at Good Sam, yesterday, and got the call from his doctor this morning. He went in and sat with the doctor, face to face, got the news. I saw him in the parking lot when I was heading out to go to hot Yoga, and he looked, ya' know, very upset ... so, I asked "What's up, Pacqui?" and he blurted it out.

DONALD

And it's definite?

DAVE

Definite. He's had three surgeries already. The doctor told him it'll be whack-a-mole if they go in again. The cancer's everywhere.

ROSIE

Is he in pain?

DAVE

You know Pacqui. He's never been a complainer.

DONALD

How much time did they give him?

DAVE

I wasn't gonna' ask him that! C'mon, Donny.

ROSIE

Oh my God! Every day, now, it's somebody.

DONALD

That's terrible news. Is that why he listed his place?

DAVE

That was before. I don't know what he's gonna' do, now.

(And then...)

It's freezing in here. It was, like, a hundred in hot Yoga, and it's gotta be fifty in here.

(Groans.)

Ooo. My groin is killin' me. I must've torn something important.

KILEY re-enters.

KILEY

(Brightly.)

Your orders are in.

(To DONALD.)

You're in my seat.

DONALD

We all moved around. George is in my seat, so ...

DONALD stands, offers KILEY his seat.

DONALD

Here. Take it.

KILEY

I can sit over there if you don't want to move.

DONALD

No. Your seat is your seat.

(Motions to empty seat.)

I'll sit there.

KILEY

You sure? It's a direct hit from the A-C duct.

DONALD

It's okay. I've got my jacket.

KILEY

(Motions to empty chair.)

I've got no problem sitting there.

DONALD

That's Pacqui's seat.

ROSIE

Pacqui's not coming.

DONALD

Still and all.

(Stands; motions for KILEY to sit down.)

Here. Sit.

KILEY sits. DONALD continues to stand.

There is a small silence. And then...

KILEY

I can't get used to the A-C down here. Roasting hot outside and freezing inside.

DAVE

Where'd you live before you moved here?

KILEY

Oh, you know ... here and there.

DAVE

Up North, like?

KILEY

Sometimes, yuh.

DAVE

What brought you down here?

KILEY

Weather, mostly. Nice warm winters. I like a swimming pool.

DONALD

You a swimmer?

KILEY

Not really. I just paddle.

ROSIE

But you keep yourself in shape.

KILEY

I guess.

DAVE

You full-time here or snowbirding?

KILEY

I'm here.

DONALD

He bought Arnold's place.

DAVE

I know this.

KILEY

(Changing the subject.)

Anybody see the new movie in the little movie theatre downtown? It was excellent.

DONALD

Which movie?

KILEY

It's a documentary about Jews in Miami. I saw it last night.

DONALD

I thought they were showing a French movie.

KILEY

They just changed from the French movie to this one.

DONALD

You Jewish?

KILEY

Me? No.

DONALD

Didn't think so, not with a name like Kiley.
(Beat.)
Rosie's Jewish.

ROSIE

Yuh, so?

DONALD

Just sayin'. He said the movie was about Jews in Miami.

ROSIE

Yuh, well, I haven't been to a movie in a long while.

KILEY

It was excellent.

DONALD

I've got a membership. I go to just about everything they show.

ROSIE

Ruthie liked movies. Anything with Meryl Streep, she'd make me go.

KILEY

Excellent actress. First rate.

DONALD

"Sophie's Choice".

KILEY

Streep and Kevin Kline. Great casting.

DAVE

You in the movie business?

KILEY

Oh, God, no. Why? Are you?

DAVE

Me? Nothin' like that. I drove a cab in New York for fifty years. I had Warren Beatty's secretary in my cab once. That's the closest I ever came to movies.

DONALD

Good actor. I liked "Reds" a lot.

KILEY

Excellent movie.

DAVE

"Reds"?

DONALD

About a Communist.

KILEY

John Reed.

DONALD

I think that's right.

KILEY

Warren Beatty starred and directed.

DONALD

I think that's right.

DAVE

Oh yuh, I also had Red Buttons in my cab, once, years back. He was on TV. Nice guy.

GEORGE

(To KILEY.)

You like movies about Communists?

ROSIE

Jesus, George!

GEORGE

What? I'm just askin'.

KILEY

I'm not a Communist if that's what you're asking.

GEORGE

No offense meant.

KILEY

No offense taken.

GEORGE

Just curious, 'cause, ya' know, you brought up that particular movie.

DONALD

I brought up the movie, George. You think I'm a Communist?

GEORGE

You don't wanna know what I think you are, Don.

KILEY

I do support Planned Parenthood and Medicare for all.

ROSIE

Oh yuh? Where did you vote? Down here?

KILEY

I wasn't living down here then.

(Beat.)

I didn't vote. I never registered. It's a regret. I should have voted.

DAVE

I voted. I didn't like her much but I still voted for her.

ROSIE

Same here.

DONALD

I liked her.

DAVE

Didn't matter. The Russians put him in.

DONALD

You think so?

DAVE

You kidding me? You think he's up Putin's ass for no reason?

PACQUI enters. HE is in a anxious state.

PACQUI

I could've got here faster in a canoe! ... Two hours from downtown Lake Worth to here, three miles. Incredible! It's a zoo out there!

ROSIE

I didn't think you were coming.

PACQUI
I had good reason to be here.

DONALD
Come, sit, Pacqui. I saved your seat.

PACQUI
You're in my seat.

DONALD
Isn't your seat next to Rosie?

PACQUI
Next to Dave.

DAVE
Next to me.

PACQUI
Dave's next to Rosie.

ROSIE
Dave's always next to me.

DONALD
George is in my seat.

ROSIE
Bring a seat over from the other table.

DONALD
Yuh, I can do that, but I'm usually sitting there.

ROSIE
Let it go, Donny.

DONALD
Yuh, but...

ROSIE
Let it go.

DAVE
In through the nose, out through the mouth.

PACQUI
What are you sayin', Dave?

DONALD
Hot Yoga.

(To DAVE.)
How's your groin?

DAVE
Easing up. Sitting helps.

PACQUI
What's with you two?

DONALD drags chairs over to table,
places it next to KILEY.

DONALD
Everybody okay with my sitting here?

ROSIE
Fine.

KILEY
Fine.

DAVE
Fine.

PACQUI sits in his regular seat.

PACQUI
You're not sayin' much, George.

GEORGE
Got nothin' ta' say.

PACQUI
(To ALL.)
It's Angela's birthday today.

DONALD
Really?

ROSIE
Oh, yuh? Wow! That year flew by.

DONALD
(To KILEY.)
Pacqui's wife Angela died on her birthday.

KILEY
Ooo, rugged stuff. Sad.

PACQUI
Five years. Fifth anniversary.

DAVE
What a day you're havin', Pac!

DONALD

You know Kiley, Pacqui? Kiley, this is Pacqui.

KILEY

Kiley Robb. Robb with two Bs.

PACQUI

Pleasure, Rob.

KILEY

That's Kiley.

PACQUI

Right.

(And then, to ROSIE...)

I'm staving. You order already?

ROSIE

While ago. We didn't think you were coming.

KILEY

I'll take your order.

PACQUI

What's this?

DAVE

He can take it.

KILEY

The waitress is stuck in traffic.

DONALD

Irene's phoned in a bunch of times from her car.

KILEY

I'm just helping out.

PACQUI

So, I should tell you my order?

KILEY

I'll run it in to the cook.

PACQUI

Okay. So, I take the meatloaf special with double fries instead of spinach.

DONALD

Pacqui hates spinach.

PACQUI

I don't even like sayin' the name. And don't even mention the K-word.

DONALD

Kale.

PACQUI

(Mock disgust.)

Ooo. You said it out loud.

(And then to KILEY.)

You got it? Meatloaf special, double fries instead of spinach.

KILEY

Got it.

PACQUI

You don't hav'ta' write it down?

KILEY

I've got it. Meatloaf special, double fries instead of spinach.

DONALD

He was a waiter when he was young.

PACQUI

He's pretty young now. How old are you?

KILEY

Oh, I'm definitely over 55. I'm legal.

PACQUI

I'm missing something.

DONALD

Kiley's meeting with the Board on Tuesday night. He's got to prove he's over 55.

ROSIE

He's buying Arnold's condo.

PACQUI

I know that. I was the one who told you.

KILEY

What are you drinking?

PACQUI

Champagne. Bring a bottle of good stuff.

KILEY

Veuve Cliquot, Dom Perignon, Perrier Jouet?

PACQUI

You pick. Make it good. And bring five champagne glasses.

KILEY

We're six.

PACQUI

Five glasses. Nothing for George.

GEORGE

Here we go.

KILEY

I'll bring it right away.

KILEY exits.

PACQUI

Angela's birthday, George. That mean something to you?

GEORGE

Don't start in again, Pacqui, huh? We're all here for a lunch.

PACQUI

I asked you a question, George. Does Angela's birthday mean anything to you?

PACQUI takes a gun out of his pocket and puts it on the table.

EVERYBODY is shocked.

ROSIE

What the hell?

GEORGE

You crazy or what?

DAVE

What are you doin', Pacqui?

DONALD

Is that loaded, Pacqui?

PACQUI

'Course it's loaded. I'm waiting for an answer, George.

GEORGE

What's your question, Pacqui?

PACQUI

I asked you if Angela's birthday means anything to you.

GEORGE

Not a lot. Why?

PACQUI

'Cause, that's when I found the two of ya's together in the Gulfstream Hotel.

GEORGE

You're out of your fuckin' mind!

PACQUI

Am I?

(Aims the gun at GEORGE.)

Am I?

ROSIE

Jesus, Pacqui, don't!

DONALD

Hey! Whoa!

DAVE

Use your head, Pacqui.

GEORGE

You're a crazy person!

PACQUI

Tell them, George.

GEORGE

You got dropped on your head.

PACQUI moves closer, aims gun at GEORGE's ear; screams.

PACQUI

TELL THEM!

GEORGE

We've been through this a hundred times! I bumped into Angela in front of the hotel and she was crying. She was crying because it was her birthday and you and her had a fight. I went inside with her and we had ice coffee together and she told me a lot of shit about you bein' crazy jealous with her, if you wanna' know the truth. She said she was talkin' to Gregory, the mailman, and you went crazy on her, sayin' she was planning something with Gregory. On my wife's grave, I swear nothin' went on between Angela and me more than two glasses of ice coffee.

PACQUI
You're lyin', George.
(To ALL.)
He's lyin'.

GEORGE
I give up.

ROSIE
What if he isn't lying, Pacqui? What if he's
tellin' the truth?

DAVE
Try deep breaths, Pacqui. In through your nose.

PACQUI
What the fuck is with you, Dave?

DAVE
You're just stressed out because of you know
what?

DONALD
The cancer.

PACQUI
You told everybody?

DAVE
Yuh, well, I thought the guys oughta' know. We're
a tight group. We've all been through a lot
together. We've all lost wives.

DONALD
Not Kiley. He's divorced.

ROSIE
He lost his dog.

PACQUI
So, you know what's goin' on with me. I got no
reason to hold back now, George. I'm on a
downhill to nowhere. I got no reason to let you
live.

GEORGE
So, fuckin' shoot me, Pacqui. It ain't gonna
change what's true. What's true is true! Nothin'
happened between me and Angela, ever. Nothing!

PACQUI
That's not what Angela told me, George.

GEORGE

What's this?

PACQUI

She told me right at the end and she begged me to forgive her.

GEORGE

You're making that up. You have a sick fuckin' mind.

PACQUI

You think so? You think so?

KILEY re-enters carrying tray with bottle of Veuve Cliquot and five champagne glasses, HE sets tray down on table, turns, sees PACQUI with gun in GEORGE's ear and is shocked.

KILEY

What's happening?

PACQUI

(Turns away from GEORGE to explain to KILEY.)

I'm about to kill this lying son of a bitch.

In a quick move, GEORGE grabs gun from PACQUI's hand and tosses it.

KILEY catches gun and is beyond terrified.

KILEY

Oh my God!

Kiley tosses gun to DAVE, who catches the gun in a deft move.

DAVE

Jesus, be careful! It's loaded!

KILEY jumps under the table, whacks his head.

KILEY

Ow! Dammit!

DAVE tosses the gun to DONALD, who catches the gun...

DONALD

I don't want it!

DONALD tosses gun to ROSIE.

DONALD sees KILEY on floor, kneels next to him. There's blood on Kiley's forehead.

DONALD

Kiley cut his head.

DAVE

Get the goddam gun out'ta here!

ROSIE runs gun to window, throws gun outside.

ROSIE

I tossed it. It's in the water.

WE HEAR voice of FISHERMAN calling from outside in Spanish.

FISHERMAN (OFF.)

¡Oye! ¿Quién está tirando cosas? ¡Me has echado de menos! (Hey! Who's throwing stuff. You just missed me!)

DAVE joins ROSIE at the window.

THEY call to OTHERS in room, reporting on what is transpiring outside the window.

DAVE

A pelican dove down and grabbed the gun from the water!

ROSIE

Pelican's got the gun in his mouth!

DAVE

He's eating it!

ROSIE

He's flying toward us!

DAVE

He's flying towards us!

WE HEAR a GUNSHOT, off, and the sound of many PELICANS screeching.

ROSIE

The gun went off!

DAVE

Jesus! The gun went off!

ROSIE

Killed the pelican! Boom! Feathers flying everywhere!

DAVE

The bird must've swallowed the gun!

WE SEE FEATHERS flying past window.

WE HEAR FISHERMAN's voice in Spanish, off.

FISHERMAN (OFF.)

¡Oye! Alguien le disparó al pelícano! (Hey! Somebody shot the pelican!)

GEORGE

(To PACQUI.)

You brought a loaded gun to lunch, asshole?

IRENE calls from the doorway. SHE is in a state.

IRENE

Four effing hours get here from West Palm! Five miles, four hours! Cops everywhere. They made me get out of my car and stand on the beach. I thought they were gonna' strip-search me.

(And then...)

Who needs what?

(Sees KILEY on floor under table, blood on his forehead. And then...)

Hey! What's goin' on here? What goin' on?!

BACKOUT.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO: MAINS AND DESSERT.

Twenty minutes later.

The MEN stand, surround PACQUI, who sits at table, head down.

GEORGE has remained in his seat.

KILEY is also sitting, head down, has three band-aids clustered on his forehead.

DAVE

Just apologize.

PACQUI

Not even when I'm dead.

DONALD

C'mon, Pacqui. You don't mean it.

PACQUI

I mean it, Donny! I absolutely mean it!

ROSIE

You don't bring a loaded gun to lunch, Pacqui.

PACQUI

This is Florida. You can bring a loaded gun anywhere you want.

DAVE

(To KILEY.)

You okay?

KILEY

I'm okay. Thanks. I looked in the mirror in the men's room. The bleeding stopped. It's just superficial.

(And then...)

I shouldn't have panicked like that. It was a knee-jerk reaction. I hate guns.

ROSIE

We can understand your upset, Pacqui. You got the worst fucking news, today, but threatening George with a loaded gun isn't gonna' make your cancer go away or bring Angela back.

PACQUI

I didn't bring a gun here to *threaten* George. I brought my gun to *kill* the son of a bitch.

GEORGE

You hear this lunatic?

DAVE

I've got a bad heart, Pacqui. I don't need this kind of bullshit. None of us needs it.

ROSIE

Just drop it, Pacqui.

DONALD

That was a nice catch, Dave.

(To KILEY.)

Dave caught a Ted Williams home run when he was a kid.

DAVE

My friend Richie in Queens had a cousin who caught a baby that fell out of a window.

KILEY

Oh my God! Is that true?

DAVE

Third story window. Honest ta' God. Bruised the cousin's arms, but the kid was fine.

IRENE calls from the door.

IRENE

Soup's on!

IRENE sweeps into the room carrying enormous tray from which SHE serves the MEN their meals.

IRENE

(Serves DONALD.)

Donny, you're the haddock special with a baked potato and a side salad, yes?

DONALD

My potato's sweet not baked.

IRENE

This one's got baked.

KILEY

I'm having the haddock special with the baked potato. Donald has the sweet potato.

IRENE

(As SHE serves KILEY.)

They've both got baked.

DONALD

I always get sweet.

IRENE

(To DONALD.)

Not a problem. I'll take your baked back and bring you a sweet.

KILEY

Sorry, Don. My bad.

DONALD

It's okay. Irene's gonna fix it.

(To IRENE.)

Thanks, Irene.

KILEY

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

(And then, to GEORGE as SHE serves his meal.)

George, you're egg plant parm, right?

GEORGE

That's me.

IRENE

(Serves ROSIE.)

Rosie, you're the dinner-size Caesar salad, no anchovies, yes?

ROSIE

I'm double anchovies.

IRENE

This one's got no anchovies.

ROSIE

I always get double.

IRENE

Not a problem. I can bring anchovies.

ROSIE

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

(Serves DAVE.)

Dave, you got the steak tips, medium rare, mashed potatoes heavy on the gravy.

DAVE

No gravy! No gravy! I'm on a diet.

KILEY

I thought you said "heavy on the gravy".

DAVE

I said "No gravy."

KILEY

Sorry. I heard you wrong. My bad, definitely.

IRENE

I'll bring you clean mashed, Dave. Not a problem.

DAVE

Thanks, Irene.

KILEY

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem, not a problem.

(And then, to PACQUI...)

Pacqui, you're meatloaf, no fries, double spinach.

PACQUI

(To KILEY.)

What is this? A joke?

(To IRENE.)

Double fries, no spinach. I gave up spinach for Lent.

DAVE

You gave up spinach for Lent?

PACQUI

You got a problem with that?

DAVE

Cool it, Pacqui.

ROSIE

I gave up not drinking for Lent.

IRENE

(Takes order pad and pen from her pocket.)

Oh boy. Let me write this all down so I don't forget.

(To KILEY.)

Yours okay?

KILEY

Mine's fine.

GEORGE

(To KILEY.)

This parm reeks of garlic! You got it all wrong.

(Calls out to IRENE.)

Irene, my egg plant parm reeks of garlic, I can't eat this.

IRENE

Not a problem, George. I'll put in a fresh order and mark it "Hurry". It's pretty dead out front. Should be quick.

(And then...)

Donny, sweet potato. Rosie, double anchovies. Dave, clean mashed, no gravy. George, new egg plant parm, no garlic. Pacqui, double fries, I'll take back the spinach. Drinks? George?

GEORGE

Draft Bud.

IRENE

Got it. Pacqui?

PACQUI

Me too. Draft Bud.

IRENE

Got it. Rosie?

ROSIE

Bottle of Beck's.

IRENE

Got it. Donny? An Arnold Palmer?

DONALD

Yes, please.

IRENE

Got it. Dave?

DAVE

Cranberry and soda, light on the cranberry.

KILEY

Sounds good. I'll have that, too. Cranberry and soda.

IRENE writes down drinks orders.
And then...

IRENE
Got it. Anything else? Anybody?

DONNY
That's it.

PACQUI
That's it, Irene.

DAVE
That's it.

GEORGE
I'm good.

ROSIE
That's all for me.

KILEY
I'm good. Thanks, Irene.

IRENE
(To KILEY.)
Not a problem. Thank you for helpin' out.
(To ALL.)
Thanks, guys. I'll hustle back with your changes.

DONNY
Thanks, Irene.

PACQUI
Thanks, Irene.

DAVE
Thanks, Irene.

ROSIE
Thanks, Irene.

IRENE
Not a problem, guys.

As soon as IRENE is out of the room, PACQUI picks up a chair and runs at GEORGE.

PACQUI
Arrrrgh!

ROSIE
Hey! Grab him!

Stop him! DONALD

Get out of my way! PACQUI

DAVE and ROSIE grab PACQUI and will make him sit in the chair with which he intended to kill GEORGE.

Sit! ROSIE
(As if commanding a dog.)

Sit! DAVE
(The same.)

Sit! ROSIE

Sit! DAVE

Let me at the son of a bitch! PACQUI
(Tries to free himself, unsuccessfully.)

No! Calm down, Pacqui! ROSIE

Knock it off, Pacqui. DAVE

Calm down, Pacqui. DONALD

Sit! ROSIE

Sit! DAVE

Sit! DONALD

Sit! ALL

PACQUI sits and is now trapped in the chair.

DONALD

Listen to me: You kill George and he's at peace into eternity and you're in prison, living in hell on earth. Think it through. You're much better off keeping him alive and making him miserable.

GEORGE

Excellent plan, Don.

ROSIE

Donny's right, Pacqui.

DAVE

You know he's right.

ALL stare at PACQUI, waiting for his response.

Long pause as PACQUI considers this. And then...

PACQUI

Fine.

ROSIE

Good.

DAVE

Good.

DONALD

Our food's getting cold.

ALL EYES turn to KILEY.

KILEY

I'm sorry I got the orders kind of screwed up.

GEORGE

Where the fuck were you a waiter? In an Alzheimer's ward?

DONALD

Hey, George, c'mon, huh?

GEORGE

What? What?

DONALD

(Discreetly.)

That's not funny.

(Nods to ROSIE.)

Dave.

(To KILEY, explaining discreetly.)

Dave's wife.

ROSIE

(To GEORGE.)

Are you stupid or just a shitty person?

PACQUI

Don't rule out either category for this *mamaluke*!

GEORGE

What are you giving me, Rosie? I meant no disrespect to Evelyn, may her soul rest in peace. I liked Evelyn a lot. You all know that.

(Motions to KILEY.)

I only said what I said because this one got our orders wrong.

DONALD

He was only trying to help out.

KILEY

I'm really really sorry. I haven't waited tables since college.

ROSIE

I thought you said you didn't go to college.

KILEY

I waited tables, summers, all through college.

ROSIE

(To DONALD.)

Now, you see what I was sayin'?

DAVE

And you never wrote stuff down?

KILEY

It was pizza, mostly, so I only had to remember toppings.

GEORGE

And you got it right?

KILEY

Well, yuh, mostly.

ROSIE

Where'd you go to college?

KILEY

Out west.

Specifically?
ROSIE

Oh, well... you know...
KILEY

ROSIE
I don't know. Where did you go to college,
specifically? I went to Bridgewater State in
Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Studied Business Ed.
Specifically. Where did you go?

KILEY
Washington State. Olympia. Evergreen.

ROSIE
That's the name of a college?

KILEY
Evergreen State College.

ROSIE
And that's where you went?

KILEY
I only went for a year and a half.

ROSIE
I thought you said you waited tables summers? If
you only went a year and a half, how many summers
did you wait tables?

KILEY
Three summers in all.

GEORGE
And you got it right, mostly? The people's
orders? You got the people's orders right?

KILEY
Well, yuh. There wasn't that much to do. Mostly,
people just ordered cheese topping ... and picked
up their orders at the counter. Mostly, I cleared
tables after they left, got them ready for the
next people kind of thing.

DAVE confronts GEORGE.

DAVE
I heard the joke you made, George.

GEORGE
No offense to Evelyn, Dave.

DAVE

It's not "no offense". Just 'cause you say "no offense" doesn't make it no offense, George. Trust me.

GEORGE

I was only meaning that people who ordered fish and got meat might not complain if they couldn't remember what they ordered.

DAVE

You think that's funny? You saw what Evelyn went through.

There is a substantial, thoughtful pause. And then...

GEORGE

I did and I'm sorry, Dave. I can see why you would think that wasn't funny. I meant no offense to Evelyn or to you. I apologize.

DAVE

I accept.

PACQUI

(To GEORGE.)

Am I hearing this straight? You apologize to him and not to me?

GEORGE

Dave did not bring a loaded gun to lunch with a plan to kill me.

PACQUI

Maybe not this time, but sooner or later, George, it's gonna' happen. Me or somebody else. There's only so much horseshit somebody can throw at you before you whack him with the shovel.

KILEY

I hate guns. Nothing scares me more than guns. When I was growing up, my father and all my uncles had guns. My cousins, too.

GEORGE

Where'd you grow up?

KILEY

I'd rather not say.

GEORGE

Are you in Witness Protection?

DONALD

Hey, George, c'mon!

ROSIE

What's with you?

GEORGE

I'm only asking. You all have been askin' behind his back, so now I'm askin' to his face.

PACQUI

Mamaluke.

KILEY

Listen, guys, I'm gonna have to ask you to respect my privacy, okay? You keep asking me personal questions and I don't really know you guys, so, you know...

DAVE

We know what?

KILEY

There are things I don't care to talk about.

ROSIE

We all live in the same building. There are innocent people in there we've gotta' think about. You might present a danger.

KILEY

Are you serious? Me? There isn't anybody living there less dangerous than me. This guy here... Pacqui... just brought a loaded gun to lunch. I'm no danger. Trust me.

DONALD

I think we've been asking him too many personal questions. Kiley's got a right to his privacy. Everybody here has made mistakes. We've all got something we don't want to talk about. You don't get to be 87 without something to hide, right?

KILEY

Are you 87? You don't look 87.

DONALD

87, yesterday. Yesterday was my birthday.

KILEY

Wow! I would never have guessed you were 87. Should we sing "Happy Birthday"?

ROSIE

Definitely not. We only have a few lunch-rules and never singing “Happy Birthday” is one of the big ones.

DAVE

At our age, there’s no such thing as a happy birthday. A birthday just marks another piece of life that’s gone and never coming back. Trust me.

IRENE enters, brings replacement food (and drinks) to the table.

IRENE

Donny, sweet potato ... an Arnold Palmer ...

DONALD

Great. Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Rosie, double anchovies ... bottle of Beck’s ...

ROSIE

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Dave, clean mashed, no gravy ... Cran and soda, light on the cran ...

DAVE

Perfect.

IRENE

(To KILEY.)

Cran and soda for you, too.

KILEY

Thanks.

IRENE

George, new egg plant parm, no garlic ... Bud ...

GEORGE

Good. Thanks.

IRENE

Pacqui ... double fries ... Bud.

PACQUI

Right.

IRENE

Anything else? Anybody?

DAVE

Irene, let me ask you something.

IRENE

What?

DAVE

If any of us available bachelors asked you to marry them, would you say 'yes'?

IRENE

God's honest, I wouldn't marry any of ya's. Too old. Too close to death. I was married the second time around with a guy who died in his sixties. Colon cancer that spread all over. He was sick rally bad for nearly ten years. I couldn't go through that again. I don't wanna hurt anybody's feelings, but, God's honest, definite no. I got enough trouble takin' care of myself. You see what I'm sayin'?

DAVE

Can I ask you one more thing?

IRENE

Sure.

DAVE

Do you like being a waitress?

IRENE

You kidding? I love it. I always wanted to be a waitress, ever since I was a little kid. I used to serve our dinners at home when I was little. My mother would cook and I would serve. I do some acting on the side ... you know ... in movies that shoot in the area and need extras or small parts ... I mostly play waitresses ... sometimes I act in plays, too, but acting's just something I do part-time for spare money. Waitressing is what I love. Waitressing is who I am.

(Beat. And then...)

Anybody need mustard, catsup, whatever?

DAVE

I think we're okay. Thanks, Irene.

DONALD

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

ROSIE

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

GEORGE

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

After IRENE exits...

GEORGE

That's too bad. I was thinking of asking Irene to marry me.

DONALD

I think we're lucky to have each other as friends.

PACQUI

Friends? You think you and them are my friends? My friends are dead. I've got nobody. I'm stuck with you. I've got no choice.

DONNY

C'mon, Pacqui. You don't mean that.

PACQUI

Why do you think I don't mean that, Donny? If Doreen was alive still, you think you'd be comin' to Romeo lunches? Funny, but I kinda' remember after she died, asking you to come to a lunch and you said "I dunno ... they're not really my friends." What makes them your friends, now, Donny, huh? You like George? If your kid was getting married, would George be on top of the guest list? No fuckin' way, right, Donny? So, what the hell makes him your friend, now, besides the fact you're stuck with him ... and us? We've got nobody else.

DONALD

I consider you my friend, Pacqui.

PACQUI

Oh, come onn, will ya', Don? You ever once go to the movies downtown and call me up to go with you? Not even once. You go alone, which beats going with me or George or Rosie or Dave, 'cause we don't like movies and you do. You got almost nothin' to talk about with any of us. I see the

look on your face most of the time. You're fallin' asleep.

(Beat.)

We're stuck with each other. That's the long and the short of it. That's all she wrote.

DONALD

Rosie and I do stuff together.

ROSIE

What stuff do we do together, Donny? We fixed the recycling bin together when the top blew off, 'cause nobody else would fix it. Oh yuh, we binned a bunch of smelly garbage bags, 'cause they were on the ground and nobody else would go near them. What else did ever we do together, Donny?

DONALD

I don't know.

(Thoughtful pause. And then...)

Doreen loved movies. We went two-three times a week, downtown here and the \$7 movie out near The Fountains. And we rented stuff on Netflix to watch at home, once she was really sick. We rented The Godfather movies and watched all of them in one day. We both loved The Godfather movies. Pacino. John Cazale.

(Imitates Pacino.)

"I knew it was you, Fredo."

(And then, sadly...)

Doreen would do that line whenever I screwed something up. If I left my dirty dishes in the sink, she would come over to me holding my dirty dish and say "I knew it was you, Fredo." Same with my socks and underwear. "I knew it was you, Fredo."

(Suddenly sobs.)

She was so sick and there was nothing I could do.

(Embarrassed. Laughs. And then...)

The sicker she got, the more she worried about me, asking me if I were going to be okay.

(Long pause as DONALD tries to reel in his upset. But then...)

I'm not okay.

DONALD walks away to hide his upset. As HE passes KILEY and ROSIE, THEY touch DONALD's arm in the awkward ineffectual way men try to comfort other men.

DONALD looks out of window.

GEORGE

If Cookie was still alive, we would be out'ta here so fast! I'm not gonna' pull up ship on my own. I'd only be trading one lonely life for a lonelier life. I was thinkin' about it this mornin' ... I've got more people I know who are dead than people I know who are alive. I don't know what the hell God had in mind when he took Cookie before me. She had friends. She could do small talk chitchat with anybody. She would've been fine without me. I just don't get it.

ROSIE

Same with me and Ruthie. She had friends comin' out'ta her ears. She'd be on the phone all mornin', talkin' to friends. And meeting up with them for coffee. They would gab for hours. Women are better at it ... at makin' friends. Ruthie had so many friends ... and me ... look at me. I've got you jokers for lunch once a week and in between I got nothin', really.

DONALD

Ruthie was the best. We all loved Ruthie.

ROSIE

You don't know the half of it. Ruthie was an angel.

(Beat.)

Years ago, I'm in my store...

(To KILEY.)

I sold outside ladies dresses...

(To ALL.)

...I'm having the worst day ever. It's fifteen minutes before closing and I haven't had a single customer come into the store. I'm in the back getting ready to close and the bell on the door rings, somebody's in the store. So I go out front, and there's a woman there, skinny as a toothpick, and she asking to try on the dress that's in the window, says she loves it. I try to explain that I only sell outside dresses, but she'll have none of it. I keep saying "I can't fit you, lady," but she keep insisting. So, I give her the dress to try on in the smallest size I've got. She goes in the fitting room, comes out in the dress and says "What do you think?" I tell her the truth, "You could go camping in that dress. It fits you like a tent." And she says "It's a look I like. How much?" And I say, "I don't want to take your money, honestly, lady ... the dress doesn't fit you." And she says, "I'll take this dress and two more from the same design, one in blue and one in red." At this

point, I think I'm losing my grip. I'm telling you, the dress on this skinny lady looks ridiculous, but it's a \$90 sale, so, I put the dresses in a dress bag and I hear myself saying, "I hate to take your money, really - the dresses don't fit you. I'm being honest." And she says "Happy birthday, Rosie!" ... and Ruthie and my brother and his wife, and four of my neighbors come into the store laughing their heads off, all yellin' "Happy Birthday, Rosie!" It was my fiftieth birthday and I had totally forgot. Thirty years ago, almost. Best laugh I ever had.

(Beat.)

The skinny lady was my cousin Albert's wife's sister, who I never met. She was an actress doin' pretty well in something off-Broadway. She had me a hundred percent fooled. I'm tellin' ya's, the dresses on her looked ridiculous, but she had me a hundred percent believing her.

(Beat.)

Ruthie comes through the door and she is laughing her head off. People keep pouring into the store ... cousins I hadn't seen in years, a bunch of our old neighbors, maybe forty people, all screamin' "Happy Birthday". Ruthie's carrying this gigantic carrot cake. Oh my God. Such fun.

(Beat.)

She organized all of it. Ruthie.

(Beat.)

The party went on till almost midnight. Best night of my life.

(Beat.)

Ruthie planned it all for weeks and weeks.

(Sobs through next words.)

I never did nothin' like that for her, never. I wish I did. I should have. I don't know what I was thinking, all those years.

DAVE

Same with me and Evelyn. I didn't know what I had till she was gone. When she was sick, towards the end, she kissed me a lot. I'd be doin' something and she'd come over and kiss me. Sometimes, it would kind of annoy me ... I'd be reading or fixing a lamp of whatever, and she'd come over and kiss me.

(Beat.)

Jesus, it was so nice and I didn't know it.

(Chokes back his tears.)

At least you've got yourself a ticket out'ta here, Pacqui. Except for my extra heartbeats, I'm as healthy as a fuckin' horse. For what? For fuckin' what?

PACQUI

“Ticket out’ta here”? I’ve got cancer everywhere, Dave. I’m rotting. That’s your idea of a ticket out’ta here. What are you ... demented? You know you can always go out the window if you need a quick ticket out’ta here, Dave.

DAVE

C’mon, Pacqui.

DONALD

Dave wasn’t being mean, Pacqui. That was just a manner of speaking.

DAVE

I think about it every day. What am I supposed to be doin’ with my time? I can’t be alive for doin’ this ... eating once-a-week lunches with the likes of you ... throwing darts or horseshoes. It’s all just wastin’ time. This can’t be the reason God made me stay on after He took Evelyn. This can’t be it.

KILEY

I think it’s good, this lunch. I never really fit in anywhere, and I’ve been feeling really really good about this lunch ... not the food. The food stinks. But you guys all having each other to talk to ... I would like to fit in. It moves me.

GEORGE

Give it twenty years, it’ll move you to another state.

DONALD

I like the food. It’s not The Breakers but it’s not bad.

ROSIE

“Not bad” should not be your highest standard, Don.

KILEY

You ate at The Breakers?

DONALD

Not really. My wife and I used to have coffee and a muffin there, from time to time. We’d sit in rocking chairs out front. It’s beautiful there.

PACQUI

(To KILEY.)

Place is ridiculous! My wife and I ate there on our fortieth anniversary. I had to take out a loan to cover the bill. I'm still paying it off.

KILEY

(To PACQUI, eyeing his food.)

Ever try a little mayonnaise on your meatloaf? It's delicious.

PACQUI

Naw. Italians don't use mayonnaise. Never tasted the stuff.

IRENE re-enters carrying empty tray.

IRENE

Dessert, guys?

ROSIE

Key lime pie.

IRENE

How many Key Limes?

DONALD

Me.

(To KILEY.)

Key Lime pie's great here. They don't make it. They buy it from Upper Crust on Dixie Highway.

KILEY

I'll try it.

(To IRENE, hand in air like a school-boy.)

I'll try the Key Lime.

ROSIE

Me.

DAVE

Can you cut me a half slice?

IRENE

Not a problem.

PACQUI

Me.

GEORGE

Yuh, me.

IRENE

Anybody not want coffee?

KILEY

Peppermint tea?

IRENE

I think so. We used to have it. I'll check.

DAVE

Me, too, if you've got it.

IRENE

Four coffees, two mint teas, Key Limes around,
half-slice for Dave.

(And then...)

Let me grab some empty dishes.

The MEN load their plates on to
Irene's tray.

DONALD

Thanks, Irene.

ROSIE

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

DAVE

Thanks, Irene.

PACQUI

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

KILEY

You need any help with that?

IRENE

I've got it. Thank you.

KILEY

Not a problem.

GEORGE

Are you sure you won't marry me, Irene? I can
cook a nice breakfast.

IRENE

There's a lot more to life than breakfast,
George.

After IRENE exits, KILEY is first to speak.

KILEY

My first wife was a waitress. We met in the pizza restaurant in Olympia. We were just kids, eighteen, but she was already an excellent cook. She got pregnant, so we got married. It was complicated.

DAVE

Nowadays, kids don't do that ... get married. They have abortions or just have the baby. I've got two young great-nieces raising kids on their own. I respect your taking responsibility ... the baby's yours, you manned up. That's doing the right thing.

KILEY

Oh, the baby wasn't mine. She was from an army family, like me. Same kind of father. Very tough. He would've killed her if she didn't get married. The guy that got her pregnant was a singer-songwriter who passed through town ... played a one-nighter. He met her at the restaurant, she waited on him ... He invited her to his show and afterwards ... you know ... she was a kid from the sticks, knew nothing, and he had the wisdom and the white wine.

ROSIE

Wow! That was a hell of a nice thing you did, marrying her.

KILEY

I dunno. It was easy to do. I really liked her a lot. She was smart ... good looking and funny. I didn't have a girlfriend. I was really shy around girls, but she and I used to talk together for hours every day. I kind of thought I was getting the best end of that deal, really.

DAVE

Did the guy ever know about the kid?

KILEY

That's what ended it. Some years later, when the little boy was four, the guy came through town again to play a show and she thought she'd better tell him what was what, for the sake of the little boy, who would want to know his real father and all. She didn't do it behind my back or nothing. She told me what she wanted to do and

I thought it could be better for Bradley, the little boy.

(After a long pause.)

She ended up going off with him. The singer-songwriter. I came home from work one night and she left me a note saying she was sorry.

(And pause. KILEY is sad.)

I didn't really blame her. He was the real father and I wasn't much.

(Beat.)

It was complicated getting a legal divorce from her because I never knew where she was living.

GEORGE

I would have tracked her down and killed her.

KILEY

I had no ill will. Everybody's got to make the best life they can.

(Beat.)

I got a divorce, finally. The legal grounds was desertion. And I got married again.

ROSIE

And that worked out?

KILEY

No, not so well. She already had three kids and I don't think I was ever really very important to her. Her kids were, but not so much me.

DAVE

Did you ever see the little boy from the waitress?

KILEY

Uh uh. No.

(And then...)

You guys are so lucky to have the memories you have. Wives you loved who loved you back. I've got nothing to remember like that. I'm way way younger than all of you and I think I may be twice as lonely.

There is a small thoughtful pause.
And then...

GEORGE

So, you're not in Witness Protection or nothing like that?

KILEY

Me? Good God, no.

DAVE

Jesus, George.

PACQUI

Mamaluke.

GEORGE

What side of the rotary were you waiting on for Trump's motorcade to go by? 'Build The Wall' or 'Impeach Trump'?

KILEY

'Build the Wall', definitely.
(And then...)
You guys have kids?

ROSIE

Kids? Our kids are your age.

DAVE

By the time my wife and I moved down here, our kids were already grown. Our grandkids are grown now.

KILEY

Do they come down here to visit?

DAVE

Nobody comes down to visit, anymore, really. They did a bit when my wife was alive ... Maybe once in a great while, yes, but, really ... I mean, what's in it for them?

DONALD

I visit one of my grandsons, sometimes, summers. Just for a couple of days. He's a nice kid. He's not a kid. He's got two kids of his own.
(Beat.)

I don't stay long. I'm kind of in the way. It was different when my wife was alive. We could go off together, get out of their way.

GEORGE

My son's dead.

All eyes shift to GEORGE.

KILEY

That's terrible.

GEORGE

I dunno about that. He was sick for five-six years. That was terrible.

PACQUI

We used'ta visit our daughter out in Oakland, but since my wife Angela died, I haven't gone out there. I should, I guess, but traveling on my own ... I dunno.

ROSIE

My big daughter's living in England, and the other daughter's in New Hampshire. I talk to both of them on the phone quite a lot. I do Facetime with the grandkids whenever my daughters force the kids to do it, but we don't have a lot to say to each other, really.

(beat.)

Ruthie and I used to go visit our daughters, summers, years back, but, same as Pacqui, travelin' on my own kinda' scares me now.

After a pause, DONALD speaks.

DONALD

(To KILEY.)

I'll go to the movies with you sometime. I'm definitely gonna go see the Miami movie you talked about. I'll try to go tonight.

KILEY

I could go with you. I wouldn't mind seeing it again. It's that good.

DONALD

(To KILEY.)

They usually do an early show at 5.

(To ROSIE.)

Rosie, you have any interest?

ROSIE

Me? Sure. Yuh. I'll go.

DONALD

Don't eat, before, and we can go to La Placita on Dixie, afterward, for fish tacos. You like fish tacos?

KILEY

Sure.

DONALD

George?

GEORGE

No.

DONALD

Dave?

DAVE

I've got horseshoes at 4. Pacqui, you wanna' pitch some horseshoes?

PACQUI

I haven't pitched horseshoes in ten years.

DAVE

Nobody cares. It's all guys our age.

PACQUI

I don't know if I can still throw a horseshoe far enough.

DAVE

Nobody can. Nobody cares.

IRENE enters carrying tray with pie and coffee/tea for all.

IRENE

Pie's delish today. I just nibbled from the other half of Dave's slice. I have to eat less to keep my girlish figure.

(To KILEY and DAVE.)

They had some mint teabags. They looks pretty old, so let me know if it's not okay, okay?

(Serves their mint tea.)

DAVE

Thanks, Irene.

KILEY

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

(As SHE serves coffee to OTHERS.)

Coffee. Coffee. Coffee. Coffee. Half-and-Half containers are on the table.

(Serves the pie.)

Pie. Pie. Pie. Half a pie. Pie. Pie. Give me your credit cards and I'll run 'em.

KILEY

(To IRENE.)

Give me the bill.

(To ALL.)

I want to treat.

GEORGE

What's this?

KILEY

I can afford it. I want to treat. Just today, not every week. I'm happy to be here.

ROSIE

Are you sure?

KILEY

I can afford it. Let me do this.

DONALD

Are you sure?

KILEY

I'm sure. I'm sure. It's my pleasure.

DAVE

That's really nice of you.

KILEY

Not a problem.

(Hands his credit card to IRENE.)

Here you go.

IRENE

I'll run your card and come right back.

KILEY

Thanks, Irene.

IRENE

Not a problem.

IRENE exits with tray.

DAVE

George? You wanna' pitch horseshoes with us?

PACQUI

Wait up! With him?

DAVE

(To PACQUI.)

I'll drive. You can sit in the front with me, he can sit alone in the back by himself.

GEORGE

Last time I touched a horseshoe, I got kicked by a horse.

PACQUI

Wish I could've seen it.

DAVE

You wanna' sit home alone watchin' TV, or come with us, Georgie? Which?

GEORGE

Let me think about it while I'm eating my pie.

The MEN all tuck into their slices of Key Lime pie.

KILEY

This pie's really good.

ROSIE

Key Lime's delicious. All the pies from Upper Crust are first rate.

DAVE

Better than usual.

PACQUI

Pie's terrific.

DONALD

Excellent!

(Small silence. And then, GEORGE speaks...)

GEORGE

The pie's not terrible.

DAVE

I think we should do next week's lunch upstairs at Benny's. The food here's goin' downhill.

ROSIE

Benny's sounds good.

GEORGE

(To DAVE.)

You better write down what space you park in, Dave.

DONALD

Dave'll ride with me if we do Benny's.

GEORGE

So you better remember what space you park in.

DAVE

Pacqui? Benny's okay with you for next week?

PACQUI

Sure.

DAVE

George?

GEORGE

Sure.

THE LIGHTS FADE OUT.

THE PLAY IS OVER.

NYC-Lake Worth, Florida,
March-May, 2019.