

## DRINKS

“I want to die remembering things like this. I want you to continue until the end.”

“Turn off the machine.”

“Who recovered her?”

Rachel was working her shift while the game was on.

“Do you have a dog in this race?”

“My dog is at home.”

“I am a single mom.”

“A kid?”

“I share a puppy with my ex.

“When did he become you ex?”

“Five minutes ago. He pissed me off. Now, I said hasta la vista, baby.”

“We all do that. What is the special. How special can it be?”

If she came in touch with the subject, it would give her back everything that she gave her it she would not want to know and understand it. She would want to become part of it nature. She could equally given receive.

“This is a place for your pleasure. You can get anything that you want.”

“The stadium is full. They are there to watch you. You're lying down in the ground. You come back from the dead.”

“Change develops by putting something in your food that alters your behavior. This is a simple combination. It doesn't require much effort. The individual simply responds to internal changes, and this provides the basis for interacting with the environment. If the desired changes now obtain and then go at the dosage altered, and this would result in improved outcomes such a commitment to observation. This is the foundation of a scientific endeavor. The individual learns new techniques. And these behavioral changes resulted in more confidence. Are the individual can take on new challenges. Yes, behavior modification theory has numerous applications. The researcher can adjust the variations for each individual.”

Rachel looked at her customer. He seemed a little jumpy. He was hardly drinking his drink, but he kept checking to see how much was in the glass. She was almost tempted to add something. That was not her goal. She simply observed what was going on.

“What are you saying to her at this point?”

This was her job. But she wasn't enjoying the experience all that much she had been good as an entertainer. She could add to the experience of each person but this was something different. She didn't feel as if she related anymore. She was simply going along. That didn't seem to be sufficient. The music was all too familiar, and the customer was absorbed in the game. Why did she even bother? Did any of this seem worthwhile? Recently, she felt as if she was counting down the hours. It hadn't been like this before she had been able to carry the night with any conversation. But customers like this made it difficult.

Rachel looked over the bar. Her lone admirer continue to stare at her. This would be a convenient excuse to sell him another drink. He wanted to tell her about his troubles, and they had really nothing to do with her. But when he gave her that faint smile, he made her feel as if she was somehow responsible she didn't want to get involved in his troubles. She could listen at a

distance. But she didn't want to get involved he didn't want him to come to close. His expectations were all too familiar. That's why he held on like this in nursing each drink with a vengeance. All through his actions, he did what he could to maintain is in essence. But he was anything but innocent. He done too much. It said too much. He's been too many places.

He only had to watch him walk in the bar to know what he was about. He was trying to contain himself trying to say as little as possible. But his intentions were evident and there was much he could do to hide. If she wanted him to watch the television, she wanted a game to babysit him. It could give him what he was looking for. He wouldn't have any questions. There was total clarity. It was all that he needed. He was looking for balance. He was looking for knowledge.

She knew the trick. Desperate people only wanted someone to dig a little bit beneath the surface, and everything would make sense. Rachel didn't think that she had become too immune to humanity. But she had trouble going along. She didn't let any of it affect her. She could help these people nurse their wounds. She could offer a familiar remedy. There a time she could even apply her cleverness putting it all together. That's all there was to it this was a job. And she didn't wanna bring the job home. When the door closed for the night, she wanted all the demons gone once and for all. She was offering a service. Her regulars tipped well. Occasionally a stranger would try to disrupt the game. She ignored it all. It had little to do with her. And she understood them people could get caught in the moment.

They would get cornered by temporary enticements. She was in there for sweet talk. And she wondered why it worked on anybody. There are those who try to engage her. They might be looking for a reaction. All this was part of the flow of the night. She needed to understand how it worked. She demanded her focus. And that helped to bless her efforts. This wasn't meant to be complex. She know she needed to slam the door on bullshit. It was all said and done. There was nothing else to it. She wasn't going to cry a river.

She wasn't going to play the martyr. Even if she did listen, she need to be attentive. She wasn't there to test out her dreams. This was not a steppingstone for something greater. There times that she could shine. She could share her outlook with others. She could inspire them great moments. She was sharing their excitement. But she wasn't there to lose her self. She had a life outside this place. And some of her customers were left with deeper questions. They felt deeper longing. They hoped that this might be the night. Everything could fall in the place.

A customer retreated to check herself in the mirror. At home she tried so hard perfect this work. She didn't want it to fade in the night. She didn't want to feel as if she was melting. She was steadfast. Rachel watched the woman walk back to her friends. There was an renewed confidence good time for her to get another drink. She could cast off from the moment. She could feel satisfied in the moment. That was Rachel's job. She brought a focus for each person. And everyone could build on this understanding.

Rachel shined. She could offer serenity to others. There was a constancy to this experience. She would be there waiting for her. Her regulars never took her for granted. They tipped her well. We appreciated her service. And they relied on her. She was an important part of this community. After a long day at work people would want to forget. They would do what they could to take control over their lives.

Rachel was there to help boost their feelings she built upon a connection she loved. There

was a blessing in itself. Sure, distractions here and there. There are moments when nothing seem to make sense. Rachel couldn't let her self perfect and buy any of this she push the day along she's surrounded herself with supportive moments. And that was enough to get over her misgivings. She found comfort in the moment. Rachel wasn't trying to be deep. She offered a simple philosophy. She built upon intrinsic happiness. She tried to find the natural joy and everyone. Sometimes it took a little coaxing. That was all well and good but added to her comfort. She didn't get lost in her own needs. She recognized the appeals of others. She gave them some thing that they couldn't give themselves. In this ad to her skill she never retreated from the moment from a challenge. She was committed to each and everyone. There were times that she had a wonder about some of the strangers. A few were even testing her. They wanted to see what it would take to make her break. She didn't see things so easily. They could run interference and help Rachel's to work things out. Are there were times that she was out there by herself.

Rachel had knowledge. She had experience. She was intuitive. She could see through a difficult situation. At times, that didn't make it any easier she'll felt way down by the experience. She could feel her self immersed in the situation. That was that.

She had her own coping mechanisms but they were very different than the customers she was not going to hang around after work and drink. She served up comfort to others, but she had other ways for dealing with a difficult world. And she could count on skills. That was always sufficient in itself.

She didn't want the world to explode around her. She wasn't into drama. She wasn't going to make any. And she wasn't going to put any to end if things were too overwhelming, she would simply draw the line. There was a sense of order in this place. And she couldn't let it get violated. It was that simple wanted other people to have fun if they like jumping up and down, or getting lost in the revelry, that was wonderful she needed to leave it at that.

“You do not seem like yourself today.”

“I have some things on my mind. I had my car worked on. I need to figure out how I am going to pay for it.”

“There is a moment when a car becomes like a sick friend. The condition starts out bad, and you think that it is going to get better. And after all, it only gets worser. You just have a problem, and you have to do what yiou can to take care of it.”

“Cars are evil.”

“I don't want to get philosophical about it.”

“You save for a new onem and you end up having all the problems that you started from.”

“I wish that I was a smarter buyer.”

“We all go through it.”

“Are these things even worth talking about?”

“Will any of this make any difference?”

“”I am doing my best to control my quality of life.”

“Maybe, you should sleep more.”

“That would solve most probems.”

“That is how I see it.”

“You could serve sleep.”

“We offer different levels”  
 “But there are other things that go along with it.”  
 “That can really mess up anyone.”  
 “I wish that I didn't have to drive everywhere.”  
 “You moved out her for freedom, and you need a car. You know that.”  
 “I wish that it was simpler.”  
 “Is somethig wrong?”  
 “I am trying to catch my breath.”  
 “That is not going to work.”  
 “There is something wrong.”  
 “Nothing that a day off won't cure.”  
 “When is you next day off.”  
 “Monday.”  
 “That is the solution that you are looking for.”  
 “I am not being complex.”  
 “Neither of us is. But I feel as if something is driving us in that direction.”  
 “We can easily forget who we are.”  
 “And where will that take us?”  
 “I am keeping track of mutiple solutions.”  
 “Your help is needed.”  
 “I am glad that this job is not more complex.”  
 “There is some servicing, but I am not a mechamic.”  
 “I think that we need to be sympatheic about what tasks we face.”  
 “And whern there is something to finish it, we finish it.”  
 “What is the terrible part of these hours?”  
 “What else would you be doing? We are not going to be at home wirting a book. We aren't going to do chemical experiments.”  
 “I know something who is good at chemistry.”  
 “What good is that for me?”  
 “We can compare sleep patterns.”  
 “That doesn't tell us much of anything.”  
 “Maybe, you need more than the game.”  
 “I don't want to get the patrons more excited.”  
 “They are buying no matter what.”  
 “That does not sound like a great way to discuss this.”  
 “Talking about shit often prevents us from taking concrete steps.”  
 “At least, we both know that something has to be done.”  
 “Look at this map. Why kind of model does it offer for some other location.”  
 “This is the microcosm of the macrocosm.”  
 “What is scene in the bigger picture?”  
 “Art and design specifications.”  
 “What are you working on?”  
 “A second exit in case we get trapped in here.”

“And you are afraid of that.”  
“I am afraid of everything.”  
“Are you?”  
“Look in a fucking mirror.”  
“I don't mind.”  
“Remarkable.”  
“Just add your share.”  
“I am coming from a weird place.”  
“You cannot escape everything.”  
“I am having a lot of problems explaining anything.”  
“Explanations are not needed.”  
“Food is needed.”  
“I have told you three times what is important.”  
“Just go hide in your hutch.”  
“I love simple conclusions.”  
“What was that?”  
“A distraction.”  
“I am thinking too quickly to come to distractions.”  
“You have to gain control over the things that are messing with you.”  
“I am completely messed up.”  
“We are not like the people in here.”  
“Introduce yourself.”  
“My name is Rachel. I am the main bartender in here.”  
“This is a small place.”  
“What is your name?”  
“Sandi. I work at another bar in the vicinity. I come her and compare notes with Rachel.”  
“How did I ever end up here?”  
“I think that you are lost.”  
“Where am I supposed to be?”  
“Somewhere with a better solution.”  
“Not everyone is an expert at performing.”  
“I am at the edge of something bad happening.”  
“Drop off the cash.”  
“Give me what I need. Give me what I deserve. Give me what you have.”  
“This is hetting weirder.”  
“There is no clear explanation.”  
“Would you want one?”  
“I don't want to get more messed up.”  
“How would that happen?”  
“There are a million alternatives.”  
“Rachel, it seem that you have planned this out.”  
“This is not something that happens on its own.”

“I have too many alternatives.”

“Basically, you have none.”

“Let me get this.”

“We all go beyond our station.”

“WHO ARE YOU?”

“Rachel, get me a drink.”

“What kind?”

“Something with lime and vodka.”

“I want to world to provide clear answers.”

“If you got more answers, you would have to make significant changes in your life.”

“Get me the vodka tonic with a lime.”

“I need to do more to complete.”

“There is no mystery here.”

“Here could be anywhere.”

She needed to close up. She could have answers. Everyone could have answers to important questions.”

“We are way beyond looking for answers.”

“How is that?”

“I need to close up. I want to get out of here without any complications.”

“Can I help?”

“You can leave.”

“I have nowhere to go.”

“Go home, play with your cat. There is not much story past that”

“I need to figure this out.”

“Tell me about the cat story.”

“It really isn't a story until now.”

“There is a work story.”

“How concerned about me are you?”

“These things will make sense in good time.”

“They did make sense.”

“We can all sleep.”

“You are missing a sentence.”

“You do not have a sympathy for the plight of others.”

“What are you telling me, Rachel?”

“You live differently than I do. Who pays for your bills?”

“I have money. I work.”

“You do not work the way that we do. And in the end, you will not have enough. Put it all in a box and hide it away somewhere.”

“You have not planned for this.”

“And you have?”

“This is where things get really difficult.”

“We all know the code.”

“Some prance in at a different rate.”

“Who is listening? Who get away with anything.”

“What am I avoiding?”

“Don't eat this.”

“There is a killer in the house.”

“There is a killer in the head.”

“You have been thinking about this a long time.”

“Empy your pockets.”

“What is in your head?”

“Who is thinking about this?”

“Give me twenty more minutes.”

“What would it mean for Rachel to complete this chapter in her life. She pays for her car payment. She feeds her pets. She is happy about her life. She is not depending on someone else to make up the difference. She is always the difference. For every bad week, there are numerous good weeks. For every bad day, there is a month of good days.”

“Rachel, I think that someone is talking about you.”:

“Sometimes, I feel that my life is this weird experiment. And there is someone, who is testing me.”

“You are testing yourself.”

“I do not want to be a part of anything.”

“I know that someone understands.”

“I got in an accident.”

“That would be another bad day.”

“Are you having your car worked on?”

“What would make things better for you, Rachel.”

“I could get a big tip. But that would be balanced with everything else. Life is very simple that way.”

“Maybe, I am terrible at this job. My drinks are terrible. I am dropping glasses. I sm pissing off customers.”

“You enjoy the life.”

“I feel protected.”

“This can be tough work, but I feel protected.”

“What do you know about the world?”

“What does any one know?”

“I know what I find my fun.”

“Let's do a shot.”

“I am not going to drink while I am working.”

“I come here, and I can talk to Rachel about work. We share experiences. And my drinks are a little cheaper. I do not expect anything for free. I just want my drinks to go a long way.”

“I can oblige. She does not assume We talk about our own shit.”

“What kind of shit do you deal with?”

“Long hours, shitty customers, and bad men.”

“That can be a topic, but neither of us wants to get carried away. You do not concentrate

a lot of energy on something that you ou have them acannot change.”

“I wish that I could train a guy like my dog. But it never works out that easily. I don't know what it is about men. You think that you have them in a pattern, then they mess up. It's not even like a dog. You can't rub a guy's face in it and expect him to learn anything.”

“You try your best to stay in charge.”

“But you are dealing with so much radomness.”

“Why should we bother?”

“We are controlled by the nature. We are trying to make something fall into place.”

“This is not something that I would enjoy for that long.”

“There is a dream.”

“We are both saving for something.”

There was work time and sleep time.

“What messed up?”

“I need to get out of this.”

Rachel seemed tough enough.

“She needed to harden up.”

“What are you lacking?”

“I want something pure.”

“I am pretending that I see something that I do not.”

“I was sympathetic.”

“But it is all a shit show.”

“What are you tying together?”

“I need a complete story.”

“I go home and watch a movie. It gives me a complete picture of my life. Then I need to work the next day. Nothing was complete at all.”

“What do you have to complain about?”

I want to add something to the manual.”

“You have two things in your favor. And one is not working.”

“You exploit the one thing that is working. And that is all that you worry about. That is all that you worry about/”

“That is all that you can worry about.”

“I need to call in all my favors.”

“I NEED TO CALL IN ALL MY FAVORS.”

“I am going to sit here until I finish something important.”

“No one heres this.”

“I am being watched.”

“RACHEL, ARE YOU THAT IMPORTANT.”

“There was a guy in here.”

“And?”

“He asked me a lot of questions.”

“Did you answer?”

“I am turning to dust.”

“There is no one here who can explain anything to you.”



“Do you want to know?”

“No one really wants to know. It is like being asked to come in on your day off.”

“No one wants that.”

“You will offer an explanation.”

“It is like coming in on your day off.”

“Do you drink at home?”

“I am not here to answer personal questions.”:

“What are you willing to give away?”

“You need to be very adept at this.”

Rachel had skills.

“Most of the answers to my questions are pretty obvious. A yes or no here and there had a lot of confusing stuff.”

“There is a list at home.”

“I am waiting for your turn.”

“It is the principles of the matter.”

“Keep it going?”

“Add matter.”

“Who bothers?”

“What question are you asking that you cannot get answered?”

“Only one person wants an answer here, and she is not going to look for an answer.”

“She just left.”

“She got her last drink and headed home.”

“Who is experiencing lost time?”

“It is all about the ability to influence yourself.”

“Are you into hypnotism?”

“The show does not go very far.”

“What about training?”

“This is a clue.”

“I am getting there.”

“We are all reaching that point.”

“Watch me do it!”

“Where is the supervisor?”

“I am in charge.”

“Show me what you've got.”

“I am so, so good at tools.”

“Why should I expect someone's touch is going to awaken something for me.”

“Rachel, that is where you are. That is your address.”

“Can you explain that?”

“I cannot explain any of this.”

“It is all going to change soon.”

“You can take two moves outside of your comfort zone. And that is that.”

“I want an explanation.”

“Do the accounting.”

“No one wants to hear what I have to say?”  
“I am swallowing that shit.”  
“IMITATION.”  
“I do not think that Rachel understands any of this.”  
“How would we have to explain it?”  
“She has got rid of a lot of stuff in her life.”  
“Don't hold your breath that she can take it any further.”  
“Is there another explanation waiting?”  
“What else do you have here?”  
“He thinks that he knows what I need.”  
“What do you really know?”  
“You are another person who I have wasted time with.”  
“Why is it a waste?”  
“WHY IS IT A WASTE?”  
“We could have done more.”  
“Do you have any idea what I am offering?”  
“Two moves out of the show”  
“Maybe a few people are wondering.”  
“What would it mean to get a complete reward for all of your efforts?”  
“Rachel, you want the world like this.”  
“There is something wrong, and something right.”  
“Should I keep watching.”  
“Everyone is.”  
“I need a little punch to the experience.”  
“Where is this going to end?”  
“Someone can take my place.”  
“I need someone to cover my shift.”  
“Rachel, you are needed.”  
“This is a big night.”  
“Everyone wants off at the same time.”  
Rachel could give a better description of her actual needs. There was a lot of noise.  
“Do not interfere with my thinking.”  
“I am committed.”  
“What am I really getting here?”  
“It has been many weeks.”  
“I know why you showed up.”  
“I know what you are looking for.”  
“This is toxic.”  
“I have been discovered.”  
“You are not the edge.”  
“The borderline.”  
“Take a few days off.”  
“You told me that you needed me.”

“I do not mean now. Sometime in the future.”  
 “Have we arrived at an explanation?”  
 “Cover up, and go.”  
 “I got what I wanted.”  
 “The rest cannot be explained.”  
 “Nothing will be right tomorrow.”  
 “How does that really work?”  
 “You will never attain perfection.”  
 “I want to finish my shift intact.”  
 “Why can't I leave yet?”  
 “You have to wait until the right moment.”  
 “There is no one here. I want to close early. Who will know?”  
 “Get me another drink.”  
 “You have had enough.”  
 “Do not make me complain!”  
 “What is this about?”  
 “These people think they have all the rights.”  
 “This is a wonderful place.”  
 “This does not go down well.”  
 “You do not need to complain.”  
 “I cannot see this in a good way at all.”  
 “You are putting me in that place again. It is better for me not to care.”  
 “What is this about?”  
 “Do you like it here?”  
 “Was there something that I missed?”

She checked the coolers. All the trash had been emptied. She swept the place. What more was there to do? They would take care of the bathrooms in the morning. No one else was in the place.

Sandi was supposed to wait, but she decided to leave early. She was tired and needed to do a double tomorrow.

“This is all that they want us for.”  
 “I do not even know what I am supposed to want for myself.”  
 “I concur.”  
 “There is no clear answer here.”  
 She smiled.  
 “I need to get to my car.”  
 “I can walk you.”  
 “It's right here. I am fine.”

