

On The Rocks

Pilot: "High Steaks"

Written By

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INT. APARTMENT - HENRY'S ROOM - DAY

The bedroom of a single, geeky man. Movie posters line the walls, drawings are pinned up on boards, Lego sets and action figures sit on shelves. Lots to see, but all very neat and organized. Light just barely breaks in through the thin curtains.

A phone alarm loudly RINGS, startling HENRY LEWIS, a timid and nerdy-looking man. Henry wipes the sleep from his eyes, rolls out of bed, and walks to his closet.

MUSIC CUE: "A-Punk" by Vampire Weekend

He grabs a shirt and it flashes across the screen, turning the screen black. The title emerges:

ON THE ROCKS

Henry is now fully dressed for the work day and walks out his bedroom door.

INT. APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Henry happily walks down the hallway, mindlessly scrolling through his phone. A few pictures hang on the walls, mostly of Henry and Adam from college. Henry passes another room with the door slightly ajar. As he passes, a phone alarm loudly RINGS.

Partially hidden by the cracked door is another bedroom. Garbage is scattered all over the place, disguising the floor as just a trash pile. Band posters and sports jerseys crookedly hang on the walls. A pristine guitar sits in the corner. ADAM WALKER, a lazy and unkempt-looking man, is in the messy bed. He snores even louder, muffling his alarm.

Henry quickly doubles back, knocks on the slightly open door, and lets out a short WHISTLE. From under the covers, Adam gives a big thumbs up and a groan. He rolls out of bed and onto the floor.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

BEGIN MONTAGE:

Everything is in sync with the music. It's like a gourmet ballet. Henry and Adam tie aprons around their waists and pull out shiny, beautiful cooking tools. They begin to work.

QUICK CUTS:

--Henry begins by cracking eggs into a bowl. He mixes in cheese, salt, and hot sauce.

--Henry looks around. Adam whistles and tosses him the pepper. It flies through the air before gracefully being caught by Henry.

--Henry adds pepper to the mixture.

HENRY LEWIS
Comin' your way!

--Henry then slides the bowl to Adam.

--Adam whisks it all together and pours it into a pan.

--Henry bounces his head as if listening to music, totally in the zone of his work.

--Henry and Adam both move fluidly and rhythmically: absolute professionals.

--Adam begins frying some bacon, the sizzling and popping from the frying food join in to the melody of the music.

--Adam takes the frying pan off the stove and turns towards the island.

ADAM WALKER
Hot stuff coming through! Bacon too.

--Henry turns around, dodging Adam. Henry expertly flips the omelette from the pan, into the air, and catches it back in the pan. He smiles.

--Henry and Adam work together to plate the dishes. They look beautiful. Artistic.

END MONTAGE AND MUSIC CUE.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Henry and Adam sit at the kitchen table, eating their gourmet breakfast with paper plates and plastic utensils. The breakfast cooking tools are piled high in the sink.

Various papers are scattered on the table and pinned to the fridge with plastic magnets. Some are writings, some are rent notices with bold, red LAST NOTICE printed on them.

Henry wipes his mouth with a napkin and picks up a pad of paper.

HENRY LEWIS

Okay so here's what we're looking at. We need to make *at least* double this week what we made last week.

ADAM WALKER

Easy money. The dog show is in town this week and that always brings in more people. Plus, we've got the regulars!

HENRY LEWIS

Right, but we also can't bank on the regulars keeping us afloat. I want to get us to a place where we're making more than we spend just to keep the lights on. We just raised Tim's salary so we gotta account for that.

ADAM WALKER

We could just lower Tim's salary again?

HENRY LEWIS

(Laughing)

Dude! We were literally paying him below minimum wage for a year and letting him take home leftover fries as compensation. That's illegal.

The two laugh.

HENRY LEWIS

Rent is almost due. We've already racked up late fees, and-

ADAM WALKER

-Hey, man, we're gonna make this work like we always do. We're in this together.

HENRY LEWIS

Together.

The two do an intricate handshake-fist-bump-thing.

ADAM WALKER

Let's kick some ass!

INT. RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY

Adam flips on a light switch, and the overhead lights slowly flicker on, revealing the modest kitchen. Henry and Adam look around: they're home. Adam claps his hands and rubs them together.

Henry turns a dial on a SPEAKER in the back. The dial CLICKS and humming static emits.

MUSIC CUE: "Boogie Shoes" by KC and the Sunshine Band

BEGIN MONTAGE:

QUICK CUTS:

--Henry sweeps around the kitchen and organizes various cooking equipment that's sitting around.

--Adam wipes down all food preparation surfaces and places tools at various stations.

INT. RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - LATER

--TIM SPELLMAN enters. He cleans and sanitizes windows, tables, and other surfaces then takes out the trash.

--Henry folds napkins and sets the tables.

--Adam unlocks the front door and flips the door sign to "We're Open!"

--Henry and Adam greet a few CUSTOMERS who walk in.

INT. RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - LATER

--Adam throws burger patties on the grill and begins to cook.

--Tim washes dishes.

INT. RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - LATER

--Customers eat, talk, mill around, and laugh.

--Customers walk up to the serving window to order.

END MUSIC CUE AND MONTAGE.

INT. RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - DAY

An elderly woman, MRS. GABRERA, walks up to the window.

As soon as she gets to the ordering window, Adam is out through the side door with a bag of food.

ADAM WALKER

That'll be \$9.47, Mrs. Gabrera.

MRS. GABRERA

Oh! I haven't even ordered yet!

ADAM WALKER

Well, it's 11:13! Same time as always,
I was ready for ya!

MRS. GABRERA

You are such a sweetheart, Addy! Keep
the change!

Mrs. Gabrera hands Adam a twenty dollar bill and walks away. Adam walks back into the kitchen and pops up through the order window, scaring Henry. Adam flexes the twenty dollar bill.

ADAM WALKER

What did you say about needing to make
more money?

HENRY LEWIS

(Chuckling)

Mrs. Gabrera doesn't count. And I'm
pretty sure she has a crush on you.

TIM SPELLMAN (O.S.)

It's true!

Adam turns around.

ADAM WALKER

(Yelling)

Tim! Just wash the dishes and stop eavesdropping.

Adam turns back around to Henry.

ADAM WALKER
(Calmly)
Can you really blame her? I mean-

Adam motions to himself in a "check me out" manner.

INT. RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - LATER

The dining area is mostly empty. Business is winding down and everything is generally slow. Tim grabs a handful of dirty dishes from a table as the main door opens and the bell CHIMES. KENDYL PARK walks into the restaurant.

TIM SPELLMAN
Good afternoon and welcome to the Harbor House.

Kendyl wears extremely professional attire, completely contradicting the vibe of the restaurant and customers. She walks up to the order window and rings the bell. Henry quickly comes to the window.

HENRY LEWIS
Welcome to the Harbor House, how can I help you today?

Kendyl gives an almost too-sweet smile.

KENDYL PARKE
Well howdy! I'm Kendyl Parke from the Faster FastFood Food Corporation.

Henry gives Kendyl a puzzled look. He quickly walks out through the side door and approaches Kendyl. He extends his arm and they shake hands.

HENRY LEWIS
Um, okay. Are we in trouble, Ms. Parke?

KENDYL PARKE
Oh, please! Call me Kendyl. And no, no trouble at all! I'm representing MunchBox, the newest and fastest

growing fast food chain in the country. I called and left a few messages last week. Even spoke to a-

Kendyl pulls out a slip of paper from her purse.

KENDYL PARKE

Mr. Pierre Pants?

Kendyl re-reads the slip of paper and realizes what she said. She blushes. Adam pops up from behind the window.

ADAM WALKER

Oh, yup. That's me. I thought you were a robocaller.

Henry turns around, visibly upset.

HENRY LEWIS

Dude!

ADAM WALKER

The Faster FastFood Food Corporation!
Don't tell me that doesn't sound like spam!

Henry hangs his head in defeat. Henry looks back up at Kendyl.

HENRY LEWIS

I apologize for my colleague. He can be a bit-

KENDYL PARKE

-Childish?

HENRY LEWIS

(Chuckling)

Yeah, yeah. Childish. So, what can we do for you?

Kendyl gives another killer, too-sweet smile. It's almost scary.

KENDYL PARKE

I just wanted a burger with extra cheese, no pickles, hold the onions, more mayo than mustard...Oh! And the FFFFC wants to buy your restaurant.

Henry goes pale and his expression drops. He motions for Adam to join him. He does.

HENRY LEWIS

Let's talk about this more in the office.

The three start to walk away. Adam turns towards the kitchen.

ADAM WALKER

Grown ups gotta talk, Tim. Try not to burn the place down.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

A sparsely decorated and bleak looking office devoid of almost any furniture and life.

Henry and Adam sit awkwardly behind an overly small desk. Kendyl sits, short but upright, in a chair across from the men.

KENDYL PARKE

You don't have much more time here in Seaside Springs.

HENRY LEWIS

I don't understand?

KENDYL PARKE

I'll keep this short an' sweet. As I previously mentioned on the phone, and then again earlier, MunchBox is interested in buying this restaurant. The FFFFC has been keeping an eye on you boys and it seems you're having a hard time keeping up with payments, and just generally not doing too much for the town recently.

Adam has his hands behind his head, looking too relaxed. Henry looks angry, and opens his mouth to speak. Adam leans forward and puts his hand in front of Henry's mouth.

ADAM WALKER

I got this.

Henry slowly leans back into his chair, looking at Adam confused and worried.

ADAM WALKER

We do plenty for this town. In fact,
we just hosted an AA meeting.

A beat.

ADAM WALKER

Because they brought snacks.

Another beat. The silence is too loud. Deafening, if you will. Henry shuffles in his seat and tries to draw Kendyl's attention back to him.

HENRY LEWIS

We also used to make boxed meals for
struggling families during the
pandemic.

KENDYL PARKE

Right, but not anymore.

Adam rolls his eyes, clearly fed up.

ADAM WALKER

It's...sweet that you're worried about
our contribution to Seaside Springs.
But, let me assure you: we run this
town.

KENDYL PARKE

Excuse me?

ADAM WALKER

We may seem like a humble restaurant,
but we truly give the people here what
they want. We...provide for them.
Protect them.

Adam leans in closer to Kendyl. Henry is frozen in shock.

ADAM WALKER

(Whispering)

My real name isn't Adam. It's Vito
Corleone.

KENDYL PARKE

(Speaking normally)

Vito Corleone? From *The Godfather*?

Adam makes a face. He's been caught.

ADAM WALKER

Pssh. No. I've never even seen *The Godfather*. It's too long and boring.

HENRY LEWIS

If I may-

ADAM WALKER

-You may not. Listen Kendyl, I'm going to make you an offer you can't refuse.

KENDYL PARKE

That's *literally* from *The Godfather*.

ADAM WALKER

(Dismissively)

You pay us \$50,000 and we'll pretend like this silly conversation never even happened.

The trio sits in an awkward silence. What the hell just happened? Kendyl turns to Henry, completely ignoring Adam. She returns to her sweet smile.

KENDYL PARKE

Listen, you seem like a reasonable man. I know that your business is failing. You can't make ends meet. You may see me as the bad guy, but I promise I just want to help make Seaside Springs the best place it can be.

HENRY LEWIS

With all due respect, we really are an important part of the town-

ADAM WALKER

-And with no due respect, you're kind of being an ass.

Neither Henry nor Kendyl acknowledge Adam's comment.

HENRY LEWIS

We've been here for a while, providing food for the town and being a bright spot in peoples' lives. Yeah, we're struggling with money right now, but so what? Every small and local

business is struggling coming out of the pandemic.

Kendyl seems taken aback.

HENRY LEWIS
(Pleading and serious)
This is all we have, Ms. Parke.

KENDYL PARKE
Well, I must say you make a good point.

ADAM WALKER
He made an awesome point! Oh my God, I've literally got goosebumps. Look!

Adam holds up his arm in front of Henry's face. He really does have goosebumps.

KENDYL PARKE
Look, I don't have all day. We're looking to buy this property, and soon. We're expanding fast, and we're ready to make a difference here.

Adam lets out a big sigh.

ADAM WALKER
Look, we don't have all day either. You come into our town, insult us, and make us a stupid offer. News flash, Dolly Parton! The local Bitch Fest is down the street. So why don't you mosey on down there?

Kendyl stands up and holds out a slip of paper towards Henry.

KENDYL PARKE
I'll give you until tomorrow morning. Either you take the offered money-

Kendyl hands the slip of paper to Henry.

KENDYL PARKE
-And we peacefully transition the Harbor House into MunchBox. Or-

Kendyl suddenly becomes very dark and harsh.

KENDYL PARKE

-You begin a war that you can't finish. I will bury your bones under the crumbling foundations of your failed dreams and business. And from the desolate remains of all that you love, I will create a nightmare which you cannot escape.

Kendyl straightens her clothes and smiles. She returns to normal.

KENDYL PARKE

Well, I can't wait to talk to y'all again tomorrow! Take the evening and sleep on it! I know y'all are gonna make the best decision for y'all!

Kendyl turns and walks out through the office door. Henry and Adam stand in absolute shock.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Henry storms into the kitchen. The door audibly SLAMS. Adam calmly follows behind him. Henry plops down onto a chair at the table. He puts his head in his hands and groans for an uncomfortably long time.

HENRY LEWIS

I mean, seriously! Who does she think she is? Does she really think that she can just buy us out like that?

ADAM WALKER

I'm not gonna lie, that was kinda hot.

HENRY LEWIS

Huh!?

ADAM WALKER

I don't know, man. She got all serious and it was just kinda hot...Don't tell Alexis I said that.

Henry rolls his eyes and puts his focus on a stack of papers and starts flipping through them. Adam starts up the stovetop and pulls out a package of cheap Ramen, absent-mindedly whistling a high-pitch tune as he cooks.

HENRY LEWIS

What are we going to do? How the hell are we gonna make this much money in one night? We can barely pay rent, and now we have to cough up more cash to keep the freaking restaurant running. We could lose *everything*! You understand that, right?

ADAM WALKER

(Under his breath)

You're always saying you wanna do something more with your life. Surprised you even care.

HENRY LEWIS

What did you say, man?

While clearing his throat, Adam turns around to face Henry. Half-cooked Ramen flings off the spoon in his hand.

ADAM WALKER

Look, you're always watching movies. I guarantee one of them features a character making money fast. Let's just do something like that. Plus, I'm sure you'll like that more than what I come up with.

Henry stares blankly.

HENRY LEWIS

I don't know. I mean, most of the time the character just has some incredibly lucky thing happen last minute.

ADAM WALKER

Yeah and that's all bullshit. Listen, I've got an idea, but I already know you're not gonna like it.

Henry widens his eyes in a "tell me!" expression.

ADAM WALKER

Alright. I've seen some movies too and it's inspired me. I say we hire a hitman. Get him to take out Kendyl and the FFFFFFFF...C in a way that it won't trace back to us, and then we

keep the restaurant and any money the hitman snatches.

Henry stares at Adam with his mouth wide open, absolutely baffled. Adam quickly switches gears.

ADAM WALKER

Okay, you didn't like that one so how about this? Two words: Bank. Robbery.

Adam turns to the stove and goes back to cooking. Henry looks at Adam with a shocked expression on his face.

HENRY LEWIS

We're not-we're not robbing a bank!
The hell kind of suggestion was that!?

Adam shrugs.

ADAM WALKER

I'm just saying. I know a guy.

HENRY LEWIS

No!!!

ADAM WALKER

Okayyy fine. God, you're the one freaking out. Just trying to help.

Henry opens his mouth to protest but doesn't say anything.

HENRY LEWIS

Your brother works in LA. Can he lend us some more money just until we can get Kendyl off our back?

Adam turns around and for the first time, he looks serious. The pot of Ramen starts to boil violently, nearly spilling over as Adam walks towards Henry.

ADAM WALKER

We cannot, under any circumstances, take any more money from him. He already thinks I'm a loser for asking him for help, and our outstanding balance with him is way too high.

Henry raises his hands defensively.

HENRY LEWIS

Okay, I gotcha. I'm sorry I asked.

Adam returns to cooking again, stopping the pot from boiling over just in time.

ADAM WALKER

(Quietly)

We could sell your heart on the black market and then use that money to pay rent and for the restaurant.

Henry looks appalled.

HENRY LEWIS

Okay, first, why are we using my heart? Second, I need my heart to live. Third, who would even take my heart out?

Adam shrugs again.

ADAM WALKER

Like I said, I know a guy.

Henry face-plants into the stack of papers and lets out a muffled groan.

ADAM WALKER

If you don't want to use your heart, we could always buy one and then resell it for a higher price.

Henry quickly turns around and opens the fridge and grabs two beers. He starts to walk out of the kitchen.

ADAM WALKER

That wasn't a no!

INT. RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - DAY

Early morning light bathes the dining area. The dining area is barren. Boxes have started to be packed. Everything looks like it could be packed into a moving van at any second. Henry and Adam sit at a table near the main restaurant door. They both look defeated.

HENRY LEWIS

I totally forgot to let Tim know that we're selling out.

Henry buries his face in his hands.

ADAM WALKER

Eh, it's fine. He only showed up to bus like, half the time anyways.

Henry chuckles weakly, but smiles sincerely. The first time he's looked genuinely happy since Kendyl's arrival the day before.

HENRY LEWIS

What are we gonna do, man?

ADAM WALKER

We'll figure it out. Always have, always will.

HENRY LEWIS

Yeah...you're right.

ADAM WALKER

It's like when we were seniors and couldn't make rent the last two months!

ADAM WALKER (CONT'D)

I started selling plastic baggies of grass clippings to freshman and telling them it was marijuana. We made rent and also got that slushie machine.

Henry genuinely laughs.

HENRY LEWIS

Shit, those were good slushies.

The two laugh. A knock at the front glass door interrupts them. A police officer, OFFICER KING, stands in the doorway dressed in uniform.

Henry gets up and unlocks the door and shakes Officer King's hand.

HENRY LEWIS

Hey man, thanks for coming over on such short notice. You're the closest thing we have to a legal representative.

ADAM WALKER

Yeah, you're out there all day and night. Keeping the streets safe. Serving *and* protecting!? Damnnn.

Officer King nods and looks smug.

OFFICER KING

Stop, man. You're making me blush...I *did* give a parking ticket to my grandma this morning. Hardest thing I've ever done, but hey, that's the job.

Adam gets super animated.

ADAM WALKER

Just a parking ticket? Don't be humble man, I know you're out there making arrests left and right.

HENRY LEWIS

Yeah man, when was the last time you arrested someone?

OFFICER KING

Uhhh...May...Pril...Uary?

HENRY LEWIS

MayPrilUary?

OFFICER KING

Hell yeah, man! It's the best time of the year.

ADAM WALKER

Dude, yes! That's when Led Zeppelin got together!

Officer King and Adam fist bump. Henry sets up another chair at the table and Officer King takes a seat.

King looks around at the restaurant and notices all of the packed boxes and emptiness.

OFFICER KING

Alright, so, give me the details. I got the SparkNotes on the phone, but I still don't understand what's going on. You guys are really selling out?

Henry sighs.

HENRY LEWIS

This lady, Kendyl, from the Faster FastFood Food Corporation wants to buy the Harbor House and turn it into a MunchBox.

OFFICER KING

Well how much did she offer?

Henry slides the paper to Officer King. He takes a look. Instantly, his eyes grow wide.

OFFICER KING

Damn!

Henry takes back the paper.

HENRY LEWIS

She said we weren't doing anything for the community and that it was better to set up a fast food restaurant in Seaside Springs.

OFFICER KING

Did you tell her about the AA meeting? And the packaged meals?

HENRY LEWIS

Yeah...she kinda just disregarded it.

OFFICER KING

Yeesh. She sounds like a real piece of work.

Officer King leans over to Adam.

OFFICER KING

Did you tell her about the Bitch Fest?

ADAM WALKER

Mhmm. She didn't take the bait.

OFFICER KING

So, that's it? No fight, no arguing?
Just gonna let her take everything you
guys built up and keep your tails
between your legs?

HENRY LEWIS

I mean-

Officer King stands up triumphantly.

OFFICER KING

That's not the Henry and Adam I know!

Officer King sounds like he's giving a speech. He's bold.
he's powerful.

OFFICER KING

When you ran out of recipe ideas, who
used the dark web to get Guy Fieri's
contact information?

ADAM WALKER

We did!

Henry looks at the two, slightly annoyed. He's not taking the
bait.

OFFICER KING

When you needed a loan from the bank,
who offered up their childhood home as
collateral?

ADAM WALKER

(Excitedly)

We did!

HENRY LEWIS

We did...

Adam is now standing next to King. They both have big, stupid
grins on their face. The restaurant somehow seems brighter.
Henry even seems to be getting into the spirit.

OFFICER KING

And who crashed the Alpha Delta summer
cook off and spilt chili all over the
Dean because-

The front door bell chimes and suddenly the restaurant is no longer brighter. The mood is dead as Kendyl walks in.

KENDYL PARKE

-Because what?

Kendyl smiles her sweet, sickly, Southern smile.

KENDYL PARKE

Sorry, I hope I'm not intruding on y'all's little chitter chatter.

Officer King leans over to Adam with a confused look on his face.

OFFICER KING

(Whispering)

This is the lady that's giving you guys trouble?

Adam nods.

OFFICER KING

(Whispering)

The third grader in a pantsuit?

Adam shrugs. Henry, with a defiant look on his face, steps towards Kendyl.

HENRY LEWIS

What are you doing here?

KENDYL PARKE

I told you I'd give you the night to sleep on it! The time has come, I need your answer, Mr. Lewis.

Henry and Adam speak indistinctly with Kendyl.

Officer King visibly thinks, never looking away from the trio speaking until finally. An "ah ha moment" that his face reflects.

He steps forward, physically putting himself in the middle and interrupting the conversation.

OFFICER KING

As Henry and Adam's legal consultant, I'd like to say a few words. If I may.

Kendyl looks confused, but immediately switches up her expression to be inviting.

KENDYL PARKE

Why, of course! What do you have to say, officer?

OFFICER KING

Well, it's my understanding that you only gave them the evening to make their decision. According to Article 12, Section 4 of the...business bylaws...Henry and Adam should have at least 24 hours to decide.

KENDYL PARKE

Oh, honey, Article 12, Section 4 talks about illegal importing of soda machines after 10pm.

OFFICER KING

(Dismissively)

Well I think it's only fair that Henry and Adam get a chance to prove themselves. You claim that they're not doing enough for the town and MunchBox would be a better fit here. Let them prove their worth.

Kendyl slowly smiles an evil smile.

KENDYL PARKE

And what would you propose?

OFFICER KING

A cook off. Henry and Adam against your fry cooks.

HENRY LEWIS

A cook off?

Everybody looks at him. He gets sheepish.

HENRY LEWIS

I mean yeah, uh, a cook off.

KENDYL PARKE

Hmm...that is an interesting proposition, but I think it really is

a waste of corporate time and resources.

ADAM WALKER

Okay well then let's sweeten the deal.

KENDYL PARKE

I'm listening.

ADAM WALKER

If we win this cook off, we keep the restaurant and you fuck off forever.

KENDYL PARKE

And if MunchBox wins?

ADAM WALKER

I don't know, I hadn't really thought that far. We'll burn that bridge when we get there.

Henry steps forward.

HENRY LEWIS

How about we get the town involved? Make it a whole show. Both teams cook and then the food is served anonymously to customers. Let the people decide who stays.

Henry looks to Adam and King for support.

HENRY LEWIS

I understand you're looking to buy our restaurant, and you're doing what's best for your business. So, if you win, you get our restaurant.

Kendyl smiles and goes to speak as-

HENRY LEWIS

-But if we win, we get three more months to raise the money we need to keep the restaurant.

Kendyl looks at the men as she stands silently. Finally she lets out a sigh.

KENDYL PARKE

It seems like y'all really do care about this restaurant, and I may have robbed you of a little time, so I'm willing to agree to this.

Kendyl suddenly becomes very dark and serious.

KENDYL PARKE

But I am deadly serious about my deals. And I will not be made a fool by y'all. Am I understood?

All three men shake their heads like they're being reprimanded by a teacher. Kendyl becomes super sweet again.

KENDYL PARKE

Well! I just can't wait to see y'all tomorrow morning for the cook off! Bye now, y'all!

Kendyl walks out through the door and leaves the three men standing alone. They stand in silence for a moment.

HENRY LEWIS

Wait, we didn't even determine a time or place or any other detail.

ADAM WALKER

Eh, I'm sure we'll figure it all out later.

Adam begins walking towards the kitchen. Officer King gives Henry a reassuring look.

OFFICER KING

Don't worry, I'll give her a call later to nail down all the details.

HENRY LEWIS

Thanks man, I really appreciate it.

OFFICER KING

Hey, I've got you guys. In it to win it. Till the end.

Henry and Officer King both smile at each other. Adam comes back from the back of the kitchen carrying three beers.

ADAM WALKER
Celebratory drink?

HENRY LEWIS
Dude, it's like 10 in the morning.

ADAM WALKER
Never too early for a brewski with the
boys!

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The three men sit in the shabby living room of Henry and Adam's apartment. They all are laughing and smiling, obviously intoxicated. All slurring their speech.

ADAM WALKER
And that's when I slipped carrying
that big ass pot of chili and spilled
it all over the Dean of Students.

The guys all laugh.

OFFICER KING
I could hear that story a thousand
times!

HENRY LEWIS
You probably have.

They all burst into laughter again. Henry stretches and reaches for his phone.

HENRY LEWIS
Alright, it's probably close to noon.
We should start thinking about
tomorrow.

Henry picks up his phone and his eyes grow wide. His expression drops and becomes a look of "oh shit."

HENRY LEWIS
Oh shit...

OFFICER KING
(To Adam)
So, what are you guys gonna make?

ADAM WALKER
Eh, we'll figure it out.

HENRY LEWIS
Guys...it's 2 a.m....

ADAM WALKER
Welp, we're screwed.

Adam goes to stand up, and falls flat on his face.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - COOK OFF - DAY

It's a beautiful spring morning. The open field is lush and green. The panel of judges mill around, talking to each other and waiting for the cook off to start. A few tents are popped up to provide shade for the competition.

A large MunchBox corporate trailer is open as Kendyl and her employees unload more cooking supplies and MunchBox paraphernalia. Some employees hand out MunchBox branded items and gifts to the judges.

Adam and Henry stand away from it all, both with sunglasses on despite the overcast weather. They look miserable, but at least they made it.

ADAM WALKER
I think I'm gonna throw up.

HENRY LEWIS
Relax, it's just your nerves.

ADAM WALKER
Nope, it's definitely from the
Miller...and the Bud Lite...and the
PBR. Jesus, I miss being able to drink
like a twenty year old.

Adam doubles over and starts taking deep breaths. Henry pats him on the shoulder as he looks around. Officer King quickly walks up with a cardboard holder of coffees. He too wears sunglasses.

OFFICER KING
Alright, I got us three black coffees.
Should help with the hangover.

Henry and Adam greedily grab the coffees and chug.

ADAM WALKER
(Groaning)
Ugh, it's so hot!!

OFFICER KING

So, you guys figure out which dish to make today?

HENRY LEWIS

We've been looking through our recipe cards all morning and we picked out a pretty damn good recipe.

ADAM WALKER

(Mumbling with burnt tongue)

A real five star cuisine dish.

OFFICER KING

Hells yeah! That's what I like to hear.

Soft, but fast footsteps in the grass approach and the three guys look to see Kendyl, classically overdressed in a professional suit.

ADAM WALKER

Yep, definitely going to throw up.

Kendyl smiles like a shark as she gets close to the trio.

KENDYL PARKE

Well good morning y'all! My oh my it is just a beautiful morning to be having a cook off, ain't it?

The three look at her, unbelievably hungover and sick of her constant happy attitude.

KENDYL PARKE

Well, aren't y'all just a silent bunch this morning? Well, we're gonna get this thang started before too long. Lemme show you to your cooking station!

Kendyl leads the guys to their cooking station. Two large, beautiful cooking stations are set up outside in an almost county fair sort of way. Henry and Adam admire the ornate, mobile cooking stations.

KENDYL PARKE

Alright y'all, so this is your cooking station. You have about twenty minutes till everyone gets here-

HENRY LEWIS
Wait, "everyone?"

KENDYL PARKE
Yessir!

HENRY LEWIS
I thought we were just cooking for the panel of judges?

KENDYL PARKE
Now, why on earth would you think that? My email was pretty darn clear that you'd be cooking for a crowd! That's how it is in the industry.

HENRY LEWIS
What the hell? What email?

KENDYL PARKE
Oh! The email conversation I had with your legal consultant!

All eyes whip to look at Officer King who looks confused as hell.

OFFICER KING
Uh...what?

Kendyl pulls out her phone and opens up an email chain between her and Officer King. It clearly shows that she's set the details for the day, including the part about the crowd. All of Officer King's responses are clearly drunk typing.

OFFICER KING
Oh shit, I forgot that part. I was too far gone at that point. Heh.

Henry and Adam both look at Officer King with flabbergasted expressions.

HENRY LEWIS
You're fired as our legal consultant.

OFFICER KING
Fair.

ADAM WALKER
But you're still my broski.

Officer King and Adam both nod and fist bump each other. Henry pinches the bridge of his nose, clearly annoyed.

HENRY LEWIS

How are we going to cook for all these people with just us?

ADAM WALKER

Relax, man. That's how we've always operated! Plus, with the two of us and our experience, we can out-cook two minimum wage fry cooks!

The words have barely left Adam's mouth as another MunchBox trailer rolls up next to them. The back door to the trailer drops down and ten more MunchBox fry cooks march out the back. With their pristine uniforms and marching movements, they might as well be Stormtroopers.

ADAM WALKER

Oh, fuck me.

Henry, Adam, and Officer King all look horrified. Hell, they might cry. Not even a moment later, a large crowd begins to file in to the open field. Loud and excited, they quickly fill up the available space.

KENDYL PARKE

Well, I gotta finish rallying my troops! But I'll see y'all soon for the opening ceremony!

OFFICER KING

Ceremony!?

HENRY LEWIS

I'm gonna puke.

Officer King slaps Henry.

HENRY LEWIS

Hey! What the hell!?

OFFICER KING

Pull it together, man! You guys got this. You're pros. Better yet, you're a team!

HENRY LEWIS

We have just been royally screwed over, man! We thought we were cooking for three judges. We were gonna make some cuisine shit!

OFFICER KING

Well forget that! You're cooking for the town now. For your people! you know the people. You serve them every day! Pivot. Adapt. It's what you guys do. Every. Day.

Henry and Adam look at each other, both visibly gaining confidence. The speech is actually working.

OFFICER KING

You guys always put a whole lot of love into your dishes. Just do that now. And even if you do lose, at least you went down fighting.

Feedback from an electronic megaphone startles the trio.

KENDYL PARKE (O.S.)

If I could have y'all's attention! We're going to be starting to cook off soon if you could mosey on over to the central tent!

Adam quickly turns to Officer King and grabs him by the shoulders.

ADAM WALKER

I need you to grab me something.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - COOK OFF - LATER

A horde of townspeople all stand under and around the main tent. Adam and Henry stand up front next to the squad of MunchBox fry cooks. Kendyl stands on a crate, barely making her reach the eye level of most of the people. She holds up the megaphone.

KENDYL PARKE

Alrighty y'all! Here's how today's 'lil competition is gonna go! Each team will ninety minutes to make their dishes for you lovely folks! In the meantime-

Kendyl motions to a group of MunchBox workers who all start to pass around MunchBox branded sodas and merchandise. All of the townspeople get rowdy and loud. Very obviously excited.

KENDYL PARKE

Enjoy these 'lil gifts on us and
please enjoy the cook off! Cooks, to
your stations!

The MunchBox squad rolls out in an almost military-like formation and all systematically surround their cooking station.

Henry and Adam slowly walk to their station. They both take a deep breath and do their complicated handshake-fist-bump-thing. Officer King comes running up to the guys. He has a big cooler with a plastic bag on top. He stops in front of them, panting.

OFFICER KING

Okay, I kinda dropped the ball with
the whole email thing, so I ran back
and picked up some stuff that Adam
asked me to grab.

HENRY LEWIS

Adam?

Adam shrugs.

ADAM WALKER

I take my job seriously sometimes,
man. What can I say?

Adam turns to Officer King.

ADAM WALKER

Did you grab the most important thing?

Officer King pulls a small bluetooth speaker out of the plastic bag and hands it to Adam.

ADAM WALKER

We work better with music, right?

HENRY LEWIS

Can't argue with that. What's in the
cooler?

Officer King opens the lid of the cooler, shining the guys in a brilliant golden light.

OFFICER KING

(Smugly)

Gotta give the people what they want.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

MUSIC CUE: "Whole Lotta Love" by Led Zeppelin.

Everything is in sync with the music. It's fucking epic.

Henry and Adam tie aprons around their waists. They begin to work.

QUICK CUTS:

--Adam fires up the grill. It's loud and bright and exciting. The game is on.

--Henry rolls balls of meat and flattening them and placing them on sheet.

--Henry looks around. Adam whistles and tosses him the pepper. It flies through the air before gracefully being caught by Henry.

--Henry adds pepper to the mixture, then some salt.

HENRY LEWIS

Comin' your way!

--Henry then slides the sheet to Adam.

--Adam throws burger (whopper whopper whopper whopper) patties on the grill and begins to cook.

--Adam slices and dices the veggies and blocks of cheese. It's food porn.

--Henry and Adam bounces their heads to the music, totally in the zone.

--Henry and Adam both move fluidly and rhythmically: absolute professionals.

--Adam turns from the grill and goes to the stovetop. He begins frying some bacon, the sizzling and popping from the frying food join in to the melody of the music.

--Adam takes the frying pan off the stove and turns towards Henry.

--Henry turns around, dodging Adam. Henry flips the grilling burger patties over. They sizzle in such a satisfying way.

--Adam starts to assemble the burgers. Everything is very precise and beautiful.

--Henry brings over the patties and finishes the burgers. The plates start to pile up and Officer King starts to place them all on the large judge's table.

END MONTAGE

Henry and Adam rapidly assemble the last of the burgers and Officer King rushes to get them on the judge's table. Feedback from the electronic megaphone stops the group in their tracks.

KENDYL PARKE (O.S.)

Alrighty y'all! That's the end of the
ninety minutes! Time to eat!

Henry and Adam fist bump and wipe the sweat from their faces. They're done.

This is it.

They make their way over to the judge's table where Officer King is already passing out burgers to the townspeople. Kendyl passes out the chicken sandwiches that the MunchBox fry cooks have made.

The whole town seems to be present and they are all loudly talking and enjoying their meals.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - COOK OFF - LATER

The townspeople are milling around as Kendyl and Officer King talk indistinctly under the main tent. Henry and Adam catch the eye of a small group of the MunchBox fry cooks. They give each other the friendly upwards head nod, but never exchange more than that nonverbal. The tension is high.

Finally, Kendyl returns to her small crate and brings the megaphone up to her mouth. The townspeople all crowd around and into the tent. Kendyl takes a deep breath.

KENDYL PARKE

Okay folks, you all have spoken. After tallying up all of your votes, there was a clear winner.

Kendyl looks over at Henry and Adam. A look of pure hatred and poison that no smile can mask.

KENDYL PARKE

The winner of today's cook of was...

The crowd starts to quietly murmur as they all stare eagerly at Kendyl. Henry and Adam have their arms around each other in support.

KENDYL PARKE

The Harbor House.

The crowd starts to cheer and clap. Henry and Adam start jumping up and down with joy. Officer King starts barreling towards the two and hugs them.

HENRY LEWIS

Oh my god, I can't believe we did it!

OFFICER KING

Ha! I knew you guys could do it!

The crowd starts to disperse a bit and the small group of MunchBox fry cooks make their way over to the trio.

MUNCHBOX COOK

You guys were good competition. Seem like a good team. Much better than that bitch of a boss.

Adam laughs and Henry gives a small smile before making a face of inspiration.

HENRY LEWIS

I mean, if you guys hate her so much, why don't you come work for us? Help us keep our restaurant away from her evil clutches.

The MunchBox cooks all look at one another and murmur indistinctly. Some nod, some become expressive with their hands, until-

MUNCHBOX COOK

We'd love to. Anything to get a win against Ms. Parke.

ADAM WALKER

We'll take what we can get.

MUNCHBOX COOK

When do we start?

HENRY LEWIS

Tomorrow. Every day counts now. We'll see you all tomorrow at 8am sharp.

The MunchBox cooks all salute jokingly and walk away chuckling to themselves. Kendyl pushes through the small cluster of cooks and approaches the trio.

KENDYL PARKE

Well, y'all. You have certainly surprised me. You outcooked some of my best workers.

ADAM WALKER

Hell yeah we did. Now get the hell out of here. We get a three month extension and I swear I'll kick your ass if I see you before then.

Officer King lightly shakes his head at Adam in a "not a good idea" way.

KENDYL PARKE

Well that sure is a shame, because I intend to see you quite often. Sure, you get another three months. But I swear to you I will make these next three months a living hell. You'll want to give up your restaurant when I'm done with you. Every day you'll be looking behind your back, always wondering when I'll-

Adam suddenly lurches forward and vomits all over Kendyl's shoes.

ADAM WALKER

Holy shit, there it is. Been holding that in all day.

Adam wipes his mouth as Kendyl, looking absolutely horrified, storms away quickly. Officer King puts his hand on Adam's shoulder and Adam puts his hand on Henry's shoulder.

ADAM WALKER

Alright, boss. Let's get to work.

MUSIC CUE: "Saturday in the Park" by Chicago.