

Upbeat Cynicism

'Pilot-Revised'

Aaron Owens

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FADE IN:

EXT. LOW AND EASY RESTAURANT BACK ALLEY - EVENING

Having nothing to do, GLEN and TOMMY are sitting behind the restaurant on lousy looking lawn chairs. Next to them is a platter covered with partially eaten chicken wings. The two pick through the pile looking for the ones with the most meat still on the bone. They eat the meat and throw the bones into a nearby garbage can.

AMANDA enters in a huff, holding a broom. She grumpily approaches the two chicken eaters.

AMANDA

Here you are! Look guys, I was sweeping in the freezer and-

She pauses for a beat, fixated on the plate of chicken wings that they continue to eat.

AMANDA

(Continued.)

You know, there are uneaten chicken wings on that plate.

GLEN

We're saving them for last, why do you think we're eating the garbage ones first?

Amanda pauses with a sour face, clearly never having eaten discarded food in an alley. Glen puts down his wing, giving her his attention.

GLEN

So, you were sweeping the freezer and?

AMANDA

And I found a...

She gestures with both hands, hoping the two can fill in the blank. Tommy is mostly ignoring her, while Glen mimics her gesture.

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AMANDA

You know...when two people are...

She extends her right arm into a fist, and puts her left hand on her right shoulder. Glen gives a knowing smile, while Tommy continues with the wings.

GLEN

(Purposely Ignorant.)

When they're what?

AMANDA

When two people are...intimate they might leave behind a...

She tries motions again, hoping she won't have to say the word.

GLEN

A baby?

TOMMY

(Touching his nose.)

Not it.

AMANDA

(With great contempt.)

A condom! Alright? There is a *used* condom on the freezer floor. Jeez, you guys are dicks.

Glen makes an exaggerated response of understanding, while Tommy puts down the wing he's eating.

TOMMY

(With a sour face.)

Ew.

AMANDA

I know, I...

TOMMY

(Continued.)

Who puts vinegar on a chicken wing?

Tommy gets up and throws out the wing with disgust. Amanda rubs her face in frustration.

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AMANDA

Look guys, I know I'm new, and I
might not be the *seasoned* restaurant
veterans that you guys are, but-

Tommy, ignoring her, begins to walk away. Amanda turns on
him in a flash.

AMANDA

(Continued.)

And just where do you think you're
going?

TOMMY

I'm going to go do some drugs.

The bluntness of his response silence her.

GLEN

You, uh...you going to do any
particular kind of drugs?

TOMMY

Oh, the illegal kind.

Glen and Amanda have the same perplexed look, as they
watch Tommy walk away. Amanda turns to Glen with a
familiar sour face.

GLEN

So, condoms in the freezer?

AMANDA

Condoms in the freezer!

Glen throws out a chicken bone and gets up.

AMANDA

Like, I was sweeping to pass the
time. I didn't realize Sundays were
so boring. So, I make my way into the
freezer and there's somebody's dirty
condom on the ground!

GLEN

Don't look at me. I was hanging in
the office for most of the night.

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AMANDA

(In a hush.)

What if the health inspector came in?

GLEN

Well, I mean, was...it in the food.

AMANDA

No, it was on the floor.

GLEN

And was the food on the floor?

Amanda hits him with the broom, giving him a dirty look.

AMANDA

That's not the point ass. Now, what are you going to do? Because I assure you I won't be the one who picks it up.

GLEN

Why do you even care? Go have a smoke or something.

AMANDA

(Insulted he'd even say that.)

I don't smoke.

GLEN

What are you talking about? You smoked all the time with Fran yesterday.

AMANDA

Yeah, with Fran. It's a social thing you know. But, if I smoke by myself, then that makes me a smoker. And I am not a smoker.

Glen rolls his eyes.

GLEN

You know, Clair smokes.

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AMANDA

And? Oh, wait! I bet she knows who
had sex in the freezer?

GLEN

She does, does she?

AMANDA

Well, I mean we're the only two girls
in tonight, and if it wasn't me...

GLEN

(In growing annoyance.)

Yeah, I'm following you. So, you want
me to get her to pick it up?

AMANDA

No, the girl shouldn't pick it up.

GLEN

So then what do you want from me?

AMANDA

Well, you're in charge tonight right?
Go ask her who left it.

Amanda puts her hands on her hips, giving Glen a firm,
motherly stare. Glen rolls his eyes sighing, and goes to
the restaurant proper.

CUT TO:

INT: LOW AND EASY BAR - EVENING

The entire bar is empty with most of the chairs sitting
on the tables. CLAIR, the bartender is standing behind
the bar looking at her phone. The door to the backroom
creaks open and Glen comes through.

GLEN

That busy huh?

CLAIR

Oh, just the usual Sunday rush.
Haven't seen you around much tonight.

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GLEN

I've been training the new girl.

She takes down a bottle of rum and serves the two of them drinks.

CLAIR

I'm sure. What's with her anyways?

GLEN

Tonight? She found a condom in the freezer.

CLAIR

Well, was it in the food?

GLEN

Meh, I already made that joke.

The two continue to drink. Glen looks around the room taping his fingers.

GLEN

So?

CLAIR

So?

GLEN

So, how was the sex?

Clair's smile quickly fades and she shoots Glen a look.

CLAIR

What makes you think it was me?

GLEN

Because there's two girls here and ones already said not it.

CLAIR

That doesn't mean it was me. What about Jackie?! She was here tonight.

GLEN

Who the hell's Jackie?

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CLAIR

Jackie, you know the chick who
delivers the pop? The one you guys
are always-

GLEN

Oh, Pop Girl! Yeah, she was here...oh
man, did somebody sleep with Pop
Girl?!

CLAIR

Did you?

GLEN

Don't you think I'd be bragging?

Clair gives him an annoyed look and raises her eyebrow.

CLAIR

Well you guys are always flocking to
her, did anything happen?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GLEN'S FLASHBACK, BEHIND LOW AND EASY - AFTERNOON

A few hours earlier in the alley, Glen and Tommy are
sitting in the same spot, eating from the same plate of
half eaten chicken wings.

GLEN (O.S.)

(Narrating from the future.)

Well, Me and Tommy were sitting
around eating those chicken wings
from yesterday.

CLAIR (O.S.)

(Also from the future.)

Yeah, I had a few of those earlier.

GLEN (O.S.)

So, Pop Girl comes by with some...well
pop.

POP GIRL, a young and very attractive woman enters. She
wears a shirt that displays moderate cleavage and she has
some cases of pop with her.

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GLEN (O.S.)
And she's like-

Pop Girl begins to talk, but instead of her voice we hear Glen from the future speaking for her. Naturally, he talks in an exaggerated accent, with his voice not in sync with her lips.

GLEN (O.S.)
(As Pop Girl.)
Hey, can you guys give me a hand
bringing in these cases, they're
pretty heavy.

Pop Girl puts down the cases and stretches out her back. She then bends over in a way where she presents her buttocks to them. They approve.

GLEN (O.S.)
And, you know she's a pretty
disgustingly, good looking person, so
we're both creeping on her pretty
hard.

CLAIR (O.S.)
Naturally.

Tommy extends his right fist, while placing his left hand on his right shoulder. It is meant as a question for Glen, he nods in agreement.

GLEN (O.S.)
So, we're about to give her a hand,
right? But, then Amanda comes by, and
she's like-

Amanda enters the alley from the main restaurant. She confronts Glen and Tommy. His voice for her is very gruff.

GLEN (O.S.)
(As Amanda.)
Blah, blah, blah, I'm the only one
doing work. Blah, blah, blah, you two
need to get back on the floor.

Glen pauses for a beat rolling his eyes.

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GLEN (O.S.)
Because she's a little bit fussy. And
I'm like-

GLEN (O.S.)
(As himself in the past.)
Blah, Blah, Blah, sarcastic remark.
Blah, Blah, Blah I'm the greatest.

GLEN (O.S.)
Because you know, I'm a bit of a
dick.

CLAIR (O.S.)
Oh, I know.

GLEN (O.S.)
So, I go back to the office. But as I
do, I see that Pop Girl is getting
all chummy with Tommy. And now it's
becoming increasingly obvious to me
that Tommy was probably the one who
slept with Pop Girl.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESENT, LOW AND EASY BAR - EVENING

Glen and Clair are now surrounded by several shot glasses
and the rum bottle is mostly empty.

CLAIR
But, Tommy's so...gross.

GLEN
Yeah, I'm sure it wasn't a pretty
sight, but why would Pop Girl want to
sleep with Tommy?

CLAIR
Oh! I actually think I might know.

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EXT. CLAIR'S FLASHBACK, BEHIND LOW AND EASY - AFTERNOON

Clair and Pop Girl are smoking behind the restaurant. Clair's posture is noticeably more submissive than it is in reality. Clair's breast are also much smaller. Pop Girl's breast meanwhile, are noticeably bigger than in Glen's flashback, as is the cleavage she is displaying.

CLAIR (O.S.)

(Narrating.)

You see, I was outside smoking with Pop Girl.

GLEN (O.S.)

Why were you smoking with Pop Girl?

CLAIR (O.S.)

Because, none of you dicks smoke, and I'm not going to smoke by myself. Anyways, so Pop Girl is going on about boyfriend this and cheating that. I wasn't really listening.

Pop Girl blabbers on unheard, as Clair rolls her eyes and takes a drag on her cigarette.

CLAIR (O.S.)

But, I did hear her say she knew the perfect way to get back at him. And she flashes Tommy this, I know, that you know, I'm good looking smile.

Tommy as it turns out is five feet away from them, fishing through a garbage can.

CLAIR (O.S. CONT.)

Tommy by the way was fishing through the garbage, for some profound reason I'm sure.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESENT, LOW AND EASY BAR - EVENING

Clair and Glen are still at the bar. The rum bottle has taken another strong hit.

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GLEN

He collects cans for the returns, I'm starting to think he might actually be homeless.

CLAIR

Sure. Anyways, if Pop Girl was having problems with...Pop Man, then maybe, she you know.

Clair flashes Glen her right fist, her left hand on her right shoulder. Amanda enters in from the backroom, comes over to the bar and pulls up a stool. Clair offers to pour her a drink, but Amanda declines.

AMANDA

So, I had to send Tommy home.

CLAIR

Oh, yeah? What was he doing?

AMANDA

Oh, he was doing drugs.

CLAIR

What kind of drugs?

AMANDA

Oh, the illegal kind. Anyways he says that Glen-

GLEN

(Interrupting.)

We're at Pop Girl having sex with Tommy, to get back at Pop Man.

Amanda takes a beat to let that sink in.

AMANDA

Pop Girl? Oh, you mean Jackie? Yeah, she mentioned something about her boyfriend. But I don't think Tommy slept with Pop Girl.

CLAIR

How do you know?

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DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AMANDA'S FLASHBACK, BEHIND LOW AND EASY - AFTERNOON

Amanda walks into the alley as Pop Girl is bending over trying to lift the cases of pop. Glen and Tommy sitting in their chairs looking at her butt. Pop Girl is now noticeably less presentable than before. Amanda meanwhile, looks the same as she does in real life, and stands in the same power pose. Amanda rolls her eyes at the boys.

AMANDA (O.S.)

(Narrating.)

Well, I was taking out some garbage earlier, and I saw the boys drooling over Jackie and, you know, I figured I'd help a...sister out.

Amanda goes over and begins to lecture the boys unheard, she looks very much the mother. The two look away like small children.

AMANDA (O.S.)

And I'm trying to get them to go back on the floor, where I had been working all by myself by the way.

The two boys in the flashback roll their eyes.

AMANDA (O.S.)

But, of course they're all asses, so they didn't go quietly.

CLAIR (O.S.)

Naturally.

The two boys are now lined up in front of Amanda with dopy grins on their faces. They talk with their own voice, but with Amanda's timbre.

TOMMY

(Passive aggressively.)

I'm a low life druggy, who eats from the trash!

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Tommy begins to rummage through a nearby garbage can.
Glen walks forward.

GLEN

(Passive aggressively.)

Blah, blah, blah! Sarcastic remark!
Blah, blah, blah! I'm so great!

AMANDA (O.S.)

You know, because he's a bit of a
dick.

CLAIR (O.S.)

Oh, I know.

Glen begins to walks away and Pop Girl flashes him with
incredibly flirty eyes.

AMANDA (O.S.)

So, Glen gives Jackie this, I know
that you know, that I know you're
good looking smile.

GLEN

(Non-chalantly.)

Actually, I'll be in the office. I've
got some...work to do.

Glen leaves with a wink. Tommy walks over to corner Pop
Girl, rubbing his hands together eagerly.

AMANDA (O.S.)

Not to say that Tommy wasn't trying
out his natural allure...

TOMMY

(In a twisted voice.)

So, heh, heh. You need help with your
cans?

Pop Girl looks at Tommy as if he has the plague, but
Amanda steps forward brimming and eager.

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AMANDA (O.S.)

So, I offer to give her a hand, and
do you know what she had the audacity
to tell me?

POP GIRL

Actually, I have something else I
need to do. But, I would *really*
appreciate it if you brought it all
in for me.

Pop Girl smiles and pats Amanda's arm and leaves through
the door Glen did. Amanda looks over at Tommy, who is
back to being pretty focused on the trash and then looks
at the cases of pop on the ground. She sighs and picks
them up.

AMANDA (O.S.)

So, she left me out there to do her
job for her and goes running down to
the office after Glen. And it seems
to me now, that Glen probably slept
with Pop Girl.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESENT, LOW AND EASY BARROOM - EVENING

Glen, Amanda and Clair are still sitting at the bar.
Amanda and Clair are both giving Glen blank stares.

GLEN

Oh, this a witch hunt.

The two girls continue to stare.

GLEN

What I do, warm her up in the office
and take her back to the freezer.

The stares don't stop.

GLEN

Maybe it was Pop Man, paying her a
visit.

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The two break their gazes. Amanda with a sigh. Clair to look at the clock.

CLAIR

It's closing time.

Glen and Clair get up, stumbling a little because they had been drinking. They get ready to leave. Amanda isn't satisfied.

AMANDA

Wait! So you slept with Pop Girl?
What else were you two doing in the back office?

Clair looks at Glen curiously, Glen gives Clair a blank look.

GLEN

The same thing I do every time. She slaps her cans down, I punch her ticket, and she leaves.

Glen puts his left hand on his right shoulder, extending his right fist. He winks at Clair, who rolls her eyes while putting the rum bottle back on the shelf.

CUT TO:

EXT: BEHIND LOW AND EASY - EVENING

Glen, Amanda and Clair have their jackets and are getting ready to leave.

AMANDA

But then who had sex in the freezer?!

GLEN

Who cares? People have sex in there all the time.

CLAIR

Yeah, that's why we had to put up a "Please Knock" sign.

Amanda pauses for a moment to let that sink in.

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AMANDA

(Dryly.)

Oh, well I guess that makes sense.

Amanda turns to Clair.

AMANDA

(In a hush.)

Hey, you smoke right?

CLAIR

All the time.

AMANDA

Thank God, I haven't had a chance to smoke all day.

CLAIR

I know, none of these dicks smoke.

The two smokers prepare to light up, as Glen throws out the plate of wings. He takes the last full wing and bites down.

GLEN

You two are gross.

Glen goes and locks the door and the three turn to leave.

CLAIR

So I hear you're an actress or something?

AMANDA

Well, I don't want to brag but-

Oh, wait! We didn't pick up the...you know.

GLEN

Meh, I just kicked it back under the shelf with the others.

Clair and Glen walk away. Amanda shrugs and follows suit and our heroes leave to go home, a job well done.

FADE TO BLACK.