

UNDERSTUDY

by
Randy Kelley

RTF 333 - Screenwriting
Prof. Scott Rice
TA: Alison Eakle
Monday/Wednesday: 4-5pm
May 5, 2006

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Several MEN sit in chairs that line the walls of the plain, white, square waiting room. They talk to themselves, but some VOICES stick out louder than others.

BALD MAN

Too much sanity may be
madness. To seek treasure
where there is only trash.
And maddest of all, to see
life as it is and not as it
should be.

FAT MAN

Because I am not worth the
dust on the feet of them that
hang! How may I live without
my name?

BLACK MAN

So sweet was ne'er so fatal.
I must weep, but they are
cruel tears. This sorrow's
heavenly, it strikes where it
doth love.

ARTICULATE MAN

Mouth. Teeth. Tip of the
tongue. Mouth. Teeth. Tip
of the tongue.

ALAN O'SHEA, an irritable yet lovable Milquetoast in his early thirties, sits and watches his company. RICK STEADMAN, a late-thirties Mr. Perfect who knows it, sits next to Alan, eyes closed, massaging his temples.

The door opens and the room goes SILENT. A WOMAN who clearly does not want to be there stands in the door frame. She flips through a few pages on her clipboard.

UNSATISFIED WOMAN

Alan O'Shea?

Alan taps his knees and stands.

UNSATISFIED WOMAN (CONT'D)

Follow me, please.

Steadman smiles and gives Alan two thumbs up as he exits.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Alan walks to the center of the small, poorly-lit stage. A handful of PEOPLE sit in the audience.

UNSATISFIED WOMAN

Alan O'Shea will be treating us
today with an original piece,
entitled "The People's King."

Alan clears his throat.

DIRECTOR

Whenever you are ready, Mr. O'Shea.

After a couple moments, Alan looks up wide-eyed.

ALAN

My kingdom. I am with you in your sadness on this dark day. And as the Earth mourns for my queen, look to the heavens. For tomorrow... the sun will rise again!

DIRECTOR

Thank you, Mr. O'Shea.

Alan gets out of character.

ALAN

Thank you.

DIRECTOR

And do you have a musical piece?

INT. BAR EIGHT - NIGHT

Alan sits at a table and drinks with three friends in a bar where the music is loud and there's always a crowd. JOEY FIRELLO, Alan's best friend, scans the bar for ladies. KYLE CLARK, an intimidating teddy bear, and his wife, NIKA, a Venezuelan vixen who can drink you under the table, look at Alan.

KYLE

What did you sing?

ALAN

"If I Were A Rich Man."

KYLE

Gwen Stefani?

ALAN

What? No. It's from Fiddler on the Roof.

NIKA

(to Kyle)

That's "Rich Girl."

Joey comes back to the conversation.

JOEY
Hey, the point is he got the part.

ALAN
I got a part.

NIKA
Which part?

ALAN
Not the lead. I'm Bernard, the bad
guy.

NIKA
Well, at least it's something.

KYLE
Yeah, man. And the bad guys are
always more fun to play, right?

JOEY
Right.

ALAN
I guess that's true.

NIKA
You wouldn't have any fun as a
lead.

JOEY
Right. That's what you do, man.
You steal the show.

ALAN
Actually, I'm also the understudy
for the lead.

NIKA
Oh, excellent.

KYLE
So, if the lead guy gets sick--

ALAN
Then I would play Victor, the good
guy.

Nika raises her stein.

NIKA
Well, for now, to the bad guy.

They all raise their glasses.

KYLE
To taking the lead.

JOEY
And stealing the show.

ALAN
Cheers.

The glasses CLINK over the center of the table.

INT. PIERCE THEATER - MORNING

Twenty-five or so ACTORS, including Alan and Steadman, sit in a circle of folding chairs on the small stage of the dimly-lit auditorium. The DIRECTOR, late-sixties, standing in the center, holds an unlit cigarette between his fingers.

DIRECTOR
Ladies. Gentlemen. Good morning.
I am your director, Charles
Creighton.

The actors APPLAUD. Creighton nods around the circle.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
Thank you. Welcome to the Pierce
Theater production of "Stop,
Thief!" I think we have got an
outstanding cast. All of you, I'm
sure I've seen before. Most of
you, I don't remember.

Creighton bends and picks up his bag full of scripts. He begins handing them out.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
However, I am sure that over the
next several weeks, we are all
going to become a very intimate
group.

He reaches Steadman, and pauses to address the other actors.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
This is Rick Steadman. He will be
playing our protagonist, Victor.

The actors APPLAUD. Rick flashes his winning smile.

STEADMAN

Thank you. Can't wait to get started.

Creighton continues passing out the scripts.

CREIGHTON

Today, we will simply be doing a read-thru. We will skip the musical numbers. Please pay attention to your cues.

He reaches Alan, and pauses to address the other actors.

CREIGHTON (CONT'D)

Here, we have Alex O'Shea, who will be play--

ALAN

Alan.

Creighton looks to Alan, confused.

CREIGHTON

I'm sorry, what?

Alan clears his throat.

ALAN

Alan O'Shea.

CREIGHTON

Are you certain?

ALAN

Um, yes.

Creighton takes a drag of his unlit cigarette and exhales.

CREIGHTON

Very well.

He hands Alan a script, and continues around.

CREIGHTON (CONT'D)

Alan O'Shea will be playing our antagonist, Bernard, as well as understudy to Mr. Steadman.

Some of the actors CLAP. Alan nods with an awkward smile.

CREIGHTON (CONT'D)

The goal for today is only to get through the script as quickly as--

The door at the back of the theater SQUEALS open and BANGS shut. MIKAELA MCKENNA, late-twenties, who looks like she should be a model if only she weren't always playing outside, rushes down the aisle toward the stage.

MIKAELA

Hi. I'm here. Sorry I'm late.

CREIGHTON

Ah, our love interest.

MIKAELA

Hi. Sorry.

Mikaela climbs up the stage stairs as Creighton turns back to face his actors.

CREIGHTON

Ladies and gentlemen, the lovely Mikaela McKenna, who will be playing Maria.

The actors clap as Mikaela stands searching for a chair.

MIKAELA

Hi. Hey everybody.

Alan stands.

ALAN

You can have mine.

Mikaela rushes to his chair.

MIKAELA

Oh, thank you. No no, we can share.

Alan gives her a befuddled look.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)

My ass isn't that big. We can fit.

Mikaela sits half on and half off the chair. She taps the vacant side of the seat, smiling at Alan. Alan awkwardly sits next to her, leaning away over his script.

CREIGHTON

Can we please get started?

Everyone ruffles through their scripts. Mikaela realizes she doesn't have one. She stands up to Creighton. Creighton shuffles through his bag and hands her a script.

CREIGHTON (CONT'D)
Here you are, sweetie-pie.

Mikaela takes the script.

MIKAELA
Thank you.

And goes back to her seat.

CREIGHTON
Okay, folks. Let's go. Page one.
We have the opening number.
Everyone is looking for jobs. And
then, Victor.

Everyone looks down at the scripts on their laps.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
A job! I can't believe I finally
got a job.

ERNIE ROWALSKI, sixties, lanky, sits a few seats away from Steadman.

ERNIE
(as Hugo)
You're a lucky kid, you know that?

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
I guess I am.

Mikaela turns and leans closer to Alan.

MIKAELA
(whispers)
What's your name?

DANNY BEST, fresh out of college theater, stops chewing on his pen.

DANNY
(as Tom)
Why, you're the luckiest guy I
know.

ALAN
(whispers)
Alan.

Mikaela smiles and extends her hand.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
Today's just a sunny day.

MIKAELA
(whispers)
Mikaela McKenna.

They shake hands.

DANNY
(as Tom)
Well mister, shouldn't ya get goin'?

MIKAELA
(whispers)
Nice to meet you, Alan.

Alan smiles and nods.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
You're right. And I gotta find me
a bike.

The actors look up at Creighton.

ALAN
(whispers)
Nice to meet you.

CREIGHTON
Excellent. Now we have a set
change. Victor's song. And page
five.

The actors flip through a few pages.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
I got the job!

MIKAELA
(as Maria)
Oh, honey!

STEADMAN
 (as Victor)
 I told you it wouldn't be long.

MIKAELA
 (as Maria)
 Oh, I'm so proud.

STEADMAN
 (as Victor)
 I just need to pawn the linens.

MIKAELA
 (as Maria)
 The linens?

STEADMAN
 (as Victor)
 Yes, I need the money for a
 bicycle. Then, I can get started.
 And by the end of the day, I'll
 have made enough to get the linens
 back and bring dinner.

MIKAELA
 (as Maria)
 Oh, Victor. I'm so happy.

JOSH WRIGHT, a bright-eyed eight year old, sits up straight.

JOSH
 (as Toby)
 Dad!

STEADMAN
 (as Victor)
 Hey, son. You wanna join your ole
 man on his first day of work?

JOSH
 (as Toby)
 Well, sure, Pop.

STEADMAN
 (as Victor)
 Alright! Let's go. So long,
 honey.

MIKAELA
 (as Maria)
 Victor, wait.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
What is it?

MIKAELA
(as Maria)
I don't want to say.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
Honey, you can tell me.

MIKAELA
(as Maria)
I saw Reyanne today.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
The kook?

MIKAELA
(as Maria)
She's a fortune-teller. I saw her
and I'm worried over what she said.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
It's probably nothing dear.
Honestly, I don't know why you
believe in--

MIKAELA
(as Maria)
She told me luck would soon come
our way. But that if we weren't
careful, it would just as quickly
disappear.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
Would you listen to yourself? The
lady's a kook. Listen, you've got
nothing to worry about. We'll be
fine.

MIKAELA
(as Maria)
I hope so.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
I've gotta get goin. I love you.
I'll see you tonight.

MIKAELA
 (as Maria)
 I love you too.

STEADMAN
 (as Victor)
 Come on, Toby.

JOSH
 (as Toby)
 Coming, Dad.

The actors relax their scripts on their laps and look back up at Creighton, who reads over the next few pages.

CREIGHTON
 Excellent. Another set-change.
 Maria sings her song.

MIKAELA
 (sings, ad-libbing)
 I'm worried about my husband, and I
 don't know what to do.

CREIGHTON
 Right. Let's move on to the Pawn
 Shop, shall we? Page twelve, with
 Benny.

STEVE PARRISH, a thirty-something bad actor that should have been a used car salesman, flips a few pages.

STEVE
 (as Benny)
 Sorry, fella. We're all trying to
 eat here.

STEADMAN
 (as Victor)
 Benny.

STEVE
 (as Benny, friendly)
 What you got today, Vic?

Alan leans closer to Mikaela.

ALAN
 (whispers)
 Good job.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
I need a bike.

Mikaela smiles.

MIKAELA
(whispers)
Thanks.

STEVE
(as Benny)
And you brought me some sheets.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
It should be enough. And just for
the day.

STEVE
(as Benny)
Let me go check.

MIKAELA
(whispers)
Hey, want to go grab some lunch
after this?

STEVE
(as Benny)
I got one bike left in the back.

ALAN
(whispers)
Sounds good.

Alan smiles.

STEVE
(as Benny)
I'll hold on to these till you
return it.

STEADMAN
(as Victor)
Thanks, Benny.

STEVE
(as Benny)
Good luck.

EXT. DELI - DAY

Alan and Mikaela sit at a table under an umbrella, eating sandwiches on the terrace of a small deli. A few other PATRONS eat and talk.

Mikaela laughs with her mouth full.

ALAN
Okay, did you see "Blood and Ice"
at the Corina uptown?

MIKAELA
Wait, the hockey show?

ALAN
Yeah.

Mikaela swallows.

MIKAELA
I did see that.

ALAN
I was the goalie.

Mikaela puts a hand on Alan's arm.

MIKAELA
No.

ALAN
I was.

MIKAELA
With the teeth? And the ice skate
stabbing?

Mikaela laughs.

ALAN
That was me.

Alan gets into the character of a deranged Southern goalie. He motions that he's shaking someone by the shoulders.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I'm the best damn skater in the
world!

Mikaela laughs hysterically. Alan laughs a little and shrugs.

MIKAELA

Oh my god. I'm sorry.

ALAN

No no, it was terrible.

Alan picks up his sandwich for another bite.

MIKAELA

It was so bad.

Alan takes a bite and shrugs.

ALAN

What about you, what's the worst thing you've been in?

Mikaela thinks for a minute, eats a chip.

MIKAELA

You know, I haven't been in a whole lot. I'm just getting started in the whole acting thing.

ALAN

Okay.

Alan grabs a few chips.

MIKAELA

Okay, well, I was just in the chorus. But did you see "Jailbait" at the Majestic?

Alan drops his chips.

ALAN

Oh no.

MIKAELA

Oh yeah. I was in "Jailbait."

Alan laughs.

ALAN

How can you live with yourself?

Mikaela laughs and hits Alan on the arm.

MIKAELA

You judge me? Mr. Oh, ice skate, to the back.

Alan clutches his chest.

ALAN

Ow! And this coming from Miss
stripper, turned prisoner, turned
lesbian?

Mikaela laughs harder.

MIKAELA

Hey, I only made out with two
girls.

ALAN

Yeah, and what went on at the wrap
party?

Mikaela throws a few chips at Alan.

MIKAELA

Ass hole.

Alan laughs as he dusts himself off.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)

Okay, we've all done things we're
not proud of.

Mikaela picks up her sandwich.

ALAN

True. And now we're here.

Mikaela bows her head.

MIKAELA

Exactly.

She takes a bite. Alan eats a couple chips.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)

So what else do you do?

ALAN

When I'm not pretending to be an
actor, sometimes I like to pretend
I'm a writer.

MIKAELA

Really?

Alan nods.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)
Like, what kind of stuff?

ALAN
Short stories, plays, a novel.

Mikaela laughs a bit, then stifles it.

MIKAELA
A novel, huh?

ALAN
Yes. A novel.

Mikaela takes a bite of her pickle.

MIKAELA
Wow. What's it about?

Alan shakes his head.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)
No, tell me.

Alan continues shaking his head, smiling.

ALAN
It's, it's a dumb idea.

MIKAELA
What is it?

She eats her sandwich.

ALAN
Okay. It's about this guy, and he's having trouble with his wife. So he's goes back through his whole life, and tries to figure our where all his relationship issues came from. And he meets up with a--

MIKAELA
That sounds like a movie.

ALAN
Well, yeah. A lot of movies have this guy that--

MIKAELA
No but I mean, it sounds like one I've seen before.

Alan takes another bite.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)

Like, this guys going through his entire life. From being a baby, to college. Everything. And then he, he sleeps with a hooker.

ALAN

What?

MIKAELA

Yeah, and she teaches him the difference between love and sex, or something.

Alan looks at his plate and shakes his head.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)

Oh my god. That's your book.

Alan looks up at Mikaela, lips tight.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)

With the hooker and everything?

Alan nods.

ALAN

Yeah.

MIKAELA

Oh, Alan. I'm sorry.

Alan shakes his head.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)

Oh no.

ALAN

What's it called?

MIKAELA

I can't remember. I saw it forever ago.

ALAN

I'm so unoriginal.

MIKAELA

No, no. I'm sure yours is better.

She can't help but laugh a little.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)
What's the title?

ALAN
"The Difference Between Love and
Sex."

Mikaela laughs.

MIKAELA
Oh, Alan.

Alan picks up his pickle, then drops it.

ALAN
I'm an idiot.

MIKAELA
Well, you still have your plays,
right?

ALAN
Unless they've all been done
before.

MIKAELA
No. I'm sure they're great, and
original.

ALAN
What are you doing tonight?

Mikaela thinks about it, a little off-guard, then shrugs.

MIKAELA
I don't have any plans.

ALAN
A friend of mine's playing a show
around 9. They're not that good,
but I still have to go.

Mikaela eats another chip, smiles at Alan.

MIKAELA
Sounds like fun.

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alan's modest apartment depicts his choosey sense of style. Little hangs on the walls, and everything is very well-kept. Kyle watches TV from the couch in the largest room.

Alan fixes his hair in front of the bathroom mirror. Nika sits on the toilet as she flips through a magazine.

NIKA
Is she hot?

Alan uses his fingers to give his hair the "messy look." Only he isn't satisfied and keeps re-messing it.

ALAN
Yes, she's hot.

NIKA
Right. 'Cause you don't date ugly chicks.

ALAN
She's hot. And she's cool.

NIKA
How?

Alan turns on the sink, wets his hands, and goes back to work.

ALAN
I don't know. She's funny.

NIKA
She's got jokes?

ALAN
No. Like, she talks with her mouth full, she doesn't fix her hair.

NIKA
Oh, she's a slob.

ALAN
She's not slob.

NIKA
She's hot.

ALAN
Yeah.

KYLE (O.S.)
Can we go?

Alan kicks the hair-messing into high gear.

ALAN
Just a minute.

NIKA
You look fine. Let's get out of
here.

She puts down the magazine and stands.

Alan stops messing, satisfied. He looks at Nika in the mirror.

ALAN
Okay, how's this?

NIKA
She's gonna fall in love with you.

Alan throws Nika an irritated look, and turns off the light.

INT. CADILLAC'S BAR - NIGHT

Twelve or so CUSTOMERS sit and drink in this small, smoky bar. Most converse in small groups around tables. Alan, Nika, and Kyle sit on stools along a wall close to the stage. They bob their heads, tap their feet, pretend like they're enjoying it. On stage, a BAND tries to make MUSIC. The GUITAR is all over the place, and way too loud. Joey, the oldest one on stage by a margin, plays the drums.

Nika signals to the door with her bottle.

NIKA
Is that her?

Alan turns to see a short, chubby GIRL standing at the door.

ALAN
No.

Nika laughs.

KYLE
Why can't he keep a beat?

NIKA
He's trying, Sweetie.

They look to the stage. Joey smiles at his friends, still drumming. They wave.

KYLE
He sucks.

Nika finishes her beer.

NIKA
I need another one.

Kyle looks at his nearly empty bottle.

KYLE
Me too.

Alan stands.

ALAN
I'll go.

Alan walks to the bar. The BARTENDER, an old, bearded biker, approaches him.

BARTENDER
What'll it be?

Alan points to his bottle.

ALAN
Three more.

The Bartender turns to get the drinks. He finishes his beer, then turns to watch the band.

MIKAELA (O.S.)
Hey!

He sees her and gives a hug.

ALAN
You made it.

Mikaela points to the stage.

MIKAELA
Is this your friend?

ALAN
Yeah, the drummer. He rocks,
doesn't he?

The Bartender comes back and sets three beers on the bar.

MIKAELA
Oh, hard-core.

They laugh.

ALAN
What are you drinking?

MIKAELA
I'll just have a beer.

ALAN
(to Bartender)
Can I get one more?

The Bartender turns to get it. Alan grabs two of the beers and hands Mikaela one.

MIKAELA
Thanks.

Alan tilts his bottle towards hers.

ALAN
Cheers.

They CLINK, and drink.

The Bartender returns with the beer.

Alan grabs the two bottles with his free hand and signals to Mikaela that they're heading towards the stage. They start over there.

MIKAELA
Are you here with someone?

ALAN
Two friends. They're married.

MIKAELA
Okay.

She takes another drink.

They reach Kyle and Nika, who smile and take their beers.

ALAN
These are my friends, Nika and Kyle. Nika and Kyle, this is Mikaela.

They shake hands.

MIKAELA
Nice to meet you.

KYLE
Pleasure.

NIKA
I love your hair.

Mikaela touches her hair, surprised.

MIKAELA
Thanks. Yours is beautiful.

Nika touches her hair.

NIKA
Oh, thank you.

Alan and Mikaela sit on the stools.

The band finishes up their song. Some of the other customers CLAP. Nika, Kyle, Alan, and Mikaela cheer loudly.

KYLE
Woooo!

NIKA
Yeah, Joey!

Joey smiles and points a drumstick their way.

The LEAD SINGER, who looks like a cross between emo and 80's hair band, takes the microphone.

LEAD SINGER
Thanks everybody.

The APPLAUSE dies out.

LEAD SINGER (CONT'D)
My name's Curtis and we're Lucy
Loves Hockers.

NIKA
Wooo!

Kyle claps.

LEAD SINGER
Thank you.

Joey does a few hits on his drums.

LEAD SINGER (CONT'D)
So now we're gonna play a song I
wrote about an ex, who was just way
too needy.
(MORE)

LEAD SINGER (CONT'D)
 And I couldn't give her all the
 time that she demanded. It's
 called "Get Off My Nuts."

NIKA
 Wooo!

Nika takes another drink.

The lead singer steps back from the mike and looks at his
 bandmates.

LEAD SINGER
 One, two, three, four.

They play again, terribly.

MIKAELA
 So, how do you know the drummer?

ALAN
 I met him through Kyle when we
 moved out here after college.

MIKAELA
 From where?

ALAN
 We were at U. of I. Chicago.

KYLE
 Go Flames!

NIKA
 Woooo!

ALAN
 And Nika worked with Joey at Bar
 Eight.

MIKAELA
 Oh, I love that place.

NIKA
 Bar Eight kicks ass.

ALAN
 We go there like twice a week.

MIKAELA
 Cool.

They all take a drink.

NIKA
So you're in the show with Alan?

MIKAELA
Yeah. I'm Maria.

NIKA
Are you the lead actress?

MIKAELA
Yeah.

NIKA
Well, congrats, girl.

She holds up her beer. The bottles CLINK.

MIKAELA
Thanks.

They drink.

NIKA
So Alan, do you get the girl in the
end, or what?

Nika laughs and takes another drink.

Alan throws her a look.

NIKA (CONT'D)
I'm just playing. Come on.

Mikaela laughs.

ALAN
She's obliterated. Ignore her.

MIKAELA
(to Nika)
We'll see what happens.

Nika nods and gives Alan the thumbs up.

Mikaela gives Alan the thumbs up, laughing.

Alan shakes his head and takes another drink.

Mikaela notices someone come in the door.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)
Hey, isn't that, umm, Victor?

They all look. Steadman stands in the door looking for around the bar. He sees someone he knows and heads toward their table.

ALAN
Oh, yeah it is. Rick Steadman.

MIKAELA
Right. We should go say hi.

Alan looks at her in hesitation.

MIKAELA (CONT'D)
Come on.

Mikaela pulls Alan up and they walk over to Steadman's table, where he is just sitting down. He looks up and sees them.

STEADMAN
Hey guys.

MIKAELA
Mr. Steadman.

ALAN
Hi.

STEADMAN
Have a seat.

Alan and Mikaela sit.

MIKAELA
What are you doing here?

STEADMAN
I just came to meet a friend of mine.

He turns toward his FRIEND, early-twenties, who looks like a Lucy Loves Hockers fan.

STEADMAN (CONT'D)
Alan, Mikaela, this is my friend, Bryan.

Bryan nods with an awkward smile.

BRYAN
Hi.

MIKAELA
Hiya, Bryan.

Alan waves.

STEADMAN
What about you guys?

ALAN
Oh, I know the drummer.

Steadman looks to the stage for a second.

STEADMAN
He's good.

Alan nods. Mikaela laughs.

ALAN
Well, we're gonna go back.

He gestures toward Kyle and Nika.

STEADMAN
Okay. Good to see you guys.

Alan and Mikaela stand.

MIKAELA
Definitely.

ALAN
We'll see you later.

STEADMAN
Take care.

Alan and Mikaela leave.

BRYAN
Who were they?

STEADMAN
They're in the show with me.

Bryan looks away, dismissing it.

BRYAN
Mmm.

Alan and Mikaela get back to Nika and Kyle.

NIKA
Hey. I need another beer.

KYLE
No, you don't.

Nika looks at him angrily.

NIKA
Blow me. I want another one.

ALAN
Alright, I'll get it.

Alan points at Kyle, who shakes his head. He points at Mikaela.

MIKAELA
I'll go with you.

ALAN
Okay.

NIKA
Thanks guys.

She hits Kyle's leg. Alan and Mikaela head to the bar.

The Bartender returns.

BARTENDER
Yes ma'am?

MIKAELA
Can I get three of these, please?

Alan turns around and sees Bryan stomping out of the bar.

BARTENDER
Sure can.

Alan looks back to the table. Steadman stands, finishing Bryan's drink.

MIKAELA
And a cup of water too, please.

BARTENDER
Yep.

Mikaela turns to see Steadman hurriedly leave.

MIKAELA
Hey, where's he going?

Alan shakes his head.

ALAN
I don't know.

MIKAELA
Sure is in a rush.

Alan nods. The Bartender returns with three bottles and a cup of water. Mikaela grabs two bottles with one hand and the water with the other. Alan grabs his beer.

ALAN
(to Bartender)
Alan O'Shea?

BARTENDER
Yes sir.

They head back toward their friends.

Mikaela hands Nika her beer. And the water.

MIKAELA
I got you a water too, just in case.

NIKA
I'm not drunk.

Mikaela winks at Alan. Nika takes her water.

MIKAELA
Just in case.

EXT. CADILLAC'S BAR - LATE NIGHT

Kyle holds open the door as Nika stumbles out, almost falling. She gains her balance, then throws her hands up in the air.

NIKA
Wooooo!

Alan and Mikaela walk out behind her.