“Happy's Place"

"The Return of Old Abbot's"

by

Jim Colucci

COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

INT. TAVERN - EVENING (DAY 1)
(TAKODA, STEVE, BOBBIE, GABBY, EMMETT, ISABELLA)

BOBBIE, ISABELLA AND GABBY ARE BEHIND THE BAR, CLEANING UP FOR CLOSING. STEVE SITS IN HIS PLACE. TAKODA ENTERS, HAULING A BIG, DUSTY CASE OF LIQUOR. HE SETS IT ON THE BAR.

TAKODA

This is the last of the boxes we were storing in the speakeasy. Remember this from the good old days?

BOBBIE REACHES INTO THE BOX, SENDING A CLOUD OF DUST TOWARD STEVE, AND PULLS OUT AN EVEN DUSTIER BOTTLE. EMMETT ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN.

BOBBIE

Well would you look at that. (OFF BOTTLE) Old Abbot's Red label. That's Happy's brand, all right. Not exactly the good stuff. You should have left it up there. Maybe we could get away with serving it.

GABBY LOOKS INTO THE BOX.

GABBY

Ah, high school. I remember drinking this. And then I remember nothing else after. It's really strong.

STEVE TAKES A BAR NAPKIN AND DISGUSTEDLY WIPES THE THICK DUST OFF THE BOTTLE IN BOBBIE'S HAND. GABBY BEGINS TAPPING ON HER PHONE.

STEVE

Isn't this inventory a little old?

BOBBIE

At least six years. They stopped making it when COVID hit. But the great thing about spirits is, if unopened and properly stored, they basically last forever.

GABBY

(RE HER PHONE) Long enough to become the ironic "quaff of choice" for today's hipsters. Look at this listing I found on ebay. They call Old Abbot's "locally-sourced" and a "legacy brand." (READING PHONE) "This classic Tennessee whiskey carries a smoky, peaty flavor that pairs great with a perfectly-aged Tomahawk steak or the finest sashimi."

EMMETT

More like with an overdeveloped sense of irony and the dumbest TikTok followers. That stuff is rotgut.

GABBY HANDS HER PHONE TO BOBBIE.

BOBBIE

Rotgut that's going for eight hundred dollars a bottle!

GABBY

And you have a case. That's twelve bottles, at eight hundred each--

STEVE

--Nine thousand, six hundred dollars.

GABBY

How did you-- Oh. You sit there at the bar all day, and I keep forgetting it's because you're the accountant.

STEVE TURNS TO ISABELLA.

STEVE

And as the accountant, I can tell you that this money will make up for the cost overages on the speakeasy.

ISABELLA TAKES THE BOTTLE FROM BOBBIE AND HUGS IT.

ISABELLA

I'd never heard of it, but now I love Old Abbot's! Steve, can you analyze whether we'd do better selling whole bottles online, or as individual servings upstairs, with a big markup?

STEVE IS TAPPING AWAY ON HIS LAPTOP.

STEVE

Already on it.

BOBBIE

Well, first thing in the morning I have to go to Nashville and meet with that potential replacement for our liquor distributor. So Steve, I leave you in charge of this. In the meanwhile, why don't you just hide the hooch behind the bar. (OFF STEVE'S HORRIFIED LOOK). Why don't you find someone who's not afraid of dust to hide the hooch behind the bar.

EMMETT

If I can interject, as someone who puts a lot of care into the food in this establishment, I don't think we should sully our reputation serving low-quality beverage.

STEVE TURNS HIS LAPTOP AROUND TO FACE ISABELLA.

STEVE

In this first column, here are the projections if we price a shot at thirty dollars. Here's forty, and here's fifty.

STEVE AND ISABELLA ARE EXCITEDLY WRAPPED UP IN THE FIGURES, IGNORING EMMETT.

EMMETT

So is that your business plan now? Taking advantage of clueless poseurs?

(MORE)

EMMETT (CONT'D)

(UNDER HIS BREATH, WITH DERISION)

Millennials!

STEVE TURNS TO ISABELLA.

STEVE

He's right... Clueless millennial

poseurs! Maybe repeat the word

"artisanal," and we can charge seventy-

five!

AS STEVE AND ISABELLA CONTINUE TO COO OVER THE POTENTIAL WINDFALL, EMMETT WALKS AWAY.

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. TAVERN - DAY (DAY 2)
(BOBBIE, STEVE, ISABELLA, GABBY, TAKODA)

BOBBIE ENTERS, CATCHING THE ATTENTION OF GABBY, ISABELLA, STEVE AND TAKODA AROUND THE BAR.

BOBBIE

Well, it's a no-go with the distributor. Steve, we actually may end up needing to serve that Old Abbot's down here.

STEVE

About that... we were waiting for you to come in. We think there may have been a break-in last night.

BOBBIE

Oh, boy. There has been a wave of them in this area, so I guess it was our turn. What did they get?

ISABELLA

That's the weird thing. They didn't touch the register, the office seems in order. The only way we knew is, there's one bottle of Old Abbot's

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

missing, and we found another one on its side, leaking all over the bar.

TAKODA

I'm going to need to take a twenty out of petty cash for supplies, to touch up where it ate through the varnish. And the wood. And the floor.

BOBBIE

Great. Operation Red Label is already in the red.

SFX: GABBY'S PHONE DINGS.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

I better go call the cops.

GABBY TAKES A LOOK AT HER PHONE, THEN GOES WIDE-EYED. SHE GRABS BOBBIE BY THE ARM AND DRAGS HER TOWARD THE OFFICE.

GABBY

Steve, can you handle that? I need Bobbie to help me with... an emergency.

STEVE

What kind of--?

GABBY

--A lady emergency, Steve!

STEVE

Say no more. Please.

GABBY DRAGS BOBBIE BY THE ARM INTO THE OFFICE.

SCENE B

INT. TAVERN OFFICE - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 2)
(BOBBIE, GABBY)

GABBY HAS DRAGGED BOBBIE INTO THE OFFICE.

BOBBIE

What in the world--?

GABBY SHOWS BOBBIE HER PHONE.

GABBY

Look at this!

BOBBIE

(OFF PHONE) Gabby, did you really just drag me in here to show me an email announcing the return of the McRib?

GABBY GRABS THE PHONE, EXCITED.

GABBY

The McRib is back?! (THEN, RECOVERING) Okay, that is exciting, but no. This! You have a paternal half-sister!

BOBBIE

I know I do. I was talking with her about something important!

GABBY

Not Isabella. Another one! See?

BOBBIE TAKES GABBY'S PHONE AND STARES AT IT FOR A BEAT.

BOBBIE

What exactly am I looking at here?

GABBY

It's from a genealogy site I subscribe to. It says you have a DNA match.

BOBBIE

No, I don't. This email is for Blanche1207, whoever that is. Besides, I've never taken a DNA test.

GABBY

Okay, first, hi, my real first name is Blanche, and my birthday is December seventh. I kinda hoped you'd committed those things to memory, but that's for another time. And... you actually have taken a DNA test.

BOBBIE LOOKS COMPLETELY CONFUSED, AS GABBY CONTINUES.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Remember there was a time a while back, when I really really wanted to us to turn out to be sisters? And I made you that turkey dinner, with sleepytime tea, and streamed Killers of the Flower Moon? And when you woke up, you said your mouth felt funny, like someone had been rubbing your gums with cotton?

BOBBIE

You did that?

BOBBIE TOUCHES HER JAW, AS IF REMEMBERING SORENESS.

GABBY

I may have been a little overzealous with the swab.

BOBBIE

I woke up with gums so sore, I started seeing a periodontist.

GABBY

Oral hygiene is very important at your age, so... you're welcome?

BOBBIE

(PROCESSING) So you're saying...

GABBY

The test is under my account, but they're your results. You have another sister.

GABBY TAKES A BEAT AND REGISTERS BOBBIE'S SHOCK.

GABBY (CONT'D)

(TRYING LEVITY) Instead of Happy, maybe they should've called him Busy.

BOBBIE

Gabby, too soon.

CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. TAVERN -- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 2)
(GABBY, STEVE, TAKODA, EMMETT)

STEVE AND TAKODA ARE WHERE WE LEFT THEM. EMMETT AND ISABELLA ENTER FROM THE KITCHEN AND APPROACH STEVE.

ISABELLA

Nothing missing in the kitchen either.

SFX: ISABELLA'S PHONE LETS OUT A DING NOISE.

ISABELLA CHECKS HER PHONE, THEN GETS EXCITED.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

What?! I have a DNA match! A paternal half-sister! Blanche somebody.

THE GUYS ARE SHOCKED AS SHE SHOWS THEM HER PHONE.

TAKODA

Maybe instead of Happy, they should've called him Busy.

ISABELLA

(HIGH-FIVING) Good one, Takoda!

STEVE

You did a DNA test?

EMMETT

Isn't your generation all suspicious of giving Big Government your personal data? 'Cause you should be.

ISABELLA

Yeah, that's actually more you.

EMMETT

Then they hand over your DNA to a top-secret science lab, which creates a clone to kill and replace you.

ISABELLA

Okay, I would so watch that movie. (OFF HIS LOOK) A friend of mine took the test. She got matched to donate bone marrow, and saved a little boy's life. But of course I get your point. That's why I created an account on the site with a fake name: Jackie Daytona!

SHE LOOKS AROUND PROUDLY, BUT IS MET WITH BLANK STARES.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Which is famously an alias, used by a character who also works in a bar...

Get it?

IT'S CLEAR THAT THEY DON'T, BUT THEY MUMBLE IN AGREEMENT.

STEVE

Sure. Now it makes sense.

TAKODA

Oh, okay, yeah.

EMMETT

Please don't explain.

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. TAVERN OFFICE -- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 2)
(GABBY, BOBBIE)

GABBY

Well what does it say about her? Who is this match?

BOBBIE

Her name is "Jackie Daytona." For some reason, that sounds so familiar.

GABBY

Maybe it's somebody you've met. And she's been there, near you, all along, never knowing you were sisters! (MUTTERING UNDER HER BREATH) Lucky Jackie Daytona!

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. TAVERN -- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 2)
(EMMETT, STEVE, TAKODA, ISABELLA)

ISABELLA IS PREOCCUPIED WITH HER PHONE, AS THE OTHERS HUDDLE TO GOSSIP.

ISABELLA

Okay... I'm a little freaked out.

EMMETT

This is going to kill Gabby.

STEVE

To have another sibling jump in line ahead of her for Bobbie's attention!

EMMETT

Remember how badly Gabby wanted to be actually related?

TAKODA

(MOCKINGLY IMITATING GABBY) "But we've got to be family! We both hate clowns and cashiers who chew gum!"

STEVE

"And don't forget, we both love cheese!"

EMMETT

(TO ISABELLA) So, what are you going to do? Are you going to contact this (OFF PHONE) Blanche woman?

ISABELLA

I guess the first thing is I have to break the news to Bobbie. It'll be a difficult conversation. But, she was cool with meeting me, so maybe she'll be okay. The one thing I can't do is keep it a secret. (TO EMMETT) Look what keeping Happy's secret about me did to our friendship. And to your relationship with Bobbie.

EMMETT

I think that's very mature.

THEY ALL NOD THEIR HEADS IN SOLEMN AGREEMENT.

SMASH CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. TAVERN OFFICE -- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 2)
(GABBY, BOBBIE)

GABBY HAS HER HEAD DOWN ON BOBBIE'S DESK AS SHE WAILS OUT LOUD. BOBBIE AWKWARDLY PATS HER SHOULDER IN CONSOLATION.

GABBY

Why?! Why couldn't it be me? You and I have so much in common! We both had imaginary friends named Teri, and we both suck at Skeeball. And c'mon -- cheese!

BOBBIE

There there, Gabby. I'm sorry. Here I'm still processing the news that I have yet another secret sibling, but I should have realized that somehow this is all clearly more about you. Especially that imaginary friend part. That's really just you.

GABBY LIFTS HER HEAD AND ANSWERS REFLEXIVELY.

GABBY

Hey, you would love Teri if you'd finally agree to meet her!

GABBY CONTINUES TO CRY.

GABBY (CONT'D)

And now what, is Jackie Daytona gonna share this office, too? I don't want a new sister... I mean mommy... I mean boss!

BOBBIE

C'mon, Gabby. Pull yourself together.

GABBY LOOKS UP FROM THE DESK, TEARY.

GABBY

So what are you going to do about it?

BOBBIE

Well I know one thing: no secrets this time. Before anything else, I have to talk to Isabella.

GABBY

Sometimes, with bad news, it helps if you stroke the hair a little bit.

BOBBIE

Isabella might find that a little weird.

GABBY

No, not her -- me!

GABBY SITS UP, GRABS BOBBIE'S HAND AND PUTS IT ON HER HEAD, THEN PUTS HER HEAD BACK ON THE DESK, THIS TIME MUSTERING A TEARY SMILE.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE J

FADE IN:

INT. TAVERN - DAY (DAY 3)
(ISABELLA, GABBY, STEVE, TAKODA, EMMETT)

GABBY AND STEVE ENTER THE TAVERN AT OPENING TIME, GABBY STILL WITH KEYS IN HAND. THEY IMMEDIATELY NOTICE A FEW THINGS ASKEW: A BAR STOOL OVERTURNED, AND ANOTHER BOTTLE OF OLD ABBOT'S OVERTURNED ON THE BAR, BROKEN AND LEAKING.

GABBY

You're kidding me -- again?!

STEVE PUTS ON A LATEX GLOVE FROM THE BAR AND EXAMINES THE BAR STOOL, THE BOTTLE, AND FINALLY THE FRONT DOOR.

STEVE

I didn't want to say this yesterday,

but this door shows no sign of forced

entry. I think we're looking at--

STEVE/GABBY

An inside job!

GABBY

Ooh, this is great... Not the part

where someone is violating our space

and stealing our liquor, but we have a

mystery to solve! Just what I need to

take my mind off... something else!

SHE GRABS A PAD AND PEN.

GABBY (CONT'D)

We'll interrogate all the suspects for alibis for this morning between zero-two hundred and nine hundred hours.

STEVE

Fine, but Bobbie told me to guard the liquor, so I'll take charge of the investigation.

GABBY

Ooh, just like Hercule Poirot! How fast can you grow a fancy mustache?

TAKODA ENTERS AND AD-LIBS A GOOD MORNING. THEY IMMEDIATELY SIDLE UP TO HIM.

STEVE

Good morning, Takoda. Do anything fun last night? Anything wild and crazy?

GABBY

Maybe you drank a little too much, which is why you're late?

TAKODA

Actually, we're all a few minutes early. (RE BROKEN BOTTLE AT BAR) Oh no, did it happen again?

STEVE

(SOTTO, TO GABBY) He seems surprised.

GABBY

(SOTTO, TO STEVE) Or maybe that's what he <u>wants</u> us to think.

STEVE

So, Takoda, the other day, when you brought in the bottles, you sure seemed nostalgic about Old Abbot's.

TAKODA

Yeah, I remember my dad and his hunting buddies used to bring some to the cabin all the time.

STEVE

Aha! So you have fond memories of drinking it!

TAKODA

Oh, nobody drank it. That stuff's awful. But a few drops on your pulse points can ward off a bear.

TAKODA EXITS TOWARD THE KITCHEN, NEVER REALIZING HE WAS UNDER SUSPICION. EMMETT PASSES HIM TO ENTER.

STEVE

Emmett! Good morning! Or at this late hour, should I say, "Good afternoon!"

EMMETT

(CONFUSED) It's eight fifty-eight AM.

STEVE DOESN'T LISTEN. HE'S BUILDING TO SOMETHING.

STEVE

Maybe you're a little hung over after last night?

EMMETT

How'd you know about last night?

GABBY AND STEVE SHARE A LOOK THAT SAYS "A-HA!"

EMMETT (CONT'D)

It was the weirdest thing. Both Bobbie and Isabella texted me, and insisted I come over and watch this "What We Do In the Shadows" thing. They sat me right between them, and allowed no talking. I had a little too much wine, and ended up spending the night on their couch.

GABBY AND STEVE BOTH MUTTER TO THEMSELVES.

GABBY

Fraidy-cat.

STEVE

I knew she'd chicken out.

AS THEY LOOK EACH OTHER OVER FOR A BEAT, EMMETT EXITS TO THE KITCHEN.

SFX: LIGHT FOOTSTEPS FROM ABOVE.

STEVE POINTS TO THE CEILING. HE AND GABBY HUG IN FEAR.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Oh my God! Whoever it was--

GABBY

--They're still here!

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. TAVERN OFFICE -- LATER THAT DAY (DAY 3)
(GABBY, BOBBIE)

BOBBIE IS AT HER DESK, YAWNING, WHEN GABBY ENTERS.

BOBBIE

Emmett checked the speakeasy. Nobody's up there.

GABBY

Never mind that. How did it go with Isabella last night? Did you tell her? Did you work it out? Did she cry?

BOBBIE

We... had a nice evening.

GABBY

But you definitely did tell her.

BOBBIE

(LYING UNCONVINCINGLY) Yes.

GABBY

Liar! (POINTING AT BOBBIE) J'accuse! (OFF HER LOOK) Sorry. I've got Poirot on the brain.

BOBBIE

(CONFUSED, BUT JOKING) Is that serious? Maybe you should see a doctor.

GABBY FOLDS HER ARMS AND STARES AT BOBBIE.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

Okay, I didn't talk to her. And I didn't get any sleep. Curiosity about my new sister is driving me crazy. But also, I realized maybe I don't need to talk to Isabella first. Wouldn't a good big sister meet with this new girl and check her out, before getting Isabella's hopes up? I mean, what if Jackie's a serial killer who's wiped out half of Daytona?

SHE HANDS HER PHONE TO GABBY.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

Here, log in to the web site on my phone, too. I want to send her a message.

GABBY TAPS ON THE PHONE, THEN HANDS IT BACK. BOBBIE DICTATES INTO THE PHONE.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

Hi, Jackie. My name is Bobbie, and it seems I am your sister.

GABBY GRABS THE PHONE BACK, AND DELETES THE MESSAGE.

GABBY

Are you crazy? Don't give everything away up front! If I learned anything from the week I recently spent on JDate -- long story, don't ask -- you've got to kibitz a little first.

GABBY DICTATES INTO THE PHONE, SOUNDING INAPPROPRIATELY SEDUCTIVE.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Hi there, bubbeleh. I see we're a match.

BOBBIE

Bubbeleh?

CUT TO:

SCENE L

INT. TAVERN -- AT THE SAME TIME (DAY 3)
(ISABELLA, TAKODA)

ISABELLA IS BEHIND THE BAR, TALKING WITH TAKODA.

TAKODA

How did it go with Bobbie last night?

ISABELLA

I didn't tell her. (OFF HIS LOOK) I was going to. But then I realized, maybe this is the time to step up and protect my big sister. I'm younger, I have more street smarts... maybe I should check this Blanche out before she messes with Bobbie's emotions. I'm going to send her a message.

SFX: ISABELLA'S PHONE MAKES A DING.

ISABELLA CHECKS HER PHONE, AND IS SURPRISED.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Actually, here's a message from Blanche right now. (RE PHONE) She sounds nice. And Jewish.

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. TAVERN OFFICE -- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 3)
(BOBBIE, GABBY)

BOBBIE WORKS AT HER DESK. GABBY PACES AROUND THE ROOM.

SFX: BOBBIE'S PHONE DINGS.

GABBY DIVES FOR THE PHONE ON THE DESK, BUT BOBBIE GRABS IT.

BOBBIE

(OFF PHONE) It's from Jackie. "Nice to meet you." Well, that's a good start.

GABBY

Are you kidding? See how she didn't reveal anything about herself yet? She's playing it coy. But oh, not this time, sister!

GABBY TAKES OUT HER OWN PHONE AND STARTS FURIOUSLY TYPING.

GABBY (CONT'D)

(RE HER OWN PHONE) I got this. (TO SELF) We must break her.

CUT TO:

SCENE O

INT. BOBBIE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (DAY 3)
(ISABELLA, BOBBIE)

BOBBIE AND ISABELLA ARE ONE THE COUCH, EACH HOLDING PHONES.

ISABELLA

Ready to keep bingeing our show?

BOBBIE

Oh, boy. More ironic vampire comedy.

ISABELLA

Phones silent--

ISABELLA/BOBBIE

--to protect the viewing experience.

THEY MUTE THEIR PHONES. THEN ISABELLA STARTS TAPPING ON HERS.

BOBBIE

I know the drill.

ISABELLA

Actually, I need a minute.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

Everything okay?

ISABELLA

I met this person online. Sometimes she's really sweet, but then she's really needy, and borderline flirtatious. It's almost like she's two different people. The last time I took too long to respond, she called

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

me something in Yiddish that I hope just means "bad friend."

BOBBIE

Need me to go beat her up? Because that's what big sisters are for, you know. To protect you from the world.

ISABELLA

(TAPPING PHONE) Nope. I'm all yours.

ISABELLA SEES BOBBIE NOW ENGROSSED IN HER OWN PHONE.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Everything okay with you?

BOBBIE

Oh, yeah. It's just... something came up and I really should handle it.

ISABELLA

Anything I can do? You know that's what little sisters are for, to show you how to block someone on Instagram.

BOBBIE REACHES OUT AND HUGS ISABELLA.

BOBBIE

Aw, thank you. Talking with you really helps. Now I'm sure what I need to do.

ISABELLA

You know what? Me too.

STILL HUGGING, EACH CHECKS HER PHONE BEHIND THE OTHER'S BACK. BOBBIE SIGNALS THAT SHE'LL BE QUICK AND EXITS TO THE KITCHEN.

CUT TO:

SCENE P

INT. BOBBIE'S KITCHEN - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 3)
(BOBBIE)

INT. TAVERN -- AT THE SAME TIME (DAY 3)
(GABBY)

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION:

BOBBIE HOLDS THE PHONE CLOSE TO HER EAR AND TALKS SOFTLY.

GABBY IS BEHIND THE BAR, WHILE IN THE DISTANCE TAKODA CLEARS A TABLE.

GABBY

Bobbie, don't worry. Takoda and I can close up.

BOBBIE

Listen, Gabby, I want to ask Jackie to meet with me. At Happy's Place. That way, if things go well, I can introduce her right there to Isabella. Now what should I type?

GABBY

Well first of all, don't tell her you own Happy's Place! As my mom always told me, "Never tell a fat girl you baked a cake, or she's gonna want a piece." Come to think of it, mom never baked when I was growing up.

BOBBIE TAKES THE PHONE AWAY FROM HER EAR AND PUTS GABBY ON SPEAKERPHONE. SHE TAPS AT THE PHONE.

BOBBIE

How's this: Hi there. I would love to meet in person, but I wonder where. Wait, I know. I've heard of this little tavern called Happy's Place that people say is just delightful. By the way, I'll be the one with the red hair. Can't miss me!

BOBBIE TAPS SEND ON HER PHONE.

SMASH CUT TO:

SCENE R

INT. BOBBIE'S LIVING ROOM - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 3)
(ISABELLA, BOBBIE)

INT. TAVERN -- AT THE SAME TIME (DAY 3)
(TAKODA)

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION:

ISABELLA HOLDS THE PHONE CLOSE TO HER EAR AND TALKS SOFTLY.

TAKODA HAS JUST FINISHED CLEARING A TABLE, WHILE GABBY IS IN THE DISTANCE, WIPING DOWN THE BAR.

ISABELLA

Takoda, I just heard from Blanche. She wants to meet up. And you'll never guess where!

TAKODA

Happy's? That's perfect! If it goes well you can turn around and introduce her to Bobbie.

ISABELLA

No keeping secrets!

TAKODA

Just don't tell her you co-own the bar. I knew this woman once who found out she had a sibling, and ended up having to give her half her business.

ISABELLA

Yeah, Takoda, that was Bobbie. That sibling was me.

TAKODA

Oh, right. See? Sometimes this situation really works out.

ISABELLA PUTS ON THE SPEAKERPHONE AND TALKS WHILE TYPING.

ISABELLA

How's this: Happy's Place, you say? Never been there, but I hear good things. Tomorrow night, around eight? I'll be the one in the... (GRASPING) blue hat.

WE SEE TAKODA NOD IN AGREEMENT. ISABELLA TAPS HER PHONE.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

And... send.

ISABELLA STANDS IN THOUGHT FOR A BEAT. SHE TURNS FROM THE COUCH AND MOVES TOWARDS THE STAIRS, JUST AS BOBBIE EMERGES FROM THE KITCHEN, HOLDING TWO SODAS.

BOBBIE

Hey, where are you going? I thought we were going to watch our show.

ISABELLA

Gotta go find my hat!

ISABELLA EXITS, LEAVING BOBBIE STANDING, CONFUSED.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE S

FADE IN:

INT. TAVERN - THE NEXT EVENING (DAY 4)
(BOBBIE, ISABELLA, GABBY, TAKODA, STEVE, EMMETT, BARB, SUSAN) EXTRAS

BOBBIE AND GABBY WORK BEHIND THE BAR. THEY'RE BOTH FULL OF NERVOUS ENERGY AND KEEP GETTING IN EACH OTHER'S WAY.

BOBBIE

Sorry. I'm really nervous about tonight. In fact, I think I could use a shot of the strongest stuff we've got. Break out that Old Abbot's.

GABBY NOW SPEAKS LOUDER, TO DRAW STEVE INTO CONVERSATION.

GABBY

About that... we were going to wait to tell you, while you have so much on your mind... (COVERING) about the liquor distributor...

STEVE

We got hit again last night. Old Abbot's smashed all over the floor.

GABBY PUTS THE ONE REMAINING BOTTLE ON THE BAR.

GABBY

We're down to just this.

STEVE

Interesting. I moved the box yesterday, but you just knew right where it was. I'm realizing that we know Emmett and Takoda's whereabouts on the nights in question, but I never asked you, Gabby, about yours.

GABBY

I was home. All night. Alone. Because that's my life.

STEVE

Or... were you here, on a bender? Which seems more likely, based on today's disheveled appearance!

BOBBIE SHRUGS AS IF TO SAY, "HE'S GOT A POINT."

GABBY

For your information, I only look like this because my recent JDate boyfriend covered all my mirrors for his mom's shiva, and now I forget where they are. And what about you, Steve? What's your alibi? Maybe this is one of those cases where the detective did it!

THEY START TO BICKER, UNTIL BOBBIE CALMS THEM DOWN.

BOBBIE

Hey! This is no time to turn on each other!

STEVE

Bobbie's right. Besides, when I get a chance to check the hidden camera Emmett and I installed yesterday, all will be revealed.

STANDING ON THE STAGE AREA NEAR THE DOOR, ISABELLA CONFIDES IN TAKODA. SHE'S PARTLY CONCEALING A BLUE BERET IN HER FIST.

ISABELLA

It's hard not to show my nerves in front of Bobbie when tonight might change my entire life, and hers.

TAKODA

Well, don't put on the hat until you see Blanche. You don't want Bobbie to suspect anything's up.

ISABELLA

Why would she suspect? I think I can pull off a cool beret.

TAKODA

I love you, but no, you can't.

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS, AND BARB ENTERS. SHE'S DRESSED IN A BLUE SOFTBALL UNIFORM WITH MATCHING BASEBALL CAP. BOBBIE SEES HER AND NERVOUSLY POINTS HER OUT TO GABBY.

BOBBIE

Blue hat. There she is. Wish me luck!

AS BARB PAUSES, LOOKING AROUND, BOBBIE RUSHES TO GREET HER.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

Hello! Welcome to Happy's Place.

BARB

Oh, hi. Are you the owner?

BOBBIE

(PARANOID) How'd you know that?

BOBBIE GRABS HER BY THE ARM AND PULLS HER OVER TO A STOOL AT THE BAR, RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE BOTTLE OF OLD ABBOT'S.

NEARBY, STEVE IS ENGROSSED IN HIS COMPUTER SCREEN.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

Right this way, and I'll help you out.

BOBBIE PLOPS BARB ON THE STOOL, THEN TALKS IN A WHISPER.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

Actually, I was hoping you could help

me out with something.

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS, AND AN ENTIRE SOFTBALL TEAM ENTERS, WEARING THE SAME BLUE UNIFORMS AS BARB'S. THEN ANOTHER TEAM'S WORTH ENTERS, WEARING GREEN UNIFORMS.

BARB

Wow, is that Old Abbot's? I haven't

seen that stuff in years!

BOBBIE

I'll tell you what: you help me, and

first shot is on the house.

BARB YELLS OUT TO THE LARGE GROUP OF WOMEN AS THEY SIT.

BARB

Be right there, girls! And yes,

Susan, I know we losers buy the first

pitchers. (TO BOBBIE) Okay, shoot.

BOBBIE POURS A SHOT AND GIVES IT TO BARB, WHO DOWNS IT. AS BOBBIE NOW NOTICES HOW MANY WOMEN THERE ARE IN BLUE CAPS, GABBY SHRUGS AND POURS ONE FOR HERSELF, TOO.

BOBBIE

Let's see... Does the name "Daytona" mean anything to you?

BARB

Why? Who told you about that spring break? Those records were supposed to be expunged! (RE BOTTLE) It's all this stuff's fault!

BARB TAKES OFF HER HAT, REVEALING BRIGHT RED HAIR.

BARB (CONT'D)

Why is it so hot in here?

BARB LOOKS AT BOBBIE IN PANIC AND JUMPS UP FROM THE STOOL. SHE THEN DOUBLES BACK, GRABS THE BOTTLE OF OLD ABBOT'S, AND BEGINS TO CROSS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE REST OF HER TEAM.

AS BARB PASSES, ISABELLA POINTS HER OUT TO TAKODA.

ISABELLA

There she is! Boy, that red hair sure does run in the family!

QUICKLY DONNING HER BERET, ISABELLA GRABS BARB BY THE ARM AND PULLS HER TOWARD A TABLE, AS TAKODA FOLLOWS.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Excuse me, can we talk for a moment?

BARB

I was gonna bring the bottle back, I swear.

ISABELLA

Never mind that. Takoda, please get this young lady whatever else she'd like, on the house.

BARB

Wait, are you the owner?

ISABELLA

(PARANOID) Who told you that?

BARB CALLS OUT AGAIN TO HER TEAMMATES.

BARB

Start without me, girls! And Susan,

yes, I'll give you my credit card for

the tab. Even though your team cheats!

Just kidding! Love you, Susan!

BARB POURS HERSELF ANOTHER BIG SHOT FROM THE BOTTLE.

BARB (CONT'D)

(TO ISABELLA) Okay, shoot.

ISABELLA

How do I ask... Are you Blanche?

BARB

Blanche? No.

BARB GETS UP AND HEADS TOWARD TO HER FRIENDS, NOW A LITTLE DRUNK AND SHOUTING LOUDLY ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO HEAR.

BARB (CONT'D)

I'm really more of a Dorothy. But if

you're talking Golden Girls, Susan over

there is your Blanche! You go, slut!

BARB HEADS TOWARD THE TEAM, THEN DOUBLES BACK. SHE HEADS TOWARD THE BATHROOMS.

BARB (CONT'D)

Great. Now I gotta pee.

BOBBIE AND GABBY INTERCEPT HER, PULL HER BACK TOWARD THE BAR AND AGAIN PLOP HER ON A STOOL, NEXT TO STEVE.

BOBBIE

Sorry we got off on the wrong foot before. I see you were just talking with my sister. You didn't tell her anything, right?

BARB

Lady, I don't know what you're--

BOBBIE INTERRUPTS HER, GRABS THE BOTTLE FROM HER HANDS AND POURS HERSELF A DRINK, AND TOPS OFF BARB'S AND GABBY'S.

BOBBIE

--Never mind. I think we all need a drink.

THEY DRINK. AFTER A BEAT, BOBBIE PULLS AT HER COLLAR.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

It <u>is</u> hot in here.

ONE OF THE WOMEN IN A GREEN UNIFORM CALLS OUT TO BARB.

SUSAN

Hey, Barb, what's the holdup?

BARB JUMPS TO HER FEET.

BARB

Susan, don't be like that! You know I love you! (SOTTO) Susan is a bitch's name, dontcha think?

AS BARB FINALLY JOINS HER FRIENDS, STEVE HAS AN AHA MOMENT.

STEVE

You know what I think?

GABBY

That Barb has some pretty conflicted feelings for Susan?

STEVE

Definitely. But also...

STEVE JUMPS UP, GRABS ISABELLA BY THE ARM, AND DRAGS HER OVER TO BOBBIE. TAKODA FOLLOWS.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Blanche1207, meet Jackie Daytona. (RE BARB) I don't know who that lunatic is.

BOBBIE AND ISABELLA ARE SHOCKED AT FIRST.

BOBBIE

So you thought I--

ISABELLA

--And then you sent me...

THEY "OHHH!" AS IT DAWNS ON THEM BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I overheard Gabby, real first name Blanche, muttering something about Jackie Daytona under her breath. And because Isabella nagged me until I watched "What We Do In the Shadows," I get it now. Good reference!

GABBY

You remembered my name!

ISABELLA

Finally, somebody gets me!

BOBBIE

Well that's one mystery solved. Now we just have to figure out who's been breaking in here.

EMMETT HAS JUST WALKED IN, AND STEVE WAVES HIM OVER.

STEVE

About that. I checked the camera footage, and saw something very interesting.

GABBY

Well then whodunnit? Was it an inside job, or some masked thief?

STEVE

(OVERDRAMATIC) Neither. And both. Everyone, gather around, for the truth will be revealed!

GABBY

Ooh, it's happening! The big Poirot "J'accuse" scene! Steve, is it a definite no on that mustache? You know what, screw it. (LOUDLY) I've got a sharpie. Somebody hold him down!

EVERYONE IGNORES GABBY. STEVE TAKES A STEP AWAY FROM HER.

STEVE

From the beginning, we suspected one of our own. But was it you, Emmett? The chef who claims he resented us serving

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Old Abbot's. But doth he protest too much? Or was it you, Takoda--

HE'S INTERRUPTED BY A SCREAM, AS BARB RUSHES OUT OF THE LADIES' ROOM.

BARB

There's a raccoon on the floor of the ladies' room! (DRUNKENLY) And I think he's drunk!

GABBY

Shut it, Barb! He's just getting to the reveal! Go ahead, Steve.

STEVE

(DEFLATED) No, that was it. That's the reveal. It was a raccoon. I guess we never cleared them all out of the rafters when we set up the speakeasy.

BOBBIE AND EMPLOYEES ALL HEAD TOWARD THE LADIES ROOM.

BARB

Just a heads-up: it looks like somebody then puked on top of the poor little guy. I don't know who.

BOBBIE AND EMPLOYEES ALL EXIT INTO THE LADIES' ROOM.

BARB (CONT'D)

It's like Daytona all over again.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

SCENE T

FADE IN:

INT. TAVERN - LATER THAT EVENING (DAY 4)
(BOBBIE, TAKODA, GABBY, STEVE, EMMETT, ISABELLA)

EVERYBODY SITS AT A GROUP OF TABLES IN THE EMPTY BAR. BOBBIE AND GABBY SIP COFFEE AS THEY NURSE HANGOVERS.

A TEAM OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS CROSSES, CARRYING A CAGE.

BOBBIE

Thank you, officers. I just hope that little guy can get the help he needs.

THE ANIMAL CONTROL TEAM EXITS. BOBBIE POINTS TO THE LABEL ON THE EMPTY BOTTLE IN FRONT OF HER.

BOBBIE (CONT'D)

Look at that. Even the monk is drunk!

TAKODA

That actually used to be their slogan.

GABBY

That stuff is evil. It made us all turn on each other.

BOBBIE

I'm sorry. I should have realized straight away that none of you would ever have done this. It was only a few hours ago that I knew it for sure.

STEVE

Wait, how did you know for sure, before I showed you the footage?

BOBBIE

I tasted it. (OFF THEIR CONFUSED LOOKS) When I was growing up, Happy used to sneak little sips out of multiple bottles, so Mama couldn't track his drinking. When I saw this bottle was already open, I figured all of them had been, and Happy had gone back to his old habits after promising his doctor he had quit.

EMMETT

And once the bottle's been opened, it does affect the taste. So that stuff had been rotting upstairs for years.

BOBBIE

I knew that none of us here would risk all the love and trust we have for each other. Especially for some worthless, spoiled moonshine.

EMMETT

Well I'm calling it a night. And when I get home, I'm going to pour me a nice, tall, non-alcoholic drink.

THE MEN GET UP TO LEAVE, WITH THE WOMEN LINGERING.

ISABELLA

Are you disappointed not to have another sister?

BOBBIE

Well I have to admit, a little part of me was excited, but only because things have turned out so well between us. All those years, I never knew a sister was just what I need.

BOBBIE AND ISABELLA STAND AND HUG. GABBY STANDS UP, BUT JUST MISSES JOINING THE HUG AS BOBBIE AND ISABELLA FOLLOW THE MEN TO THE DOOR.

GABBY

What about me? I helped you through these last couple of days. That's a lot like a sister.

BOBBIE TURNS TO GABBY, AND TAKES HER HANDS IN HERS.

BOBBIE

Gabby... We'll always have cheese.

EVERYONE HEADS OUT THE DOOR EXCEPT GABBY, WHO STANDS IN THE DOORWAY, ABOUT TO CRY WITH JOY.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW