

COLD OPEN

INT. REGAL CROWN HOTEL ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT - DAYTIME

CHRIS (mid 40's, accountant) is sitting at his desk, shuffling papers. He is panicky.

CHRIS

No, no, this can't be right. This doesn't add up at all.

Chris walks down the hallway to MR ROSS's office, which bares the sign:

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Mr Ross's SECRETARY guards the door.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry, Mr Ross is in a very important meeting for the rest of the day.

Through the door we see that MR ROSS (fancy, bald, mid 50's) is taking shirtless pictures of himself on his cellphone.

CHRIS

Yes, but I...

SECRETARY

He's instructed that any problems with the bars be taken to Christine, the beverage director. He can't oversee every little problem that department has, you know. He's a very busy man.

Chris walks down another hallway to another office. He is about to knock on the door, labeled:

CHRISTINE KESPAS - BEVERAGE DIRECTOR

He notices a printed sign taped to the door that reads:

*CHRISTINE WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS.
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CONTACT F&B SUPERVISOR MICHELLE MASSEY
:) :)*

Frantically, Chris is searching for MICHELLE. In desperation he walks up to the CREATION STATION bar and approaches PETER (20's, Australian, bartender) who is finishing up a transaction with a customer. The bar is SLAMMED.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Hey uhh, you! Do you know where Michelle is?

PETER

My name is not "You".
(turning to waiting customer)
And what can I get for you, sir?

Chris looks at Peter's nametag.

CHRIS

Ok, Esteban, do you know where Michelle is?

PETER

Esteban?? How many "Estebans" do you reckon come out of Melbourne, Australia, mate?

CHRIS

But your nametag says...

PETER

Hey, your suit says "Attention Walmart shoppers, my wife found new dick and this is all I can afford after they take out the alimony", but that doesn't make it your name now does it? My name's Peter.

CHRIS

Peter. Do you know where I can find Michelle Massey?

PETER

She won't be in until after 3.

CHRIS

After 3?? That's not for another 6 hours! Are there any other bar supervisors on right now?

PETER

Nope, they keep on quitting.

CHRIS

Well who's in charge when there's no supervisor?

PETER

Uhh, well I guess in the absence of any reasonable alternative...

(CONTINUED)

Further down the bar, RAVE (20's, bartender, sleazy) is stroking the face of a HOT BLONDE CUSTOMER, and unbuttoning his shirt. Next to him BRETT (50's, bartender, incompetent) is gripping a cocktail shaker with 2 hands, SHAKING it as strongly as possible. The sound of him vigourously shaking the drink continues in the background.

PETER
... it would be me and Joe.

CHRIS
Who's Joe?

Peter points next to him at JOE (20's, bartender), who is pouring a beer for a customer with one hand, making change for them with the other, and taking sips of his own beer in between.

JOE
Hello!

CHRIS
Listen guys, I'm the accountant for the beverage department. I need you to take a look at some budget items.

JOE
Sorry Walmart, we're pretty busy here, you can talk while we're working if you like.

Peter and Joe continue to take orders and make drinks.

CHRIS
I need you to review some of your department's expenses. In the 3 months the hotel has been open you've gone through 12 point of sale terminals...

PETER
Yeah, well these things are a piece of crap.

Peter pushes a terminal off the shelf to the floor as he walks past it to grab a liquor bottle for a drink he is making.

CHRIS
... you've expensed 196 sirloins to "employee food"...

JOE

To be fair, that's only 2 per day.

Joe and Peter high five as they cross paths to grab different liquor bottles.

CHRIS

... you've bought Laker floor seats for 29 different customers...

There is a loud SMASH. Brett has accidentally smashed his cocktail shaker into the ice. Brett pauses, scoops up the ice, mint and shards into a glass, tops it with soda and hands it to a CUSTOMER. Peter grabs a pair of tickets off the back bar and puts them down in front of the customer.

PETER

Don't sue.

CHRIS

... and it says here you have authorized 314 hours of overtime for employees from housekeeping to "fetch you some ice". What, you guys can't get your own ice?

JOE

Regal Crown handbook, section 129. "Bartenders who usurp the duties of a barback will face progressive discipline, up to and including termination".

PETER

And since the accounting department refuses to authorize the hire of a barback...

CHRIS

Look, that's an old corporate handbook that clearly wasn't written with a hotel this big in mind. We staff so many bartenders at a time that you should have plenty of time to get your own...

JOE

Asking an employee to subvert the corporate handbook?

PETER

Section 172, part 4. That's a write up.

CHRIS

What?? Listen, I want to make something absolutely clear, to EVERYONE!

(Chris yells loudly as the until now busy bar falls silent)

In the absence of any other managerial staff, effective right now I am in charge of this bar. You hear that? I am in charge! And I don't have time to... time. Wait, what time did you open today?

JOE

"Between the hours of 8am and 2am, all Regal Crown properties shall have at least one bar open for guests enjoyment". Section 44, part 9.

CHRIS

Why the hell is it so busy? It's 9:27 in the morning!

PETER

We're the only bar in LA county open right now.

CHRIS

The only bar??

JOE

It's illegal to serve liquor before 11am.

CHRIS

So I'm...

PETER

In charge of the only speakeasy ever run out of a billion dollar hotel.

CHRIS

And I can...

JOE

Close the bar and get fired, or wait for the cops and get arrested.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

But don't worry, as the corporate credo goes: "Once employed by the Regal Crown international chain of luxury hotels, we are forever..."

Joe slides a shot down the bar to Chris, who picks it up.

CHRIS

... 5 star.

END OF COLD OPEN

(CONTINUED)

ACT I

INT. REGAL CROWN

"2 Weeks Later"

CHRISTINE (late 30's, wearing a sundress, tanned from an obviously recent vacation) sits at her desk, opposite WILL (late 20's, shirt and tie). The plaque on her desk reads:

Christine Kespas - Beverage Director

CHRISTINE

So William, my new beverage accountant. Welcome to the Regal Crown, Los Angeles.

WILL

Thank you for the opportunity Christine, I'm really excited to get started here.

CHRISTINE

Mmmm. And as my new beverage department accountant, what do you think your primary job function is?

WILL

Well, I guess prepare profit and loss statements for the department, analysis of the successful areas of the business as well as where we have room for improvement. Collate all financial data into a...

CHRISTINE

Wrong. You are my numbers monkey. If the numbers look good, monkey gets a peanut. If the numbers look bad, monkey gets 10, 000 volts through his brain.

WILL

I... I mean, as an accountant I'm really just putting the numbers together and analyzing them, it's the operations on the floor that will determine, you know, whether we're actually bringing any money in or not.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINE

We're a very busy hotel William,
with very busy bars. I'm sure there
is plenty of money coming in.
Probably. I really don't care. What
I care about is when it comes time
for me to present Mr Ross and the
board with our numbers, they are
suitably happy and don't ask too
many questions about any trips to
Europe I may take to research our
vodka selection...

CUT TO:

INT. ITALIAN NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT TIME

Christine takes a BODY SHOT off a NAKED MAN covered in glow
paint.

BACK TO:

CHRISTINE

... or exactly who it is that
supplies our wines...

CUT TO:

INT. CHRISTINE'S APARTMENT - ANY TIME

Christine is having sex with a MAN in her bed. The violent
shaking of the bed causes a business card to fall from his
jacket, which is at the foot of the bed. The card reads:

BRAD COQUE - COQUE STORM WINES, OWNER

BACK TO:

WILL

Uhh...

CHRISTINE

Good. Now I expect you'll want to
take a look around the bars, or
perhaps go and get settled into
your office? I really don't care.

Christine gives Will a SICKENING SMILE as he leaves.

INT. ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

(CONTINUED)

Will walks into the accounting department, looking around until he finds a his nameplate on a desk. PAT GARDINER (late 40's, overweight, accountant) is sitting next to Will's desk, his cubicle partner.

WILL

Hi, I'm Will. I guess we'll be sharing a cubicle.

Will's handshake offer is not reciprocated. Pat does not look away from his computer.

PAT

Oh. Yeah, hi.

Will attempts to log on to his computer unsuccessfully. After a few attempts he turns to Pat, who is trying to ignore him and focus on his spreadsheet.

WILL

Sorry to interrupt you, I just...
I'm having trouble logging on, and
I was wondering...

PAT

Just enter your username, password,
and department authentication code.
It's easy.

WILL

It keeps telling me wrong
department code.

PAT

Just enter the department your
auditing privileges are in!

There is an awkward pause.

WILL

Do you know the code for the
beverage department?

PAT

What??

WILL

I tried "B-V-G", "B-E-V",
"B-V-R"...

PAT

WHAT??

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Wow. I guess I forgot the department code, take it easy, man.

PAT

You're the new beverage accountant?

WILL

Yeah, so...?

PAT

(All of a sudden very excited)
I'm Pat, Pat Gardiner. I'm sorry I was just distracted by... ah who cares! If you need any help, ANY help at all, you let me know ok?

WILL

O-ok. So do you know the code, or...?

PAT

Especially if it involves going downstairs and hanging out with the rockstars! I mean, bartenders! I mean, rockstars! Whoo! You are so lucky! How did you score that gig? Are you banging old lady Kespas or something? Whatever, I totally would too for that job! I would mail my dick to Pakistan to work in the beverage department!

WILL

Well I won't really be working in the beverage department, more supervising their financial records, analyzing sales and...

DINAH (20's, bartender, pretty) walks into the room, she is carrying a full plastic shopping bag.

PAT

(Even more excited than before)
Dinah! It's Dinah! Hey Dinah over here!

Dinah walks over to Will and Pat.

DINAH

Hi, I'm here to show the new accountant round the pool bar.