

ACT I SCENE 1

ALFA is asleep on the bar with a pillow and alarm clock. BETA knocks on the door, finds it unlocked and then pushes it open and knocks on the wall to wake up ALFA.

ALFA  
(Wakes up and looks at alarm clock.)

We're not open yet!

(Beat)  
Wait. Are you tonight's new Game Warden?

BETA  
(Entering wearing a surgical mask.)  
Is this where Cathy works? I'm in love!  
(Beat)  
Sorry - you require a mask?

ALFA  
(ALFA gets off the bar and hides the pillow and alarm clock.)  
Not in here we don't.

BETA  
(Takes off the mask and takes a seat at the bar.)  
Good. I had to find a place where I could take this damn thing off. I'm wicked claustrophobic after my tick bite.

ALFA  
Tick bite?

BETA  
They put me in a wheel chair and roll me up to look at a fish tank. You believe that?

ALFA  
Where did you go to the Emergency Room? At a pet store?

BETA

...They took me right to this little room for testing and I looked around and said "This room's too small. I'm getting claustrophobic." So they took me to a big room next to the elevator with a fish tank...

ALFA

Sounds like you got rushed to the receptionist.

BETA

Yeah! Tick bites can really mess you up! I was watching the bubbles raising. The fish started staring at me. I got paranoid. They were conspiring against me.

ALFA

You've got that Sushi bar look about you.

BETA

I lost it. I flipped the wheelchair and ran like hell!

ALFA

Well you came to the right place. We self-medicate here. I got an idea. You order a beer and I'll serve you. And if it makes you feel better you can call me doctor.

BETA

Draft and a shot. I just moved in around the corner. I'm going to be a regular. How much?

ALFA

No discount. We need another paranoid claustrophobic. Buck seventy-five no matter where you live. I'll run a tab?

BETA

The door was open.

ALFA

We had a crazy night last night.

BETA

You had looters? Is that why you are sleeping on the bar?

ALFA

No. Worse! Next door I got a church of "feel good - credit card Christians."

BETA

Why you scared of "credit card Christians?"

ALFA

I'm normal.

BETA

I thought they weren't supposed to drink.

ALFA

Unless they are the founders. Two founders. One of them is a lady minister. They both come in here. They figure none of the congregation will find them in here and if one does they just jump up and yell "Gotcha!"

BETA

They have been quarantined for months...?

ALFA

They don't acknowledge the lockdown. It violates their Constitutional freedoms. They're in here all the time.

BETA

The freedom to drink?

ALFA

They got nowhere to hide unless I let them come in.

BETA

You open up for them during the quarantine? That's Christian of you.

ALFA

I have to. We believe in the same God and the Twenty First Amendment.

BETA

What you worried about if you got God and the Constitution?

ALFA

Before the quarantine they'd come in and I would be selling drinks to a big crowd and their mere presence could clean out the place in ten minutes...

BETA

God wasn't on your side before the pandemic?

ALFA

Quarantine makes it worse!

BETA

So you open for them?

ALFA

Yeah. Act of God. They are both big tippers...

BETA

What's the tip on a Virgin Mary?

ALFA

Double vodka with a twist. No olives. No onions. The congregation could smell olives or onions. Twenty-five dollar tip for each round.

BETA

Each round? If the church is closed where do they get the money?

ALFA

Confession! Confession is big money. This America?

BETA

Those churches don't have confession.

ALFA

Are you kidding me? They got drive by. You can text it. They take your credit card when you join. The lady minister says she can't do more than three back-to-back confessions. Made a signature drink for them: The "Born Again": double stolichnaya on the rocks and my tuna salad, chips and sweet pickle. "It'll pick you up and set you straight." And a twenty-five dollar tip for me. Calms everybody right down. Perfect.

BETA

All you need is a fish tank.

ALFA

No, the fish would leave.

CATHY

(CATHY enters from the street and takes off her mask.)

Am I working today?

ALFA

(To CATHY)

Absolutely! New day to see if we get caught!

(To BETA)

This is how we start every day during hunting season.

(To CATHY)

Prop the door open and put out the sign. What do we want to say on the sign?

(Introduces BETA to CATHY)

Oh sorry this is....

(Looks over at BETA to get his name but BETA waves off the chance to give his name.)

BETA

Sorry.

ALFA

(To CATHY)

...This is a nameless paranoid claustrophobic, new to the neighborhood.

(Introducing CATHY to BETA.)

This is the brains of the outfit, our part-time barkeeper who is, by the way - single.

BETA

I know.

ALFA

You single?

BETA

Yes.

ALFA

(To CATHY)

Is this our man?