

Black Men Can't Swim

By

Simon Colligan

simon@colliganweb.co.uk

INT. BURGER-JOINT - DAY.

The guys are round the table, and it's all in full swing; ice has been broken and the boys are in full stride.

Slops (28), large over-weight African-American, Dud (27) medium build African-American, Pipe (27) slightly rounded African-American, Mince (26) average white, casual dress, Gamble (28) another white guy.

GAMBLE

I mean, did you see that film?

SLOPS

Yeah, we saw the film... everyone saw the film.

MINCE

It was big film, man, made them a lot of money.

GAMBLE

But they would have never got away with playing it the other way round...

PIPE

Playing it how?

GAMBLE

Like saying black men can't jump...

DUD

So?

GAMBLE

So it's like inverted, you know...

SLOPS

You ain't making sense again.

PIPE

He doesn't know what he's saying, it gets so sad when it's like that.

GAMBLE

Like if I said, black men can't swim...

PIPE

Uh? What?

GAMBLE

You know, people say that black people have denser muscle, heavier bones...

DUD

Are we going somewhere with this...?

MINCE

Oh yeah...I can see exactly where this is going.

GAMBLE

What I'm saying is...

PIPE

There's a whole lot of stuff you haven't come to terms with yet.

GAMBLE

Look, guys it's just that you can say one thing about one group of people, but you can't say the same thing...

PIPE

So we're the racists...

GAMBLE

No, no... it's just that...

DUD

We can't swim. That's all that you're saying.

And then it's all still.

GAMBLE

Well...

They hang on it.

GAMBLE

...can ya?

Shouldn't have said that... chaos reigns, and they're all at it at once.

PIPE

I so... cannot believe you just said that.

GAMBLE

But don't you see? I can't even ask
the question.

DUD

We can swim. We can swim your ass
off this planet.

GAMBLE

Oh yeah?

DUD

Like, yeah.

MINCE

Gam... are you...

GAMBLE

So prove it.

MINCE

I don't believe you just said that.

SLOPS

Prove it?

PIPE

Prove. It?

DUD

Did you say prove it?

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Gamble got a towel round his waist, his locker door open.
Slops is stood next to him.

SLOPS

I can't believe you said that.

MINCE (O.S.)

He said it.

Mince wanders over to Gamble.

GAMBLE

Well if you want to put your money
where your mouths are?

The LOCKER DOOR closes. Dud behind it.

DUD

Yeah, and while you're at it, do you any other racial stereotypes that you want to get off your chest?

GAMBLE

Guys! Look, I hear it, I've read on it, I'm just saying it's something that people say.

DUD

So you want to put your theory to the test?

PIPE

Dud...

GAMBLE

To the test?

DUD

Yeah, do you want to put some readies up in front of what you're saying...

PIPE

(with a sing-song voice)

Dud...

GAMBLE

Do I?

INT. BAR - LATER.

The guys are all sat round a circular table, beers are out - Slops has a plate-full of stuff and he's digging in.

GAMBLE

So exactly how much money are we talking here?

MINCE

Guys, are you sure that this is so good an idea?

DUD

What shall we say? Fifty bucks?

PIPE

I think Mince is right here.

GAMBLE

Fifty bucks? Is that it?

MINCE

I think you might be going
somewhere you can't come back from.

DUD

Hundred bucks?

PIPE

And you're just walking on in...

GAMBLE

If you can't put up worthy stake,
then...

MINCE

The term grave...

PIPE

...and digging...

DUD

Months salary.

SLOPS

Whoa on there.

PIPE

Guys...

MINCE

...a second... one second here...

GAMBLE

You're on. You're right on.

MINCE

Oh, you're buried.

GAMBLE

So, you guys in too?

Gamble looks at Pipe, Slops, and Dud.

MINCE

You taking them all?

PIPE

What is this, you against America's
negro populace?

GAMBLE

If one, you're scared, or two, you
can't swim, just dip out, it ain't
nothing to me.

Slops offers his hand out to Gamble.

SLOPS

I'm in, bitch.

They shake.

SLOPS

'n I hope you drown.

Gamble and Dud shake.

DUD

I'm here to prove you wrong, bud.

GAMBLE

The proof's and the pudding.

PIPE

In, dude, it's in.

GAMBLE

Uh hu.

MINCE

So let me get this straight.

Gamble looks to Pipe.

GAMBLE

Scared?

Pipe shakes his head.

MINCE

You're betting against all three?

Pipe and Gamble shake on it.

GAMBLE

That's it.

MINCE

So you loose... then you give each
of them a month's salary?

GAMBLE

And if I win...

DUD

Each of us gives him a month's pay.

PIPE

So you got a lot to lose...

GAMBLE

And a sure heap of lots of stuff on
a win.

SLOPS

He's ass. From head to toe.

MINCE

Something just tells me...

PIPE

I know, I know.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Mince is getting a drink from the water-cooler. Dud sidles
up to him.

DUD

Hi Dude! How are you doing?

MINCE

Hey Dud. How it hanging.

DUD

Oh, you know, not so well.

MINCE

Not so well?

DUD

Yeah, not so well. Look I've got to
straighten up with you.

MINCE

Like, Oh?

DUD

Yeah, you know this bet and
everything?

MINCE

Oh, this is going to so surprise me.

DUD

Yeah, I guess you know what's coming...

MINCE

Hit me baby.

DUD

Honest

(pause)

I can't swim.

Mince checks him. Unbelievable.

MINCE

Okay. So let's go over this just the once.

DUD

Yeah, I know it might seem a little...

MINCE

You set up a bet for a month's salary...

DUD

It was a pride thing...

MINCE

To prove to a guy that you can swim...

DUD

I'd had beer...

MINCE

And you can swim exactly how far...

Dud opens his arms a little, like he's going for a small hug.

DUD

Like about this much.

MINCE

In meters..?

DUD

Oh, I don't think it'll actually go into meters.

MINCE

You can't swim.

DUD

I wouldn't go that far.

MINCE

Passing through water from the top to the bottom isn't swimming.

DUD

I'm conceding. Fast.

MINCE

Dud. You shouldn't have set up the deal.

DUD

I know, I know, but you've got to help me out here, it's way too late to undo it now.

MINCE

Help you out? Like how?

DUD

You can swim?

MINCE

Like most people.

DUD

Then teach me.

MINCE

Teach you? What are you nuts?

DUD

I just bet a month's pay.

Mince looks skyward, like for inspiration.

INT. BAR - DAY.

The guys are sat around a table again, beers are up.

SLOPS
You up dude?

MINCE
My round again?

Mince looks around.

DUD
Not this again. Every time.

SLOPS
(pointing)
Bar's there, you know the way.

Mince gets up and makes his way to the bar.

PIPE
(to Slops)
Want another burger?

SLOPS
You offering?

PIPE
Like hell. I'm get some snacks if
anyone's in, though.

SLOPS
I'm in.

Pipe gets up and goes to the bar. He joins Mince.

PIPE
Hey, Mince. How's it?

MINCE
Yuh.

Pipe's looking a bit embarrassed.

PIPE
Mince. We need to talk. Private.
Away from the other guys.

MINCE
We're away.

PIPE
It's this bet. For the swim.

MINCE

I'm listening...

PIPE

It's just that... I've got a problem with it. We had some beer that night, and you know, male pride comes out.

MINCE

Do you want to get to it.

PIPE

Mince, I can't swim.

Mince looks like he can't believe what's he's just heard.

MINCE

So do you not think it might have been a bit dumb to bet a month's pay that you could?

PIPE

I can learn. What have we got? A week?

MINCE

And don't tell me. You want me to teach you?

PIPE

I didn't want to tell the other guys. I'd look so stupid in front of them. Don't make me look dumb.

MINCE

Me? Make you look dumb?

PIPE

Yeah, I get irony, we've moved on some. Now are you going to help me out here or not?

Mince studies Pipe.

MINCE

Yeah. I'm going to help you out alright.

PIPE

Man. You are such a guy.

Mince checks Pipe out for a second time.

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR - DAY

A brown door. Number 46.

INT. MINCE'S APARTMENT - SAME

Mince is putting a couple of magazines away.

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR - SAME

A fat African-American HAND, RAPS on the door.

INT. MINCE'S APARTMENT - SAME

Mince turns to the sounds and ambles over to the door.

He opens it up.

Slops is stood there.

SLOPS

Yeah. Cool.

Slops wanders in.

Mince remains still.

Slops makes his way to the kitchen and find the fridge.
Mince follows. Slops opens up the fridge.

SLOPS

You got a beer, man?

Slops gets a beer out of the fridge, and closes the door.
Looks at Mince. Opens the fridge and grabs another beer.

SLOPS (CONT'D)

You want a beer dude?

Mince feigns delight.

MINCE

Do you mind?

Slops hands the beer over and wanders into the seating area.

SLOPS

Your beer, brother.

Slops sits on the sofa. Mince sits opposite.

SLOPS

I got a problem, man. And I need your help. I need your help real bad.

MINCE

You don't say.

Slops sits forward.

SLOPS

I'm being serious here, man.

MINCE

I get you. Lay it out for me.

SLOPS

The other night. We laid out on a bet.

MINCE

Yeah. I was there.

SLOPS

A month's pay.

MINCE

I heard it all with horror.

SLOPS

And that's cool. Except. There's an issue.

MINCE

Just give it all to me.

SLOPS

Nothing major, mind. Just a little, tiny minor.

MINCE

Lay it to me straight.

SLOPS

Just a titchy variation on what's going down.

MINCE

Say it now or I will hit you.

SLOPS

But you know you'd loose. Me and you. Fist fight and all that.

MINCE
Being pummeled right now?

Mince nods.

MINCE (CONT'D)
Sweet relief.

SLOPS
Mince, I can't swim.

Mince camps it up too much.

MINCE
No. You can't? Now let me guess.

Slops raises his hand.

SLOPS
There's more, Mince, dude.

MINCE
You're not serious.

SLOPS
You can swim, hu?

MINCE
Uh hu. I can.

SLOPS
Then you gotta teach me, man. I
need you right now.

MINCE
And you know what?

SLOPS
Don't let me down here.

MINCE
I'm going to do just that.

Slops stand up; walks over to Mince and proffers his hand.
Mince takes it, shakes.

SLOPS
You are such a dude.

Slops wander over to the fridge and grabs another beer.

SLOPS (CONT'D)
 You want another beer?

Mince feigns delight.

MINCE
 Do I? When do I ever not?

EXT. LEISURE CENTER - DAY

A large leisure center.

Pipe, Dud, Slops and Mince stand and stare.

MINCE
 You ready for this guys? No turning
 back now.

Silence.

MINCE (CONT'D)
 Did I get a yes, there?

The guys mumble their agreement; shuffle on toward their goal.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - LATER

The guys are gathered round a water machine - still fully dressed.

MINCE
 You seen the inside of one of these
 places before?

SLOPS
 You looking at me?

DUD
 Ooooooh, hu.

Dud and Pipe are checking some of the ladies passing, tracksuits and swimsuits.

DUD (CONT'D)
 Why didn't you tell us about this
 place sooner?

MINCE
 It's always been here?

INT. LEISURE CENTER - CAFETERIA - LATER

The guys are sat around a table, coffees, drinks and snacks have been taking a battering.

PIPE

So are we talking about some sort strategy.

MINCE

Let's just get in the pool.

SLOPS

Fail to plan, plan to fail.

MINCE

I have a plan and it involves you guys getting into the pool.

DUD

I need to know the wider picture.

MINCE

Dud. You need to get wet.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - SWIMMING AREA - LATER

Mince wanders out of the changing area and stands near to the pool.

Pipe follows, wearing a safety ring round his waist.

He gives Mince a nod as he passes and stands near to the pool.

Slops wanders out of the changing area, wearing a safety ring round his waist and arm-bands.

He gives Mince a nod as he passes him, and stands near to the pool.

Dud wanders out of the changing room - full diving gear, snorkel and big fat diving-goggles.

MINCE

Dud! Is that you?

The divers nods frantically, and muffled sounds are emitted; inaudible.

Mince points back to the changing room.

MINCE (CONT'D)
Get your ass in there...

Dud's shoulders fall. Shuffles back in. Mince looks to the ceiling and

THE GUYS

are lined up, Dud, Slops, and Pipe.

PIPE
Okay. We're ready. What do we do now?

MINCE
Let's get up one the wall, one at a time. Pipe, you're up first.

Pipe stands on the swimming-pool dwarf-wall.

MINCE (CONT'D)
Now. You know how to dive?

Pipe lifts his arms in the air like he's afraid of something falling on him. Does a 20-degree body-turn; and, body rigid, simply collapses into the water.

Slops looks at Mince.

MINCE (CONT'D)
You next.

SLOPS
Uh uh. Not yet. I ain't ready.

DUD
I'm up. I ain't afraid.

Dud clammers up on the dwarf-wall, but he's on his hands and knees. The pool to one-hand-side.

Mince watches. Lost for words. Slops watches. Just lost.

Body rigid, Duds peels into the water.

MINCE
Okay Slops. Now it's you.

SLOPS
Not until one of them comes up.

Mince looks into the water.

Nothing.

Until a PAIR OF FEET bob up to the surface.

SLOPS

Pipe. Pipe, man. You okay?

MINCE

As his head's underwater, I suggest
he can't hear you.

SLOPS

Should we get him up?

The grab a leg each and start trying to haul Pipe up and out
of the swimming pool. It isn't pretty.

WHILST HAULING:

SLOPS

Any sign of Dud?

Mince looks around, not so interested.

Dud, body rigid, bobs up to the surface.

DUD

Did I swim? did I do it guys?

They keep on hauling Pipe.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - CAFETERIA - LATER

The guys are round the same table.

Slops BELCHES. And it's loud.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - WATER MACHINE - LATER

The guys are gathered round the water-machine again.

DUD

Was it so bad?

MINCE

We need a re-think. A big one.

SLOPS

We could just give up, Hu?

PIPE

One month's salary?

Pipe taps Mince on the arm.

DUD
Guys. Over there...

Through the large glass partition, the guys can see the
SWIMMING POOL

and running along the side of it, they can see GAMBLE,
wearing a safety-ring round his waist.

MINCE
That's Gamble.

SLOPS
What's he doing here?

They look toward the

SWIMMING POOL

and Gamble is tentatively getting into the pool.

PIPE
Well it looks like he's going to go
for a...

The guys are watching the

SWIMMING POOL

as Gamble flaps about in the water.

The guys look at each other.

SLOPS
The guy can't swim to save his ass.

MINCE
You know what this means?

SLOPS
Yeah. Game on.

MINCE
Right. All of us. Back here
tomorrow A.M. Sharp.

Pipe, Slops, and Mince troop out.

DUD
So what time is that?

Back in the

SWIMMING POOL

Gamble is making a spectacle of himself.

INT. MINCE'S CAR - LATER

Mince is giving Pipe a lift.

PIPE

So I don't figure it. Why did
Gamble put the bet in the first
place?

MINCE

(screws his face up)
Because he believed what he said?

PIPE

What? Dark skin equals keep out the
water for fear of drowning your
heavy negro bones?

MINCE

Ah... misconceptions die hard.

PIPE

Do you reckon he knew the guys
couldn't swim.

MINCE

Maybe. They never go to the baths.

PIPE

So he's guessing he could learn
quicker?

MINCE

Long shot. How'd he know they
didn't learn as kids?

PIPE

So he does believe all that crap?

MINCE

Like I said... stuff dies hard.

PIPE

Can you drown hard?

Mince looks at Pipe.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - WATER MACHINE - NEXT DAY

Mince, Pipe and Dud are round the water machine. Mince is on his cell.

PIPE
(to Mince)
And he is...

MINCE
(to cell)
You're not supposed to eat before
you go swimming, dude.

DUD
(to Mince)
He's eating?

MINCE
(to cell)
How are you getting a snack from a
burger bar?

PIPE
Man. The guy's shoving eight ounces
of cow hide down his throat.

MINCE
(to cell)
Can you please haul you ass over
head, and get here like now?

DUD
...and can we have triple safety
rings, extra strong, and I mean 'to
go'...

INT. LEISURE CENTER - SWIMMING AREA - LATER

Dud sits on the dwarf-wall facing the pool. He ALONE.

He checks to one-hand-side, having a good look.

He's looking front again and

RIGHT NEXT TO HIM

is a GIRL: CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE 26, but looking younger. She's no looker; brown hair, long, a real pear-shaper. Her teeth didn't do too well, but they came off lightly compared to her skin.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Yoh.

DUD

Shoot!

He starts. It's the least you would expect any man to do.

DUD

Where in hell did you come shooting out of?

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Oh here. I was here.

Now he's a tad lost for words.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE (CONT'D)

You cool? What's your name.

DUD

Oh. Yeah. Cool. My name... it's Daniel. Friends call me Dud. Like Dude.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

But a Dud? A Dud Dude?

Dud thinks a second.

DUD

We might go there one day. Not now. Definitely not now.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

You got a girl? Like a girl-friend?

DUD

(pause)

I um... I um...

(now real confident)

I got a girl.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Oh, that's so cool. What's her name?

Now's Dud's lost; he's not so good at thinking on his feet.

DUD

(to himself)

Girl's name, girl's name...

(struggling)

(MORE)

DUD (cont'd)
 ...Brian..?

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 Brian? Your girl-friend's called
 Brian?

DUD
 McBrian. She's called McBrian.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 So what's her first name?

Here we go...

DUD
 Te... Terr... Terry...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 Terry? She's actually called Terry.
 Like in a man's name?

DUD
 Te... Theresa. Theresa McBrian.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 Okay. And how old is she?

DUD
 She was born in...
 (struggling again)
 19... 19...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 1919? So she's like 93?

DUD
 (shocked)
 No! No, it's like 19... 99, or
 something.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 Oh. So she's like 13?

DUD
 (uber-shocked)
 No! No! I'm so bad with dates, I
 can never remember stuff like that.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 So what's her hair like?

This is getting a bit too much for Dud...

DUD
Oh, you know it's like brown...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
Or blond?

DUD
Yeah like blond too, and short at
the back...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
Is she a red-head?

DUD
Yeah. Like that as well, and all
long at the front...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
So what does she do?

Dud's like he's going to pass out if this goes on...

He start waving his hands around in small circles.

DUD
Oh she... she... strokes things...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
Like dogs?

DUD
(relief and futility mix)
Yeah like dogs. She strokes dogs
for a living.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
You now, I think you ain't got a
girl-friend.

Dud a picture of relief.

DUD
Did you guess?

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
Want to start over?

DUD
Maybe without the girl-friend bit.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
Okay. You want to go out with me?

DUD

No.

Dud looks ahead.

Charphinminioussee looks at Dud.

Dud looks at Charphinminioussee.

DUD

Yeah. That was a little quick. Do you want to throw that at me again?

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Want to go out with me?

DUD

Can I think on it?

Charphinminioussee look at Dud.

Dud looks ahead.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

You done thinking yet?

DUD

Yeah, I thought it through. It's a little soon for me. I'm on a break.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Who from?

Dud looks at Charphinminioussee. Not this again.

DUD

You don't want to...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

No. The one with all the hair and stuff..?

DUD

Yeah, yeah, that's her...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Brian...

DUD

Mc...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

McBrian.

They look ahead.

And then...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

What if I buy you a load of beer?

DUD

Beer?

He's interested but...

DUD (CONT'D)

I couldn't have you buy me beer all night...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

And burgers...

DUD

It's just like..., almost immoral...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Any kind of food, pizzas, burgers, and any kind of beer...

DUD

It would just be... wrong...

INT. BAR#2 - EVENING

Charphinminioussee and Dud are at a bar. Similar to their usual haunt, but it's not the same place. They are both on high stools.

There are eight or nine empty glasses in front of Dud, and he's hammering his way through a mega-burger.

DUD

(slurring)

It's good.

Behind him, Pipe, Gamble and Slops wander in and approach him.

PIPE

Hey Dud. How are you doing?

DUD
 (surprised)
 Guys...

PIPE
 So what are you doing here?

DUD
 How did you find me here?

MINCE
 Well we went to our usual place...

SLOPS
 ...and you weren't there...

DUD
 But how did you know that I was here?

PIPE
 ...and seeing as this is the nearest place to the usual...

SLOPS
 ...like, right across the road...

DUD
 Uh hu.

Mince, Gamble and Slops check out Charphinminioussee.

PIPE
 So... this is...

DUD
 Oh. This is...

PIPE
 ...your girlfriend?

DUD
 No!

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 Yeah. His girlfriend.

DUD
 You're not my girlfriend.

The guys are bemused.

PIPE

So she is...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

His date.

DUD

We're not dating.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

I bought him beer.

MINCE

She bought you beer?

DUD

Wait, wait on one moment...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

And burgers...

SLOPS

...and burgers...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

So he'd date me...

Dud's head begins to shrink into his shoulders.

PIPE

She bought you beer and burgers for a date..?

DUD

No, no, it's not like that...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

I bought you the burgers. And I bought you the beer.

PIPE

Dud, is this true?

Dud's gesticulating again.

DUD

It's like, it needs a little explaining, so I'm going to have to go through it, and like...

PIPE

Dud. Let's get a seat. We need to talk.

And the guys, with Charphinminioussee, are all in a
BAR BOOTH

Dud's looking a little ashamed of himself.

PIPE

I want to hear it straight. Did she
buy the beers?

DUD

Yes.

PIPE

Did she buy the burgers?

DUD

Yes.

MINCE

And did she do all that in exchange
for a date?

Now Dud's backing off some.

DUD

It's not so easy as all that.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Oh he did. I asked for a date and
he said no. So I bribed him and
said I'd buy him like so much beer,
and then he said no, so I said beer
and whatever food he can take, and
then it was like, well, he's here.

PIPE

Dude, do you know how immoral that
is?

DUD

But she... she...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

Blackmailed him. But that's kind of
cool. I blackmailed a black male.
Kinda ironic, hu?

MINCE

(to Dud)

So you're just going to take all
she's given to you then throw her
out?

DUD
Well, no...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
So we're dating..?

DUD
Well no.

PIPE
So you're dumping her? Make your
mind up Dud. It's one or the other.

Dud's getting real confused now.

MINCE
(to Charphinminioussee)
You got guys you hang out with?

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
Well, I got a couple of friends
here and there.

MINCE
But no-one that you really...hang
with?

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
Well no, not in that way.

PIPE
Want to hang with us?

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
Oh, guys, I'd love to.

DUD
Guys..?

PIPE
This is the way it is, Dud. You
can't treat this girl like that.

MINCE
And she's hanging with us now. So
you got to make a decision.

DUD
A decision?

PIPE
You treat her right, or you take a
hike.

DUD
Are you passing me over for the
chick?

Mince leans forward.

MINCE
I so can't believe that you were
willing to prostitute yourself and
dash the hopes of this girl for a
few beers and a couple of burgers.

DUD
No?

Mince leans back.

PIPE
So you either do the decent thing,
or you...

DUD
A wind up?

But even Dud doesn't believe it is.

SLOPS
You see where the door is?

Dud looks around the guys; he knows he doesn't have a
chance.

He take one more glance at his new girl-friend.

DUD
(surrendering)
Okay. That it is.

SLOPS
You're so doing the right thing. My
respect for you now? Sky high.

DUD
(to Charphinminioussee)
Looks like we've been itemized.

PIPE
So Dud, we haven't even been
introduced...

Dud looks at Pipe.

DUD
 So hey guys. This is my girl.
 (to Charphinminioussee)
 Hey. These are the guys.

MINCE
 Properly.

Dud looks at Mince.

PIPE
 Dud. Do you actually know this
 girl's name?

DUD
 I...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 It's Charphinminioussee.

SLOPS
 Hu?

MINCE
 Now, we're just not going to even
 go there.

PIPE
 How about Char?

SLOPS
 Like Char-lady?

MINCE
 And Phin doesn't work... to
 shark-like.

PIPE
 So Mini?

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 Mini. Yeah. I like that.

DUD
 Yeah and Oussee doesn't work
 either...

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE
 So Mini it is. That's so great.
 Look, beers are on me guys what do
 you all want.

MINCE

Hey no, I'll get these in.

CHARPHINMINIOUSSEE

No way, I'm happy to, and anyway,
I'm in full swing, and then it's
all on you guys.

Charphinminioussee goes to the bar.

Slops immediately gets up and pursues her.

DUD

Where you off to fat-boy? Trying to
hit on my girl already?

SLOPS

What? You on commission?

Slops wander off to the

BAR

Where he joins Charphinminiousse (now Mini).

SLOPS

So. You got some friends then?

MINI

(thinks)

Yeah. Why?

Slops shrugs.

MINI (CONT'D)

You want me to set you up?

Slops shrugs.

MINI (CONT'D)

Okay. I'll try.

INT. DINER - DAY

C/U:

A kid's face, maybe eight years old; he's seated.

KID

What do penguins wear to the beach?

C/U:

A waitress's face: Tabbie (28), huge mad grin on her; trying to camp it up for the kid.

TABBIE

I don't know! What do penguins wear to the beach?

C/U:

The kid.

KID

A beak-ini!

C/U:

Tabbie, camping it up like she's got a trigger happy psychopath pointing a cocked magnum .45 against her temple.

TABBIE

That! Is so funny!

Tabbie grabs the kid's cheek and gives it a good waggle, but it's a little too firm.

A LARGE HAND reaches across and is placed on Tabbie's wrist.

The Kid's father (45) big balding man, interrupts proceeding.

FATHER

You want to rip his cheek off his face?

TABBIE

Just trying to amuse the kid.

FATHER

You want to amuse me and get my damn order?

TABBIE

(irritated)

You want to amuse me and kiss my ass?

The guys is taken aback. He thinks about it, but the way he's thinking... it's almost *effeminate*.

He laughs a little.

Points at Tabbie like he gets the joke.

FATHER
Rhetorical, right?

TABBIE
Um. Right.

FATHER
But if you want my number...

TABBIE
I so don't.

FATHER
(deflated)
Want to get my damn order?

Tabbie moves off to get the order and, by the serving area
bumps into

MINI

who's eyes light up.

MINI
Hey Tabs. How are you doing.

TABBIE
Hey Chars, are you cool?

MINI
Yeah. You ever dated a black guy?

Tabbie give Mini a very straight look.

TABBIE
Have I ever dated a black guy?

MINI
Yeah. Like big lips, flat nose.

Tabbie puts her hands on her hips.

MINI (CONT'D)
And like a huge...

TABBIE
Second grade. You forgotten?

Mini suddenly recalls.

MINI
Oh! That guy.

TABBIE
Two years. Never again.

MINI
Never again?

TABBIE
He had a degree.

MINI
You don't like black guys with degrees?

TABBIE
He won every argument.

MINI
Isn't that a little...

TABBIE
Why do you ask?

MINI
I've got these guys I'm hanging with...

TABBIE
Uh hu. And they're all black?

MINI
And I'm teaching them all how to swim...

TABBIE
But I thought...

MINI
Oh so don't go there.

TABBIE
And you wanted me to...

MINI
Yeah. One of them. He's he a big fat guy.

TABBIE
Oh, Mini. I said never again. Has he got a degree?

MINI
Yeah but it's a crap one. Like sport science or something. But he
(MORE)

MINI (cont'd)
never does sport. Or anything. Just
eats. And gets fat.

TABBIE
Sounds just so...

MINI
So you'll do it for me?

TABBIE
Did I mention no?

INT. BAR#2 - EVENING

Mini and Slops are as we left them.

MINI
So I tried.

SLOPS
At least you tried.

They smile at each other.

SLOPS (CONT'D)
Want to try again?

MINI
Want to buy me beer for like,
forever?

INT. LEISURE CENTER - WATER MACHINE - NEXT DAY

C/U:

Slops and Tabbie are next to each other.

Slops dumps a load of chicken wrap into his mouth.

TABBIE
I'm your date.

Slops open mouthed. Stops eating.

SLOPS
Okay.

Mince, Pipe, Dud and Mini are all there.

MINCE

Let's go guys.

They troop off, and as they are going

SLOPS

So do I get some?

INT. LEISURE CENTER - SWIMMING AREA - LATER

A couple of seriously hot GIRLS are leaning against a wall near to the swimming pool.

They are a few meters away from Pipe, who is near to a set of steps that lead into the swimming pool.

HALF-WAY DOWN the steps, and wearing his obligatory safety ring round his waist is Dud.

Pipe gets an eye-full of the girls.

They smile: they think he's cute. Pipe is ON here, and he knows it.

Dud's like a three-year-old climbing down the steps to the pool.

DUD

Oh wow, that's cold.

Dud's body is going down, but his legs ain't. He sticks a foot in the pool.

DUD (CONT'D)

Oooh. That is so so cold.

The girls are watching. Pipe catches their eye again. They smile a small smile, and glance toward Dud.

Dud sticks his leg further into the pool.

DUD

Ooh. Ooh.

The girls are checking.

Pipe looking a little embarrassed. He sticks a foot out to encourage Dud.

PIPE

(quietly, and to Dud)

Go man.

Pipe smiles at the girls.

Dud goes further into the pool, but now he's at pains.

DUD
 (a little too loud)
 Ooooooh. Man that is just so cold.
 Do you know how cold this is?

Pipe glances over to the girls; they smile back, but it's waning.

DUD
 Aaaaah.

Pipe more firm with his foot this time.

PIPE
 (quiet and to Dud)
 Just. Get. In.

And more firmly still.

DUD
 Oh. Oh. Oh.

Dud sticks his backside in.

DUD (CONT'D)
 Oh. Oh.

Pipe really shoves with his foot.

The girls' smile is turning...

DUD
 OH!

Pipe really firming up with the foot now, but Dud isn't in yet.

And the girls smile has turned to one of mild disgust; Pipe's smile has gone into frustration.

PIPE
 Yo ass. In.

DUD
 Oh-ho.

Pipe glances toward the girls again, more in hope than expectation: But they're on there way out.

INT. BAR - EVENING

Mince, Pipe, Slops, Dud and Mini are all there as usual, as are the beers and the plate full of food sacrificed to Slops.

SLOPS
(with a face-full of nosh)
So things are moving on, hu?

MINCE
Man, it's more like things are going backward.

PIPE
Stop being so negative, dude.

DUD
The swim wasn't so bad.

MINI
It was just a swim, hu?

PIPE
It's a little more than a swim, babe, I can assure you.

Mini's not too sure what they are going on about.

MINI
So tell me guys, what swings?

MINCE
Have we not told you?

MINI
Told me what?

PIPE
We haven't told her. Nobody's mentioned it.

Mince steadies himself.

MINCE
As simple as?
(pause)
The guys made a bet. One month's pay. That they could swim. They can't. And neither can the guy they made the bet with.

MINI

So was this one of those male ego things that happenstanced following consumption of various beers in large quantities, allowing the usually cool male logic to be over-ridden by an unrestricted competitive element resulting in unforeseen agreements which, via and as a direct consequence of, masculine amour prope must be exercised to the bitter end?

Silence.

And then

PIPE

It's like, she's a woman, and also it's almost...

(pause)

...as if she understands.

Dud looks at Mini, and for the first time, he looks at her with... *affection*.

DUD

Oh.

(pause)

She's actually cool.

MINCE

So I've been trying... trying to get these guys to swim.

PIPE

And we had, like a total of one week to do it, and it's kinda not happening so well as it...

MINI

Okay. I get the picture.

DUD

So that's why we're getting so hung up on the swimming thing.

MINI

So you want to let me help?

PIPE

Well anything you can do...

MINI
Teach you to swim..?

DUD
As in...

MINI
I'm a swim instructor.

MINCE
You're a...?

MINI
Swim instructor. That's why I'm
down the pool so often.

The guys stare at Mini.

SLOPS
Do you want to just repeat that,
sort of nice and slow?

PIPE
Mini. Just teach us, hu?

MINI
Let's get the show on the road.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - SWIMMING AREA - NEXT DAY

The guys are in the pool: safety rings on; but also they
have FLOATS in front of them, all in a line.

Mini is outside the pool; she's encouraging them.

MINI
Arms out straight guys. Now work
your legs, work them.

The guys are splashing like mad, but they're going forward.
Progress is being made.

And then the guys are

LINED UP

by the pool edge.

MINI
Okay, and push off.

They do.

And they're splashing across the pool.

Mini looks happy, she claps a little.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

The guys are there, with Mini and Tabbie; they're leaving the bar.

They gather.

MINCE

Tomorrow. Early. One day left. You
hear me, guys?

Muffled response.

Pipe and Mince wander off.

Slops smells Tabbie's hair.

Tabbie looks at Slops.

SLOPS

Can I walk you home?

Tabbie walks off.

Slops follows her.

SLOPS

Can I follow you home?

Dud puts his arm around Mini.

They look at each other. Again there is genuine affection.

DUD

Now I know I can walk you home.

MINI

But can you come in?

DUD

That is so an innuendo.

MINI

That is so how your mind works.

They stroll along the evening pavement.

MINI
You were going to tell me about
your name.

DUD
Oh. Yeah. I said that.

MINI
And what about the other guys. They
got stories about their names to?

DUD
Yeah. They do.

MINI
So pray tell.

DUD
Okay. I'll begin with myself. I
ain't leaving the best to last.

MINI
Oh, you're so unconventional.

MONTAGE:

Evening, rough side of town.

Mince, Slops and Dud are stumbling home from a night out.

Slops stumbles on a can of SPRAY PAINT.

SLOPS
Hey Dude, Michael, look at this. I
see some fun beckoning.

DUD
Hey give me that. Do you know how
to spray?

Dud takes the can.

SLOPS
Hey, do you know how to spray Dude?

MINCE
He don't know how to spray. Street
dudes do that.

DUD
Hey, Michael, I know how to spray.

Dud begins to spray.

On the wall he has sprayed D.U.D

DUD
...and just the 'E' left.

...and from

BEHIND DUD

comes the sound of

POLICE SIRENS

as Dud turns around.

SLOPS
Oh, you in the poopie now.

and Dud is

ARRESTED

by two cops as Pipe and Slops stand smiling.

DUD
So you guys going to help me out
here?

MINCE
You committed the illegal activity,
man.

On the wall, huge letters: DUD

BACK TO SCENE

MINI
(laughing)
So you wanted to be a Dude...

DUD
Babe, I was a dude...

MINI
but you ended up a dud...

DUD
Well, we haven't entirely decided
that yet.

MINI
Oh. Okay. And Mince?

DUD
 Yeah. Michael. His real name.
 Pretty simple really.

MONTAGE:

Bar. The usual place.

Mince, Gamble, Dud, Slops and Pipe are in the booth.

DUD (V.O.)
 It was his round.

MINCE
 My round...

DUD (V.O.)
 He got up, and a guy was passing...

An effeminate man passes by

DUD (V.O.)
 So he decides to impersonate the
 guy...

Mince minces after the guy, and peels off to the bar.

The remaining seated guys all look at each other.

DUD (V.O.)
 And they where like
 (paraphrasing)
 He does that too well.

PIPE
 It's like he's a natural.

SLOPS
 Born to it.

GAMBLE
 In his blood.

BACK TO SCENE

DUD
 And it just totally stuck from
 there.

MINI
 And Gamble?

DUD
Well, you heard. He just likes to
Gamble on everything.

MINI
Pipe?

DUD
College days.

MINI
Always at it?

DUD
Like he wouldn't have graduated
without it.

MINI
So that just leaves Slops.

DUD
Oh my days. Slops. You don't want
to hear this.

MINI
Bad start. Now I so want to hear
this.

MONTAGE

Slops is sat at a table: college eating area. Plate in front
of him; half demolished burger in front of him, but he's in
full flow, mouth going quicker than a steam train.

DUD (V.O.)
So an assistant comes up, and she's
says,
(paraphrasing)
You're finished?

The assistant is next to Slops.

DUD (CONT'D) (V.O.)
But he doesn't hear her properly

The assistant grabs the plate

DUD (CONT'D) (V.O.)
But he heard her *something*.

And moves the plate and burger toward the SLOP-BUCKET she's
carrying.

DUD (CONT'D) (V.O.)
And he turns around

The burger slips off the plate and into the bucket.

DUD (CONT'D) (V.O.)
And totally without hesitating.

He reaches into the slop-bucket.

DUD (CONT'D) (V.O.)
And he grabs it.

And scoops out the burger.

DUD (CONT'D) (V.O.)
And the guys with him, on the
table...

Are all looking gob-smacked.

DUD (CONT'D) (V.O.)
And then they say...

GUY AT TABLE
You're not going to eat that are
you..?

DUD (V.O.)
And he's like, mouth open, and
sinking his teeth into the mother
of all bites.

And the guys are looking at him in utter horror, but Slops
notices nothing.

BACK TO SCENE

Mini has got her hand over her mouth and has stopped
walking.

DUD
But you're still cool for tonight,
hu?

Mini looks at Dud.

INT. CHURCH - EVENING

Slops is attending mass.

The Church is half-full: people are scattered a respectable distance from one another.

Slops looks down to his hymn-book; he flicks through a few pages. Finds the one he wants, and joins in the singing:

SONG:

Oh the Love of my Lord, is the
essence... And his touch is as
gentle as silence.

And later...

...the service has ended. Slops files out with the congregation, and

OUTSIDE

He walks along the street, taking in the musty evening air, and from

ACROSS THE STREET

a voice calls to him.

PIPE

Hey Slops!

Slops, still walking, turns to see Pipe jogging across the road to join him.

SLOPS

Hey there.

PIPE

Just been to mass?

SLOPS

Yeah.

PIPE

Cool?

SLOPS

Uh hu. I enjoyed it.

PIPE

So, are you ready for tomorrow?

SLOPS
I don't think so.

PIPE
You don't think it's going to happen?

SLOPS
Oh, I know it's going to happen. I don't have any doubts about that.

PIPE
You just think we're all going to make fools out of ourselves.

SLOPS
Well. Let me put it this way. We ain't going to be any richer at least.

PIPE
But that ain't the point?

SLOPS
(laughs)
Well not for me at least. What is it for you?

PIPE
Oh. Being with my buddies, I guess. It's all a bit of fun, and I get to do a lot of stuff with my guys.

SLOPS
You like hanging out?

PIPE
Hanging out and doing stuff, stuff that makes memories.

SLOPS
Yeah. I can figure that.

PIPE
You still haven't said.

SLOPS
I know.

PIPE
Tell me.

SLOPS
I said that I'd do it that's all.

PIPE
But that matters, hu? It's
important to you?

SLOPS
Yeah. It's always been important. I
like to see things through.

PIPE
You like to disprove people?

SLOPS
And you like to psychoanalyze
people.

PIPE
Okay. I get the message. Your cool.

INT. BAR - SAME

Mini, Dud, Gamble and Mince are all in the bar in the usual
booth.

Gamble is smiling.

GAMBLE
So I got a take on this.

DUD
Gam, my friend, you've got nothing
on this, I can assure you.

GAMBLE
You're all scared.

MINCE
We've got nothing to be scared of.

GAMBLE
You're all going to lose a month's
pay. That enough to put anyone off.

MINCE
Gam. We've been to the pool.

GAMBLE
Oh. You've been practicing?

MINCE

Yeah. And we seen you there.

Gamble stops smiling.

GAMBLE

You saw what.

DUD

You, dude.

MINCE

Trying to swim. And you can't.

GAMBLE

But I can tell you guys, I've been improving.

MINCE

Gam. You can't swim.

GAMBLE

You pull. You forfeit.

DUD

So Gam. Like how far...

GAMBLE

A width. You do a width...

MINCE

A width?

MINI

Like, a whole width.

GAMBLE

Can you do a width?

Silence. Dud looks at Mini, and then at Mince, who looks at Gamble, and then Dud.

DUD

I can do a width.

MINI

Oh.

MINCE

He can do a width.

GAMBLE
You can't even do a width.

DUD
Dude...

MINCE
Tuesday. How about Tuesday?

GAMBLE
I can't do Tuesday. Not enough notice.

MINI
I'm busy too.

DUD
Yeah. Tuesday. Going to be a bit tricky.

MINI
He can do a width.

GAMBLE
Then that's the bet. First to a width.

MINCE
And who judges?

Gamble looks at Mini.

MINI
Okay. I'll do it.

MINCE
Are you cool with that?

GAMBLE
Look. There'll be no competition.
I'm cool.

INT. GAMBLE'S CAR - BRIGHT MORNING

Gamble is driving to the local swimming pool.

He drives into an EMPTY car park.

Gets out of his car and sucks in the fresh morning air.

Big grin on his face, and looking confident.

He strolls over to the swimming pool entrance, which is CLOSED.

Tugs at the door; the door does not give. Gamble notices a SIGN on the door that says CLOSED.

GAMBLE
Closed? Closed. How can you be closed?

Gamble shakes his head. Look BRIEFLY around. There are other notices on the door, but in his haste he does not hesitate to take them in.

GAMBLE
Oh, ho. This is not going to happen this way. We are swimming.

Gamble extracts his cell phone from his pocket and jabs in a number.

GAMBLE
(to phone)
Hi. I need a number...

WIDE: GAMBLE ON HIS CELL

GAMBLE (CONT'D)
Yeah, the manager... real important.

WIDE: GAMBLE ON HIS CELL

GAMBLE (CONT'D)
Uh hu, it's on fire... on their way, absolutely...

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

DANIEL PETCH (50's) is wandering into the kitchen. He wears flip-flops and a bath-robe; carries a plate bereft of all but crumbs. He's heading toward the sink, when a

PHONE RINGS.

He turns his head. Drops his plate off in the tub, and picks up.

DANIEL
Hullo?

He listens. And he listens some more, brows slowly beginning to show furrowing signs.

DANIEL
Who is this?

Brows are now heading for Australia.

EXT. LEISURE CENTER - SAME

WIDE: GAMBLE NEAR DANCING; ON HIS PHONE.

Gamble is now a picture of passion

GAMBLE
You've got to hear me out, just let
me talk, I promise you, I know this
sounds way out, but look, I'll pay,
off the records, in cash.

DANIEL
Look, this is just...

GAMBLE
Let's meet, I know what I'm asking
is little... off kilter, but just
hear me out...

INT / EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - SHORT TIME LATER

Daniel is walking toward the door.

Gamble rings on the buzzer, pushing hard, a little too hard.

Daniel looks to the heavens.

DANIEL
Okay okay, I heard you.

Daniel opens the the door, and Gamble leaps in.

GAMBLE
I'm so pleased that you agreed to
see me. I will make this worth your
while, I can promise you that.

Daniel motions Gamble into the kitchen and follows him
through.

DANIEL
So do you want a coffee?

GAMBLE

Oh, superb. White. Two sugars.
Extra coffee.

DANIEL

So, this is kind of...

GAMBLE

Oh it's extra-curricula, it so is.

DANIEL

And I could loose my job over this.

Gamble look fake-horrified.

GAMBLE

No, no. You're not going to loose
you job over this at all. If you
get found out, just tell them, you
were... enthusiastic... they'll
love that.

DANIEL

So what did you see at the pool..?

GAMBLE

It, it was just closed.

DANIEL

You normally use it on a Saturday?

GAMBLE

Oh, no.

Daniel hands over a coffee.

GAMBLE (CONT'D)

It's kind of like a bet. With some
guys of mine, but we'll use the
facilities more often now, you can
be sure of that.

Daniel looks at Gamble furtively.

DANIEL

So... you said you'd be willing to
pay?

GAMBLE

Ooh yeah. We can always discuss...
some kind of... compensation.

DANIEL
So it's kind of like a case of
when...

GAMBLE
Uh?

DANIEL
I can't run the thing by myself...

GAMBLE
All you've got to do is open it...

DANIEL
Yeah, and if one of you drown, then
I'm really in it up to my neck.

GAMBLE
Yeah..?

DANIEL
So... I'm going to need a couple of
staff, you know safety reasons, I
couldn't have that on my
conscience...

GAMBLE
You want more cash...?

DANIEL
Let me level with you. It'll take a
little time to organize. I'll have
to call up a couple of staff, and
they're not going to be too
pleased.

GAMBLE
Oh, you can order them. Minimum
wage hu? Threaten them, maybe?

DANIEL
Yeah... once I get them up.

GAMBLE
So... it's just a little time,
then?

DANIEL
Yeah.. a little time and a little
money...

GAMBLE
How little...?

DANIEL
Give me 'til twelve. I'll have the
place open for you.

Daniel studies Gamble, and Gamble return his gaze.

GAMBLE
So...

DANIEL
Well, I'd like my usual rate
covered... plus a little for
inconvenience...

GAMBLE
A little for inconvenience...

DANIEL
Yeah, a little.

GAMBLE
How little?

DANIEL
Try me.

GAMBLE
Five hundred.

DANIEL
Okay. That's my pay pay covered.

GAMBLE
Seriously?

DANIEL
Anti-social hours.

GAMBLE
It's Monday.

DANIEL
We open weekend. Monday's my
social.

GAMBLE
Okay...

DANIEL
And my inconvenience...

GAMBLE
Two-fifty?

DANIEL
I mean, you want to get dressed at
how much notice?

Gamble thinks.

GAMBLE
Okay. I can match your wage.

DANIEL
Now that's fair compensation!

GAMBLE
So we're good to go?

DANIEL
Staff cost?

GAMBLE
Pretty cheap, hu?

DANIEL
Cheaper than me.

GAMBLE
But not minimum, exactly.

DANIEL
Try me.

GAMBLE
At about...

DANIEL
Halve my costs.

GAMBLE
As a starting point..?

DANIEL
Would be good.

GAMBLE
Can we end out there too?

Daniels reaches out a big fat hand.

DANIEL
Fifteen hundred it is then.

Gamble doesn't shift. Looks like he's just smelt something he really didn't want to smell. Tentatively reaches out his hand. It gets grabbed by Daniel, and shaken like it needed shaking.

DANIEL
Okay. I'll have it open by twelve, guaranteed. See you there.

INT. MINCE'S CAR - LATER

Mince is driving, Pipe next to him.

PIPE
Oh, man the guy's up.

MINCE
Yeah probably just got back from defeating another slab of enbunned cow meat.

PIPE
Enbunned? Can you have that?

MINCE
Oh yeah.

PIPE
Can you even have bunned?

MINCE
Hoooo yeah.

PIPE
I mean, bun is a noun, right?

MINCE
Hell yeah, one of the best.

PIPE
So if you bunned something, you verbify the noun, right?

MINCE
Verbify?

PIPE
Stay with me now.

MINCE

You quoting me grammar, and you got verbify?

PIPE

So if you use en, as in the prefix before the verbified noun...

MINCE

I've got a grammar lecture here...

PIPE

...and as we all know the prefix en forms verbs from nouns or adjectives...

MINCE

As we all know..? Who? Who's 'we all'...

PIPE

...or verb...

MINCE

...'cause I ain't got a clue what you're talking about...

PIPE

You could've verbified a verbified noun right then.

Silence.

MINCE

Now you're really just talking crap.

PIPE

Look bud...

MINCE

I mean you could have spurted just any old mish mash drivel right there, and I wouldn't have know left from right what you were talking about.

PIPE

So how are you so sure that I ain't right?

MINCE

I'm not convinced you're wrong, I'm just not equally convinced you're quite right either.

PIPE

And you're poking me for talking some kind of crap?

SLOPS (O.S.)

One of you going to open the door, or am I just going to stand here all the way the swimming pool?

PIPE

Hey Slops...

Pipe gets the door.

PIPE

...how's it babe?

SLOPS

It's cool.

MINCE

Was the cow good?

SLOPS

Yu. How'd you know?

Mince a tad unsure.

MINCE

Just guessed.

SLOPS

Yeah, I just got got back. Had a double super death burger, extra fries, triple coke.

Slops fixes his seat beat. Looks around, nice and innocent.

SLOPS

Good to go.

INT. DUD'S CAR

Dud and Mini are driving along.

DUD
So how did you convince her?

MINI
I just asked.

DUD
Like some girlie ask?

MINI
What's a girlie ask?

DUD
Like, you ask like a girl ask, in a kind of girls conversation. You know, when you all are giggling and stuff.

MINI
Gig'lin?

DUD
Yeah. You do stuff like that. Girl stuff.

Mini thinks.

MINI
so was i a-gig'lin, and askin' like a girlie ask?

DUD
Come on babe, you know what I'm saying. how did you ask her?

MINI
Oh, it was like, we were on her bed together...

DUD
Hu?

MINI
Pyjama time, holding hands... hugging.

DUD
Uh.

MINI
And she had like these real skimpy shorts on, so tight around her ass.

DUD

Uh hu?

MINI

And I've got... you know those
little white ones you like?

DUD

Oh yeah.

MINI

And we're both, got no tops on or
anything.

Dud looks quizzical.

MINI

And then I'm like feeling her chest
up...

DUD

Min, babe...

MINI

And then the next second, would you
believe it...

(louder)

...we have both so got our tongues
down each other throats...

DUD

Miiiiiin...

MINI

...and we're humping, and I'm like
get the freakin' dildo babe, uh hu
not that one, the super-sized
baby...

DUD

I can see Tabs right now. Do you
want me to confer with her on this?

From

INSIDE THE CAR

Tabbie walks over to them.

MINI

But that's just how it happened.

DUD

Yeah and you impressed her so much
she moved right on to Slops...

(immediately to Tabbie)

...Yeah hi babe, get yourself in.

Tabbie waves at them.

MINI

(whispering)

It's how it happened.

Tabbie gets into the car, and they drive off.

EXT. LEISURE CENTER - SHORT TIME LATER

Dud's car turns into the Leisure center car park. He drives
over to where

MINCE'S CAR

is parked, Mince, Pipe, and Slops standing outside of it.

Dud parks up, disembarks his vehicle, Tabbie and Mini
following.

DUD

Hey guys.

They all greet and move on towards the

LEISURE CENTER ENTRANCE

and note that the door has a CLOSED sign on it.

Mince tries the door. It doesn't give.

MINCE

It's shut. How's it shut.

PIPE

There's opening times here.

Pipe leans in to look at the opening times.

PIPE (CONT'D)

Not open until twelve.

The other guys gather a little closer.

MINI

Oh yeah. I remember. We work the weekend, so it opens late on Monday.

They look at Mini.

MINI (CONT'D)

Sorry. I forgot. I don't work the Mondays. It happens. People make mistakes.

She smiles.

The guys move away from the door a little.

MINCE

Well, it's not so long to wait.

SLOPS

We'd better call Gamble, mind. He'll be on his way here.

PIPE

Yeah, I'll call him up.

The sound of a CELL PHONE is heard.

Everyone reaches into their pockets and removes a cell.

INT. GAMBLE'S CAR - SAME

Gamble is driving down the road. He has a CELL PHONE to his ear, and a grin to his mouth.

EXT. LEISURE CENTER - SAME

EVERYONE

Hello / Hi / Yeah?

MINCE

(to the guys)
It's him. He's on mine.

GAMBLE

Hey, are you at the pool?

MINCE

Yeah...

GAMBLE
You never guess what.

MINCE
Well the pool's closed.

GAMBLE
Yeah, and I got it open.

MINCE
Yeah, but...

GAMBLE
Listen up, I just got back from the
manager's house...

MINCE
His..?

GAMBLE
And you know what...

MINCE
Gam...

GAMBLE
Twelve. He's agreed to open it for
twelve. Beat that, bitch.

MINCE
Yeah... it's just that...

GAMBLE
Got to go, hun. See you twelve. Do
not be late.

Mince looks at his phone.

SLOPS
Problem?

MINCE
He'll be here. At twelve.

INT. DANIEL'S CAR

C/U:

A TIMEPIECE indicates 11:55.

Daniel turns a corner into the

LEISURE CENTER CAR PARK

And slots his car into the reserved bay.

Gets out and up to the entrance; unlocks, goes inside, and

CHECKING

around him, removes the OPENING TIMES list.

He scurries off into the center and meanwhile in the

CAR PARK

Dud and Mince's vehicles find spaces.

They jump out.

Looking to the car park entrance

MINCE

Hey. Gamble. On his way in.

Gamble parks; exits his vehicle.

He joins the guys strolling toward the entrance to the leisure center.

GAMBLE

Are you ready to loose money?

SLOPS

I'm ready for lunch.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - CAFETERIA - LATER

All the gang gathered round a table.

Silence.

Slops is gorging.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - SWIMMING AREA - LATER

The guys are up the shallow end facing the width.

Mini, Mince and Tabbie close by.

MINI

Okay guys. You're all ready now?

Nods, shrugs, general affirmations.

Mini turns to Mince.

MINI
You're checking who gets in first
hu?

MINCE
Want to make that an if?

Mince wombles off.

Mini positions herself, Tabbie up with her.

MINI
Men. Take you marks.

Pipe climbs into the pool.

Slops, Gamble and Dud shuffle round to the steps, Dud
climbing down and in, Slops and Gamble queuing up.

MINI (CONT'D)
Okay, lets move it out some.

The guys are finally ready. Lined up against the wall, and
all in the pool.

MINI (CONT'D)
Steady... Go!

Chaos.

Arms flaps, people sink, sides of the pool are being grabbed
onto.

MINI (CONT'D)
So how are you and Slops getting
on?

TABBIE
Oh. Okay. I thought he was going to
be the dumb one, sport science
degree and all that.

MINI
Well, yeah.

TABBIE
You know he's got a law degree.

MINI
Sort of no.

TABBIE

Yeah. He want to be a sport lawyer.
He's like doing his master in
sports science so he knows
something about it.

MINI

So have you slept with him.

TABBIE

Well yeah, but slept is apt.

MINI

So he didn't perform so well?

TABBIE

He was cool. We just cuddled up and
slept.

MINI

Oh?

TABBIE

Yeah. You don't have to be porked
senseless to have a good time with
a guy.

MINI

Oh.

TABBIE

Watching them swim? It's quite
distressing.

MINI

Did you say de-stressing, or
distressing?

TABBIE

Oh, I certainly said distressing.

MINI

(toward the pool)

Hey, hey, you. Back to the start.
No holding onto the edge.

The swimming pool is like a river rapids.

MINI (CONT'D)

Yo! You're walking, that's not
swimming. Back to the start.

Near to the

FINISH

area of the pool, Mince begins to hold his head in his hands.

 ONE OF THE GUYS (O.S.)
Help...

 MINI (O.S.)
Back to the start bitch; drowning
isn't swimming either.

INT. LEISURE CENTER - CAFETERIA - LATER

Guys round a table.

Slops munching.

He belches.

INT. BAR - LATER

The guys are all around the usual table. Tabbie and Mini with them.

 MINCE
It's an embarrassment!

 DUD
That's an exaggeration.

 PIPE
It's not... an exaggeration.

 SLOPS
It's an interpretation.

 MINCE
I mean no-one. No-one.

 DUD
Things happen.

 MINCE
How could no-one win?

The guys look around.

 GAMBLE
I hate to interject at this
point...

SLOPS

Then don't?

MINCE

A width! No-one could do a width.

TABBIE

Well, I guess it's a long way if you haven't done it before.

PIPE

It's not a long way, really.

MINI

No, no it really isn't. Children can do it. Easily. All the time.

DUD

Cheers. You are the feel good factor.

GAMBLE

...but I'm going to...

MINCE

Why have I got that sinking feeling again...

TABBIE

Post traumatic stress?

GAMBLE

...because the way I see it...

SLOPS

And seeing is believing, of course.

GAMBLE

I'm right now owed a heap of money.

PIPE

Oh yeah? And exactly how did you work that out?

GAMBLE

How did I work that out?

MINI

Did you just repeat what he said?

GAMBLE

It's called para-phrasing.

MINCE

You just lost, numb-nut.

GAMBLE

Guys, none of you made a width.
That's point proved. You each owe
me a month's pay!

PIPE

You didn't win. We said the bet
was, if you won, you get the pay.

GAMBLE

I said you couldn't swim.

MINI

And everyone one agreed a width.
You had to do a width to win.

GAMBLE

And they didn't do a width...

SLOPS

And neither did you, so what's your
point?

GAMBLE

But guys, I proved my point.

PIPE

You proved we ain't something in
the pool, so you want to go
rounding up all the rest?

GAMBLE

The bet was with you guys.

DUD

Yeah, and you were in with us. You
had to do the width, or you're
proving nothing.

PIPE

Yeah. What have you proved? You
can't swim either. It's nothing
that you can't do. If you can't do
it why should we?

GAMBLE

I can't believe you renegeing on me
like this.

TABBIE

Hey, come. Don't get so upset, it was only little fun.

GAMBLE

You think?

SLOPS

Yeah. You're taking this all too serious now.

MINCE

Yeah. Well he's got reason to.

They all turn to look at Mince.

GAMBLE

And what's that supposed to mean.

MINCE

We have a total royal dickhead in the room.

GAMBLE

Mince, dude, Slops is right here listening.

DUD

Mince, what are you talking about.

GAMBLE

Yeah, spill the beans on us.

MINCE

I know about the swim-pool manager.

GAMBLE

You know what about him?

MINCE

Your little talk with him.

GAMBLE

Yeah, and if it wasn't for me, it wouldn't of gone ahead.

MINCE

I popped in to see him.

Gamble looks cautious.

SLOPS
So what's the big deal.

MINCE
You sounded so happy on the phone,
I couldn't figure it out.

GAMBLE
Yeah, and?

MINCE
So I took a joke on him...

MONTAGE:

Mince is leaning against the wall of the manager's office;
manager reclining in his chair behind his desk.

MINCE (CONT'D) (V.O.)
Went up to see him when you guys
were getting changed.

DANIEL
So what can I do for you?

MINCE
So you're the manager, hu.

DANIEL
All day long.

MINCE
Nice of you to open the pool.

DANIEL
Oh, that's my pleasure.

MINCE
I was maybe thinking you could do
the same next week?

Daniel leans forward, a little intrigued.

DANIEL
Well, I wasn't thinking of making
this a habit, now.

MINCE
Well, we'll double what we paid you
for this week.

Daniel shocked.

DANIEL
You'll pay three freaking grand
just to open a pool early?

MINCE
Yeah? Screw that.

The guys all look at Gamble. Slops laughs.

SLOPS
You paid fifteen hundred to have
the pool opened?

MINI
How come? That doesn't make sense.

MINCE
Go easy now guys, he doesn't know.

GAMBLE
Doesn't know what? I was on to good
money. I wanted the pool opened, I
reckoned I would win it back,
except you guys screwed me over.

MINI
Except it opens at twelve on a
Monday.

GAMBLE
It opens what?

PIPE
Twelve. On a Monday.

GAMBLE
(laughing)
Nice try. I saw the sign. Said
closed. In nice big letters.

PIPE
Yeah, the closed sign did.

Mince is producing a copy of the opening times

MINCE
But you didn't check the opening
times. See there.

Mince points out the time on the sheet.

MINCE (CONT'D)
Half-day Monday.

GAMBLE
That piece of crap manager...

SLOPS
Looks like you lost,
butt-cheek-boy.

MINI
(to Mince)
Did you steal the opening time list
from the pool?

MINCE
No, I just borrowed.

DUD
You see, this is what white guys
get up to...

SLOPS
Yeah, this guys thieving...

PIPE
Pool managers a con-shark...

SLOPS
You just can't trust them far as
you can throw them...

The guys row, and chaos reigns...

FADE OUT: