

stomping grounds

Episode Two: "Champs"

written by

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INT. WINE BAR - DINING ROOM - DAY

JENNY, KIM, ABBY, and TONYA sit on the comfiest couch you can imagine, around a hand carved coffee table. Phones in hand. Casually perfect but... bored.

Our WINO (nee BARISTA) walks in, exasperated.

BEHIND THE BAR

He runs around and swipes his card to clock in at the POS as MICHAEL chops lemons. Then Wino washes his hands.

WINO

I'm so sorry but MUNI was a bitch.

MICHAEL

No worries. That four top just walked in, so go take over.

WINO

Heard.

COFFEE TABLE

Wino drops a stack of plates in the center of the table.

WINO

Happy Sunday! Are we doing champs or rose or maybe bloody marys?

Tonya slams down her phone.

TONYA

A bottle of your best champagne.

WINO

And what are we celebrating?

ABBY

A promotion!

WINO

Fantastic! Who?

Kim hugs Jenny.

KIM

Our best friend Jenny! She's the new GM of a very fancy hotel here at Union Square.

WINO

That's amazing! Y'all are gonna get two bottles because I feel like y'all are going to go through the first bottle real quick. Is that okay?

KIM

You are amazing. Can we also get two charcuterie boards? Please?

WINO

Of course. Coming up.

Wino weaves around the bar.

BEHIND THE BAR

Wino grabs four champagne flutes from behind the bar.

WINO

We have chilled champagne, right?

MICHAEL

Yes. A few bottles in the reach in at the end of the bar.

WINE BAR - DINING ROOM

Door opens and EMILY walks in. She scopes the place, and not seeing who she wants to see, she takes a seat at the -

BAR TOP

- and pulls out her phone.

INSERT: Texts with Tyler. She tells him that she's waiting for him at the bar.

Michael slides a menu over.

MICHAEL

Hello! What can get started for ya?

Emily puts her phone down.

EMILY

Hi. I'm waiting for someone, but I will take a water.

MICHAEL

Sounds good.

He grabs a pint glass and fills it with water.

BEHIND THE BAR - OTHER END

Wino picks up the tray of glasses and the bucket of champagne and saunters over to the -

COFFEE TABLE

- where he drops off the bucket and tray.

WINO

Who wants champagne?!

The table cheers as he pops open the bottle and pours them each a glass. He passes them out.

WINO (cont'd)

Let me go check on those charcuterie boards and y'all drink up.

ABBY

Do you wanna glass?

WINO

Oh no, I don't drink at work, but thank you.

Tonya holds out her cell phone.

TONYA

Can you take a photo?

WINO

Sure!

He takes her phone as Jenny, Kim, Tonya, and raise their glasses in a toast.

WINO (cont'd)

To Jenny!

He snaps the photo and hands the phone back to Tonya.

KITCHEN WINDOW

Wino grabs the two charcuterie boards from the window.

WINO

Thank you Ernesto!

COFFEE TABLE

WINO

All right, ladies, I hope you're hungry because here we are!

They cheer again as Wino drops the boards off.

WINO (cont'd)

Let me know when y'all are ready for that second bottle.

JENNY

Thank you!

WINO

Enjoy!

BEHIND THE BAR

Emily scrolls through her phone as Wino stealthily pours himself a glass of pinot grig in a plastic cup.

Michael leans next to him as he polishes a glass.

MICHAEL

You're such a fucking lush.

WINO

Don't tell anyone!

He puts the bottle back in the fridge and takes a sip.

WINO (cont'd)

What's her deal?

MICHAEL

Waiting on someone, but it doesn't look like he's coming.

WINO

Poor thing.

He bends down at rifles through the fridge, looking for the perfect bottle of rose. He pours a glass.

WINO (cont'd)

You look like you could use this.

Emily, phone in her hands, looks up at him with tears, as Wino slides the glass across the bar.

EMILY
Oh, no. I'm okay. Thank you though.

WINO
You are not okay, and it's on me.

Emily takes a sip and nods.

WINO (cont'd)
Everyone feels much better after a
glass of rose.

She dries her tears with a napkin.

EMILY
Thank you.

Wino smiles at her and goes back to his glass of wine behind
the bar. Michael kills time polishing glasses.

MICHAEL
That was nice of you to buy her a
glass of wine.

WINO
I ain't buyin' shit.

MICHAEL
You're the worst.

Jenny's table cheers again.

WINO
Oh! I have an idea.

MICHAEL
Stay at out of it!

Wino shoots him a sly smile as he saunters around the bar.

COFFEE TABLE

Wino kneels down next to Jenny.

WINO
How you ladies doing?

JENNY
We're having a blast. Thanks to you!

WINO
I have a favor.

AT THE BAR

Kim gently sits down next to Emily.

KIM

Hi. Sorry to intrude, but my name is Kim and my friends and I were curious if you wanted to join us? We ordered way too much food and champagne.

EMILY

Thank you, but no. I'm fine.

KIM

What's your name?

EMILY

Emily.

KIM

How about just one drink? Please.

Emily looks over at the table - they're all smiling at her.

KIM (cont'd)

Hey, bartender, can I get a new champagne flute for our new friend?

WINO

Of course.

Wino hands Kim a clean glass.

COFFEE TABLE

Kim pour Emily a glass of champagne.

KIM

Hello, ladies. This is my new friend Emily. Emily, this is Jenny, Tonya, and Abby. Jenny just got a promotion!

EMILY

Congrats! That's great.

JENNY

Thanks.

They make room for Emily, who takes the seat at the end.

KIM

Can we get a toast for Emily? I also have a very short speech. I swear.

They raise their glasses.

KIM (cont'd)
Men are dumb! Amen.

They clink their glasses and laugh. Emily moves her hair out of her eyes.

EMILY
Thank you.

JENNY
So what's his name?

EMILY
Tyler.

JENNY
And?

She takes a large gulp of her champagne and Kim refills it.

EMILY
Ugh. This was supposed to be our second date, but I guess he forgot? I don't know. I've sent him a ton of texts and no replies, so I dunno.

KIM
Like I said!

JENNY
Kim! Shut it. I'm sorry that you got ghosted and stood up, but you'll find your perfect man some day.

EMILY
Y'all are so sweet, but I really need to go. Thanks again.

She kills the refill and pushes herself off the sofa.

EXT. WINE BAR - SIDEWALK - DAY

Emily storms out in tears and knocks into RANDY, who's carrying a coffee. The coffee spills on his shirt.

EMILY
Oh my god. I'm so sorry!

RANDY
It's okay. It's just coffee.

Emily takes a deep breath.

RANDY (cont'd)
Are you okay?

EMILY
Yeah. Just been a long day. I'm
really sorry about your shirt.

RANDY
No worries. My name's Randy.

EMILY
I'm Emily.

RANDY
If you're free, do you want to go get
some coffee? Some rando caused me to
spill mine and now I need more.

EMILY
Yeah. Coffee would be great after all
the wine I just drank.

RANDY
Sunday Funday?

Emily grabs his arm.

EMILY
Direct me to the nearest coffee shop.

RANDY
Let's go.

FADE OUT

THE END