The Hotel (Episode 1)

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. MEDICINE STORE - DUSK

It is Windy day with partly clouds in the city, the weather can rain anytime welcoming KENNY HOWARD in the City of JHB who has just arrived wearing a black Retro jacket, black trouser and a black shinny shoe with a laptop back over his shoulder, pulling two huge bags, heading to the Medicine store as he has medical degree from his Varsity back in his town.

Kenny close to the medicine store door, as ELIZABETH is about to close the door. Elizabeth clutch with Henry on eyes. She opens the door for Henry.

INT. MEDICINE STORE - DUSK

ELIZABETH surprised to see a gentleman enter her store late. She offers HENRY a chair.

KENNY
Thanks. I’m Kenny Howard.

Kenny raises his hand to greet Elizabeth who is still surprised to see a fine gentleman entering her without what he wants.

KENNY (CONT’D)
I’m a businessman from Cape town. Who am i talking to?

ELIZABETH
I’m Elizabeth, the owner of this small store. I’ve been wondering how may i help a gentleman like you during this time.

KENNY
I’m new in the town i have just arrived. I was wondering if you could help with a job, as your assistance. I did medical too, maybe i would call in favors for new stock.

ELIZABETH
Favors? Would you do that?

(CONTINUED)
KENNY
Of course.

Kenny stands up and take a look at the medicine she’s selling.

KENNY (CONT’D)
I’m trying to check look at the "Allergex pills". Don’t you have one?

ELIZABETH
They’re a bit expensive. As, i was about to close. Why don’t you just show up here tomorrow morning, then we can discuss a lot?

Kenny takes his bags and get out of the store.

EXT. STREET - DUSK

Kenny on his way to the hotel he has booked to stay in, he passes the jewelry store and get the attention of Nicolas and his wife Julia who can’t stop to stare at Kenny.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - NIGHT

Inside the Jewelry store where Nicolas and Julia owns. Both of them asking their selves who might be the gentleman who has just passed.

JULIA
Wow! Have you seen that Nic? That is what i call a man.

NICOLAS
He’s a gentleman indeed. I just wonder what he wants in Joburg.

JULIA
He’s here with business as usual. I can’t wait to hear more from him. I have to meet him Nic.

NICOLAS (surprised)
To meet him for what? I guess he has something important to do than meeting you.

(CONTINUED)
Julia opened her mouth staring at Nicolas who’s seems to have a jealousy over how Henry looks like.

**JULIA**
Maybe a date with him Nic.

She said that to spite on him even though she thinks Henry is a gentleman. Julia leaves him wondering.

**NICOLAS**
Over my dead body. She’s still married to me.

**INT. HOTEL RECEPTION - NIGHT**

KENNY gets inside the hotel with his luggage going to PAT who is the receptionist.

**PAT**
How are you doing sir?

**KENNY**
I am doing good. I booked the room last and it has been confirmed in my mail box that i can live in.

**PAT**
Kenny Howard right?

Kenny agrees by head gesture. Pat without wasting Henry’s time, he looks at his keys under the desk and give him.

**PAT(CONT’D)**
Room service Mr Gordon?

**KENNY**
Never mind about the room service.

Kenny going to the elevator. He turns back to Pat forgot one more thing about.

**KENNY(CONT’D)**
One more thing. Don’t mind about cleaning my room.

**PAT**
Noted.

Pat relieved with what Kenny has just said.

**PAT(CONT’D)**
It looks like i won’t have a problem with this guy. I like this gentleman.
INT. JEWELRY STORE - NIGHT

NICOLAS still with what JULIA said earlier about Henry.

    NICOLAS
    Sweetie! Were you serious earlier about meeting that man.

    JULIA
    Never get intimidated by a stranger. I’m all yours darling. You’ll have just admit that the guy is a gentleman.

    NICOLAS
    That’s won’t happen. It’s gonna feel like i’m competing with someone over my wife. My wife. Don’t make me hate the guy i never seen.

    JULIA
    Here we go again. What is it there something to compete for?

Nicolas start touching her in order to comfort here.

    JULIA(CONT’D)
    (shout)
    Don’t touch me!!! Geez! You take me for granted Nicolas. How will i throw my self to a guy i barely know?

    NICOLAS
    You just did.

    JULIA
    Does he know?

Nicolas just stare at her. She stands and leaves with the blanket.

    NICOLAS
    Where are you going?

    JULIA
    I’ll sleep on the other room.
INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

KENNY looking around his hotel room. He goes to the bathroom and find everything good and clean.

Kenny starts checking over the lockers to find something to drink his scotch whisky with. As he was drinking, he sees a small room which looks a bit like a passage.

Kenny gets inside that small room and find it interesting to do his dirty work in.

KENNY
This small room is quite and interesting.

INT. MEDICAL STORE - NIGHT

JULIA gets in the medical store walking in hurry to LIZZIE who she saw talking to Kenny.

JULIA
Good evening Lizzie. I guess you have been talking to the gentleman who has passed here haven’t you?

ELIZABETH
Stay away from the man of god. When will you stop this crazy life of yours? You are married.

JULIA
That doesn’t stop me on dreaming. I want to know his name. Who is he?

Lizzie act like she is leaving here alone. Julia begs here.

ELIZABETH
He said something like Howard.

JULIA
I guess i will bump into him, tomorrow. Invite him over.

ELIZABETH
I wish i could do it. He is a little bit constipated.

Elizabeth gets Julia bored.
INT. MEDICAL STORE - DAY

KENNY in the jewelry store working with ELIZABETH trying to do some changes through Elizabeth stock.

ELIZABETH
Kenny. Why are you removing that?
That’s my clients favorite.

Kenny carrying on with removing those pack of tablets.

ELIZABETH (CONT’D)
Hey. What are you doing?

KENNY
What? These are outdated. I have something new on my bag.

Kenny pulls a pack of tablets inside the box. Elizabeth comes close to him and stare the tablets.

ELIZABETH
These are expensive.

KENNY
There’s no such a thing. Have you ever thought about giving this store to someone?

ELIZABETH
I think yes. But selling not giving.

Kenny smiles that the store is available for a purchase.

KENNY
Why you thought about that?

ELIZABETH
My whole family is in East London. I wanted to be close to family. I have no one close to me here.

KENNY
Does the offer still stands?

She looks at him. Thinking what Kenny might be trying to say.

(CONTINUED)
ELIZABETH
What are you trying to say? No! Are you saying that you want my store?

KENNY
If the offer is still stands I would like to buy it. Tonight. Just name the price.

It’s gets Lizzie thinking, but she decide to sell it to him.

ELIZABETH
Alright. I’ll think about. If I find it interesting to sell you. I’ll come by your hotel late with the lease.

KENNY
Then I’ll be waiting to hear from you Lizzie.

INT. SURGERY CLASS VARSITY - DAY

CHARLES sitting in front of students to his chair and a table up front of him.

THANDIE gets up and goes where Charles is sitting.

THANDIE
Hey. You seem stressed what’s up?

CHARLES
This skeleton project is killing me. I don’t know what to do either.

Thandie gets surprised that Charles hasn’t got the skeleton yet, while the project is underway.

THANDIE
You haven’t got the skeleton have you?

Charles stares down grabbed his head.

CHARLES
No. Zack can’t give us the skeleton this time, his skeletons are working.

THANDIE
Consider to postpone the experiment. Next week an still be awesome because it’s a sure thing Zack will supply the skeleton.

(CONTINUED)
CHARLES
It is still not bad idea though.
I’ll keep on trying to get one
though.

Thandie is feeling the stress Charles is feeling for getting the skeleton.

THANDIE
Keep on trying. But, take a break
and maybe you could figure
something out.

CHARLES
Let me announce it to the class.

THANDIE
Why?

CHARLES
To lower their hopes.

Charles stands in front of the students to announce about tomorrow’s project.

CHARLES(CONT’D)
Class. Give me your ears. I’m not
sure if we are going to have
tomorrow’s experiment project,
since we haven’t got the skeleton
yet. We are going to hear he fate
tomorrow.

The class start roaring.

EXT. PANEL BEATER – DUSK

Nicolas paying Benjamin a visit over his panel beater.

NICOLAS
Hey Benjamin. How are you dong?

BENJAMIN
What the? When did you last came
here Nic?

Benjamin surprised to get a visit from Nicolas, it has been a while Nicolas not coming to his place.

NICOLAS
I’m a busy man Benjamin. How is it
going here?

(CONTINUED)
Continued: (2)

BENJAMIN
Business as usual. How are the necklace, chains and watches?

They laugh because Benjamin is trying to tease Nicolas.

NICOLAS
Now you are teasing me.

BENJAMIN
What brought you here Nic? We both know that you didn’t came all the way to ask about my business. What’s up?

NICOLAS
Have you heard about the new guy in town?

Benjamin surprised to hear that there’s a new guy in the town without his knowledge.

BENJAMIN
Who’s that?

NICOLAS
There’s a new kid in the block. He looks like a businessman, even though i don’t think he’s squicky clean.

BENJAMIN
What do you want me to do with him?

NICOLAS
To know if he’s clean.

Benjamin laughs Nicolas who wants his to do his dirty work.

BENJAMIN
I don’t work for you or never did. Then stop playing. Get Mario. Maybe he’ll be interested.

NICOLAS
You know it well that he’ll never listen to me don’t you? I trust you. That’s why i came to you

(Continued)
Benjamin consider to work with the new guy than going against him.

BENJAMIN
Thanks for bringing the job. I’ll consider working for him if he has a job. For my benefit. Who you are here?

NICOLAS
Then get back to the jail if he’s not clean.

Benjamin stands up pull him with his clothes.

BENJAMIN
Are you threatening me Nic?

Nicolas knows the consequences of threatening a guy like Benjamin who has a criminal past.

NICOLAS
No!!! What is wrong with you?

BENJAMIN
Then let it be like this, before i burn that fake jewelry store.

NICOLAS
Now you are threatening me.

Nicolas knows that Benjamin can burn his store just like that.

BENJAMIN
I don’t deal with threats. I deal with facts. I get interrogated by the COPS i burn your store.

NICOLAS
I thought we are friends. I guess i’ll see you around.

Nicolas get inside his car and leave angry.

(CONTINUED)
BENJAMIN
I don’t deal with Threats. Who is he to come to my place and offer me a job. He doesn’t run the town.

INT. BAR STORE - NIGHT

KENNY drinking alone inside the bar, looking around knowing nobody.

Just a minute JULIA shows up and goes to sit with Kenny.

JULIA
Hi. I’m Julia.

KENNY
Hey Julia! Do i know you?

JULIA
I guess no. Aren’t you that gentleman who arrive late yesterday?

Kenny sees it funny that he has been called a gentleman.

KENNY
Gentleman?

JULIA
Yeah oh! I saw you pass near my jewelry store pulling a luggage.

Kenny keeps on thinking what she might be needing on him.

KENNY
I guess it was me. I’m Howard by the way.

JULIA
Howard. I would like to know a bit about you.

Kenny looks at her wondering what she might be looking for in him.

(CONTINUED)
KENNY
What do you want to know about me?
.

JULIA
Anything. Your work history, relationship history and interest.
.

KENNY
I’m only interested in someone who’s gonna be honest with me. And live our life as privacy. The rest is still early to tell.

As they were talking Charles gets in on phone call talking to his friends Zack about failing to get the skeleton.

CHARLES
Zack. I’m postponing the skeleton experiment.
.

ZACK(O’S)
What is it Charles?
.

CHARLES
I have failed to get the skeleton, while it is needed tomorrow morning.

It get the attention of Kenny and turn around.

ZACK(O’S)
I wish i could help. My schedule is very busy.
.

CHARLES
Would try to bring the skeleton on Monday?
.

ZACK(O’S)
Sure thing bra.
Kenny staring at Charles interested in what he heard Charles talk about during his phone call, but distracted to Julia.

JULIA
Howard! Where is your mind?

KENNY
I’m sorry. I got little bit distracted. Who’s that guy?

Pointing at Charles.

JULIA
That’s Charles. He works over the university.

KENNY
What does he do in the University?

Julia doesn’t get suspicions, because she likes Kenny.

JULIA
I heard something like he’s a surgery lecture.

KENNY
Oh. That’s great. I studied Surgery too.

JULIA
Would you like me to introduce you to him?

KENNY
No.

Julia looks at him and smiles. During their special conservation BENJAMIN shows up with MARIO. They goes to their table staring at Kenny.

BENJAMIN
I guess that is the gentleman Nic was talking about.
MARIO
He looks like a guy with reputation. He’s sitting with Nicolas’s wife.

BENJAMIN
Let’s go to his hotel tomorrow for a job. I know he has something.

Mario can read fellow criminals, even though you look smarter than him.

MARIO
Everything worth a try. I don’t think he’s clean, but I guess he has titles.

BENJAMIN
Nicolas said so too. What do you mean titles?

MARIO
Studies.

Kenny stands up leaving the bar. Julia stay behind sitting alone. Benjamin and Mario goes where Julia is sitting.

BENJAMIN
Hey Jay, the finest woman in the town. What is going on here?

Benjamin is trying to dig some info to Julia about Kenny.

JULIA
Benjamin! Just say what you want and stop fooling me with praises.

BENJAMIN
We’ve seen you sitting with the new kid on the block. What is going on?
CONTINUED: (5) 15.

JULIA
Who can say no to the guy like him?
Have a great night gentlemen.

Mario can see now that he’s the new guy people are talking about.

MARIO
Wait. Is he that new guy living in
the castle hotel?

JULIA
I guess yes. He doesn’t do small
business, stay away from him.

Julia leaves Benjamin and Mario disappointed.

BENJAMIN
Do you think he might be clean?

MARIO
She’s just saying. Go to him
tomorrow morning and ask for work.
Then we can hear the real truth
about his cleanliness.

BENJAMIN
Like we agreed. It’s worth a try
than losing hope early. We are
broke though.

EXT. STREET – NIGHT

MINNIE and MILLIE WILLIAMS coming from work talking about
how slow the business is going maybe because it is in the
beginning of the year.

MILLIE
I feel lazy to go to work this
week. Things are going from bad to
worse.

MINNIE
We just have to be patient. We both
know that we start making a lot of

(CONTINUED)
MINNIE
money around April. It’s still March.

MILLIE
Who can stand for that? We have to pay the tax and workers remember? We have to do something.

The Williams ladies concerned about how slow the business is.

MINNIE
Something like what?

MILLIE
Let’s purchase small businesses.

MINNIE
I heard Elizabeth the other day talking about to leave the town and wanna sell her business, but she didn’t get the buyer.

Unfortunately Lizzie is going to give to Kenny who purchased it first.

MILLIE
Why don’t we get to her and hear what she has to say?

As they are turning around they see Elizabeth closing her store coming straight to their position.

MINNIE
Lizzie. We were about to come to your store.

ELIZABETH
What is going on The Williams?

MILLIE
We wanted to know if your store is still up on sale?
ELIZABETH
Oh!!! Young ladies. You have been late. There’s a new kid in the block. He bought it.

It gets them surprised that because it happens when they want to buy.

MINNIE
What? When, because i saw you coming out from it?

ELIZABETH
Today. This is the lease papers. I signed it, i’m going to give it to him.

MINNIE
Big sis. We have been late. The store wasn’t ours. We should stick to our pops legacy.

Minnie very disappointed that they cannot find small businesses.

ELIZABETH
If you can talk to him nicely, he can sell it to you. He’s a gentleman. He came here yesterday.

MILLIE
Where is he staying?

ELIZABETH
The castle hotel.

Minnie can’t back down on purchasing Lizzie store.

MINNIE
Good luck Lizzie. We gonna hear from him tomorrow.

ELIZABETH
Don’t give up girls. You still gonna get it.
Elizabeth leaves happy while The Williams grabbing their heads stressing.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - NIGHT

NICOLAS and his wife JULIA arguing about why Nicolas told Mario and Benjamin about Kenny.

    JULIA
    What you just done earlier was invading on someones privacy?

    NICOLAS
    What are you talking about?

Julia very disappointed that Nicolas ran to tell Benjamin about Kenny.

    JULIA
    People get killed for that. Don’t act dump. Why you have told Benjamin and Mario about Henry?

    NICOLAS
    Oh that. I thought Benjamin is going to let it go. I told Benjamin only.

    JULIA
    To do what with it?

Julia angry to hear that Nicolas turned into a nose man in the town.

    NICOLAS
    To check if the guy is clean. I don’t think he’s clean.

    JULIA
    You wasted your time. He’s squicky clean with titles. He’s a legit businessman.
NICOLAS
That means you went out with him isn’t so?

Nicolas not liking the idea of Julia going out with Kenny.

JULIA
Like i told you.

NICOLAS
How do you want me to react seeing my wife throwing her self to another man?

Julia leaves Nicolas alone.

JULIA
Let me take a bath.

INT. HOTEL RECEPTION - NIGHT

KENNY enters the hotel in a bit hurry and give PAT an instruction.

KENNY
Pat. I want you to send Elizabeth to my room when she arrives.

PAT
I’ll do so sir.

Kenny goes by the steps to his room in hurry. Pat wondering what the hell is going on.

KENNY
Welcome to Gauteng Henry. I’m here to sweep all.

He pulls the hospital drips rope inside his bag and a small over plastic which contained a strong chemical of gas.

He goes to that small room and starts connecting it in a way he can use it work from outside that room.
INT. HOTEL RECEPTION

ELIZABETH shows up and goes to Pat who should direct her to Henry’s room.

ELIZABETH
Pat. Can you direct me to Henry Gordon room?

PAT
In the second floor, the first room.

Elizabeth starts leaving and Pat ask her to wait.

PAT(CONT’D)
Wait! What are those papers?

ELIZABETH
These are lease papers. I’m selling him my store and move to East London.

PAT
Oh! Lucky guy huh!

Lizzie takes the elevator to Henry’s room.

DOOR KNOCKING

KENNY
Hey. Come in. This way.

We see both of them going to the small room.

ELIZABETH
Get the pan and the check we get over with it. It is late.

Kenny opt out and close the door. He just stood there for a second, then he push the button of the chemical gas.

Elizabeth inside the room start fighting for her life. Lizzie dies.
FADE OUT:

END OF EPISODE