

TFW
Episode 2
"Decaf"

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Blue Draft

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COLD OPEN

1 INT. CAFE - MORNING

1

TARYN stands behind the counter as DONNY joins her, putting on his smock.

TARYN
I feel like we got off on the wrong foot.

DONNY
No, we didn't. I really appreciate what -

TARYN
(laughing)
Stop! It's fine.
(is it really though?)
It will be totally fine.

DONNY
Yeah, fine.

TARYN
I made you a coffee.

Taryn points to two mugs of black coffee on the counter.
Donny reaches for one.

*
*

TARYN (cont'd)
(urgent)
No!

DONNY
(shocked)
What?

TARYN
Not that one. The other one.

Donny eyes the mug. Then Taryn. What's in this?

*

TARYN (cont'd)
What?

DONNY
What's in this?

TARYN
What do you mean, 'What's in this?'
It's coffee.

DONNY
Right. What's in this one that's not
in that one?

TARYN
Nothing.

DONNY
Nothing?

TARYN
No. Nothing. Nothing's in it.

DONNY
Right.

TARYN
You know what?

Taryn grabs the mug away from him and takes a big gulp from
it. *

Never mind.

DONNY
(realizes he's
crossed a line)
Taryn!

Taryn glares at him. Hurt. *

(my God she just
poisoned herself!)

What was in the coffee, Taryn?

TARYN
Caffeine, Donny. Caffeine.

DONNY
Caffeine?

TARYN
Yes. Caffeine. It's a drug, you know.
An addictive drug that can cause some
people to get really cranky.

DONNY

Cranky?

TARYN

Yes, cranky! Irritated! Annoyed!
Easily pissed off! Some people's
therapists suggest that perhaps she
should consider cutting back on
caffeine so she doesn't -

DONNY

You were drinking decaf?

TARYN

(realizing she's
over-reacted a bit)
Don't say it like that.

DONNY

Decaf?

TARYN

You know what I mean.

DONNY

(mock serious)
Decaf.
(beat)
"Decaf. Four out of five therapists
recommend decaf. Available at fine
cafes everywhere."

TARYN

Shut up.

2 INT. CAFE - LATER

2

SAMANTHA and DONNY are behind the counter. It's been a busy
morning. *

JAMES, an older gentleman, approaches. He's clearly in
physical discomfort. *

JAMES

Hi..Um? *

SAMANTHA

Hi Sir. What can I get you? *

JAMES

Um...the, um, washroom- *

SAMANTHA *
-Just around the corner, to your
left.

JAMES *
Yeah, I know.

SAMANTHA *
They're gender-neutral.

JAMES *
Yeah, I get that, but.

SAMANTHA *
Do you have a problem with that? *

CUSTOMER
No! No. Not at all! It's just that-

SAMANTHA *
Just that what?

JAMES *
It's just that they've both been
locked for a while now.

SAMANTHA *
Well, other people have needs too,
you know.

JAMES *
Yeah, but 20 minutes? That seems like
a-

SAMANTHA *
Wait. You've been waiting for 20
minutes?

JAMES *
I'm sorry, but-

SAMANTHA *
(shit, not this crap
again)
It's OK, sir. We'll get that fixed
right away.
(beat)
Donny!

DONNY *
Yeah, Samantha?

SAMANTHA
I think we've got a motel situation
going on.

DONNY
A motel?-

SAMANTHA
You know, the washrooms-

Donny looks at her with a blank, clueless expression.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
Like the mile-high club? But in our
washrooms?

Donny is still in the dark.

DONNY
(finally gets it.)
Oh.
(beat)
Oh! Do we have like a master key or
something.

SAMANTHA
Under the tray in the register.

Donny opens the register and extracts the key.

3 INT. CAFE. WASHROOM DOOR - CONTINUOUS

3

DONNY knocks on the door. He is uncomfortable and embarrassed
about this entire situation.

DONNY
(knocking on the door)
Um. Hello?

CHERYL (O.S.)
What?

DONNY
Are you OK in there?

CHERYL (O.S.)
I guess. Why? Who wants to know?

DONNY
I'm one of the staff and-

CHERYL (O.S.) *
Look, I'm kinda busy in here, OK?

DONNY
Well, we have other customers who
would like to use the washroom.

CHERYL (O.S.) *
Well, tell them to use the other one!

DONNY
Well, yeah, but... but you've been in
there a long time.

CHERYL (O.S.) *
So? Wait. You're timing us?

DONNY
Well, that's kind of the problem.

CHERYL *
What.

DONNY
The "us" thing.

CHERYL *
What "us" thing?

DONNY
Look, I understand that you and
your... 'friend'.

CHERYL *
Friend? What friend?

DONNY
(stammering)
Well, whatever guy - or girl - you're
in there with.

The DOOR suddenly opens. Cheryl glares at Donny. *

CHERYL *
You thought I was in here with some
guy?

DONNY
Um.

CHERYL

Geez.

(beat)

What is wrong with you people?

Cheryl storms off.

JAMES

(rushing in)

Thank you!

Donny shrugs and walks off. The DOOR to the other washroom opens. A YOUNG COUPLE - giddy and in full after-glow - walk out. Donny doesn't notice them.

4 INT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS

SAMANTHA

So? How'd that go?

DONNY

Um. That was weird.

(beat)

Does that type of thing happen often?

SAMANTHA

(finger-quotes)

The 'motel thing?'

DONNY

(finger quotes)

Yeah. The 'motel thing.' Except she was all alone.

SAMANTHA spots the 'happy couple' as they leave the cafe. They smile at her.

SAMANTHA

(enjoying this)

Oh, newbie. You have so much to learn.

5 EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO - DAY

TARYN sits alone at a table, waiting for her longtime friend, confidant (and her hairdresser), ABBY, to join her. A half-finished carafe of white wine sits in front of her.

ABBY enters.

TARYN
Hey! Abby! Over here.

ABBY
Sorry, I'm late. Couldn't find a spot.
(sitting down)
Why do we always meet here? This place has zero parking.

TARYN
This place has the best-

ABBY
(noticing the wine)
Wine?
(beat)
You couldn't wait?

TERRY, a server, comes over. *

TERRY
(to Abby)
What can I get for you? *

ABBY
I guess I'll have the same.

Terry grabs a wine glass from another table and places it in front of ABBY, then pours her a glass of wine. *

TERRY
I'll be right back with some menus. *

TERRY leaves. *

TARYN
Is that a new top?

ABBY
New top? No. You gave me this, remember?

TARYN
Oh. Right.
(beat)

ABBY
OK. What's going on?

TARYN
Nothing.

ABBY
Is it the kids?

TARYN
No. The kids are doing..they're doing
OK, I guess.

TARYN and ABBY pause for a moment.

ABBY
I miss her.

TARYN
Me too. Can't believe it will be a
year next month since...

ABBY
Do the kids talk about her?

TARYN
Sometimes. And sometimes Julia will
do something and she reminds me so
much of her mother.

(beat)
And then I tell her that she just
reminded me of Sarah.

(beat)
And then we all cry.

ABBY starts tearing up.

TARYN (cont'd)
Don't you start crying on me!

ABBY
(crying)
OK.
(beat)
I'm not crying.

Abby is definitely crying. Taryn is starting to tear up and
not happy about it.

TARYN
Abby!

ABBY
(still crying)
OK!

Terry returns with the menus.

*
*
*
*

TERRY
OK! Menus and let me tell you about
the specials. *

TARYN
(starts crying)
Oh God, Abby!

ABBY
(still crying but
trying to control it)
I know. I know.

TERRY
(confused)
I don't need to tell you about the
specials. *

ABBY
(post-crying snort)
It's OK.

TARYN
(got her crying under
control)
Yeah. We already know what we want.

ABBY
(deadpan)
Caprese Salad. White wine.
Same as always.

TARYN
(deadpan)
Caprese Salad. White wine.
Same as always. *

ABBY blows her nose loudly.

TARYN (cont'd)
(points to the carafe)
We'll need another bottle.

Terry takes this all in and walks away. These two are
clearly nuts. The two women continue the conversation as
they drink wine. Taryn seems distracted and Abby senses
something. *

Abby and Taryn take a moment to compose themselves. *

TARYN (cont'd)
God, my life is such a mess.

ABBY
Don't start.

TARYN
No. It's not that. *

ABBY
Ooh? What then? *

Taryn shoots her a look. *

TARYN
He's back.

ABBY
Who's back?

TARYN
Him! *

ABBY
Who? *

TARYN
Donny.

ABBY
(chokes on mid-sip)
You're kidding. *

TARYN
(pointing to her wine
glass)
Does it look like I'm kidding?

ABBY
What does he want?

TARYN
I don't know. Nothing.

ABBY
So why is he back?

TARYN
Well, he needed a job-

ABBY
What do you mean he 'needed a job'?

TARYN
He needed a job, OK? So I-
(beat)
I hired him.

ABBY

WHAT?!

An OLDER COUPLE at the next table look up in surprise. Both women notice this.

TARYN

Shhh.

ABBY

(whispering - but
still very loudly)

What? Why?

The OLDER COUPLE looks over again.

ABBY (cont'd)

(still whispering
loudly - but to the
older couple)

Hey! Mind your own business.

(to the man)

And you! Quit checking out that
waitress. That's gross!

The OLDER WOMAN gives her husband a stern look.

TARYN

I don't know why. He's just 'back'
you know. And now we're working
together.

ABBY

At your cafe.

TARYN

Yeah.

ABBY

You hired your ex?

TARYN

Well, Samantha did. But yeah, I
guess. *

ABBY

(Oh my God, Taryn!)

Why? Why would you do that?

TARYN

Well, he seemed to need a job and-

ABBY
So? Why is that your problem?

TARYN
Emma quit and he was there and he
needed-

ABBY
Needed to be rescued like a lost
puppy?

TARYN
No. He's not a lost puppy.

ABBY
He's such a lost puppy.

TARYN
Anyway. I needed a barista and he
needed a job and-

ABBY
Arf! Arf!

*

TARYN
Stop.

ABBY
(whiny puppy sounds)

TARYN
(you're right)
I know.

ABBY
Do you?

TARYN
I know.

ABBY
You know what you have to do, right?

TARYN
Well, that seems a little harsh-

*

ABBY
Taryn, you have to fire him!

TARYN
(reluctantly)
I know.

ABBY
When?

TARYN
I don't know when. It's complicated.

ABBY
Taryn, it's not complicated unless
you make it complicated.
(beat)
Today. Do it today.

TARYN
OK.

ABBY
OK.
(beat)
And you need to come see me soon. *

TARYN
(touching her hair)
Yeah, I know.

ABBY
Those roots aren't going to colour
themselves.

Terry approaches with their lunches and places them on the
table. *

TERRY
OK, ladies, two Caprese Salads! *

ABBY
What is this?

TERRY
(confused)
The Caprese Salads? *
(beat)
That you ordered?
(beat)
Same as always?

ABBY
(exasperated)
It should be pretty obvious to you
that we're gonna need some serious
carbs right now.

TERRY
Um. *

ABBY
And more wine. No. Scratch that.
We're gonna need scotch.

TARYN
Abby, I have to go back- *

ABBY
(puts her hand up)
Taryn? Please?

Terry exits with the salads. *

ABBY (cont'd)
Honestly. They wouldn't treat men
like this.

TARYN lifts her glass. 'Cheers!'

6 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

6

JORDAN SINGH - 7th Grader - sits outside the school looking
at his phone. Other kids are gathered in small groups.
JORDAN occasionally looks over and spots TABITHA KIM,
another 7th grader.

TARYN (TEXT)
Hey Jordan. I'm not going to be able
to pick you up today. Can you guys
take the bus?

JORDAN (TEXT)
Can we Uber?

TARYN (TEXT)
LOL

TARYN (TEXT) (cont'd)
No. Bus.

JORDAN (TEXT)
OK.

Jordan's sister, JULIA approaches. *

JULIA
Hey loser.

JORDAN
(it's been a terrible
day)
Hey Julia.

JULIA
What's wrong.

JORDAN
(glancing at Tabitha
Kim)
Nothing.

JULIA
Right.

Julia looks over her shoulder and sees TABITHA KIM. *

JULIA (cont'd)
Who's that?

JORDAN
No one.

JULIA
Right.

JORDAN
Seriously, OK?

JULIA
Hey! This is me, remember?
(beat)
She's pretty.

JORDAN
I guess.
(beat)
Taryn said we had to take the bus
today.

JULIA
It won't kill us, Jordan.

Julia and Jordan walk towards the bus stop. *

JULIA (cont'd)
So, what's her name?

JORDAN
Who?

Tabitha KIm looks towards JORDAN and smiles. *

JULIA
God, you are a terrible liar.

JORDAN

You say that like it's a bad thing.

Julia rolls her eyes. He's so clueless!

7 INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

7

SAMANTHA and DONNY are behind the counter. TARYN enters the cafe and joins them.

SAMANTHA

Hey Taryn

TARYN

Hey Samantha. How was the day?

SAMANTHA

The usual.

DONNY

Hi Taryn

TARYN

Hi Donny.

Taryn grabs a LAPTOP from under the counter.

TARYN (cont'd)

I'll be in the office if you need me.

SAMANTHA

OK.

TARYN

Donny? Can I talk to you after your shift is done?

DONNY

Sure, Taryn. No problem.

Taryn leaves through the door into the office.

8 INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

8

SAMANTHA is alone behind the counter. SHANNON, 20's and pregnant, approaches with LISA, a well-dressed woman in her 50's.

SAMANTHA

What can I get for you ladies?

SHANNON
 What would you like, Lisa? I know
 what I want - same thing I always
 get.

LISA
 What's that?

SHANNON
 Oh! A Green Tea Chai Latte! I just
 love those.

LISA
 Well then, I'll have the same.

SHANNON
 Two Green Tea Chai Lattes please?

SAMANTHA
 Coming right up!

SHANNON
 (to LISA)
 I have been so good with this
 pregnancy. No caffeine and just that
 one glass of wine at Christmas.

Samantha looks up on "no caffeine"

LISA
 You're going to be a great mother,
 Rachel.

SAMANTHA
 Um.

LISA
 Is there a problem, young ma-lad -
 (beat)
 Is there a problem?

SAMANTHA
 Well, it's just that. Just that. So
 you know, Green Tea has caffeine.

SHANNON
 What?

SAMANTHA
 Green Tea Chai Latte? It has
 caffeine.
 (beat)
 You didn't know that, did you?

SHANNON
(my world is
crumbling)

No.

LISA
You've been poisoning my grandchild?

SHANNON
I didn't know!

Shannon begins to unravel.

LISA
How long have you been hiding this
from my son?

SHANNON
He buys them for me!

SAMANTHA
Really, it's just like a half-caf.
It's not so bad!

LISA
I'll thank you to mind your own
business!

SAMANTHA
I am. Serving lattes is literally my
job. Go easy on her. She didn't
know.

(beat)
Did you want to order something else?

Shannon is a wreck.

SHANNON
Can I have a water, please?

SAMANTHA
Of course you can.

Samantha pours a glass of water and hands it to her.

LISA
That's not tap water, is it?

9 INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON - LATER

9

SAMANTHA and DONNY are alone behind the counter. JORDAN is home from school and approaches. Samantha senses that something is wrong.

*
*
*

SAMANTHA
Hey Donny, do you mind bussing the front of house?

*

Donny grabs a DISH BIN.

*

DONNY
No problem, Sam.

*

Donny buses the tables in the background while Samantha and Jordan talk.

*

SAMANTHA
Hey, little man

*

JORDAN
(weight of the world)
Hey Samantha.

*

SAMANTHA
(picks up on this)
What can I get you?

*

JORDAN
It's been a day. Hot chocolate.
(beat)
With a double-vanilla shot.

Samantha makes up the drink and places it in front of Jordan.

*
*

SAMANTHA
So what's going on?

*

JORDAN
Can I ask you a question?

SAMANTHA
You just did.

*

JORDAN
Can I ask you another?

SAMANTHA
How long are we going to play this game?

*

JORDAN
It's this girl.

SAMANTHA *
Uh-huh.

JORDAN
Tabitha. Tabitha Kim.

SAMANTHA *
Mmm-hmm. Who is Tabitha Kim?

JORDAN
(gushing)
She's in my homeroom. She's smart.
She's beautiful. She's...tall.

SAMANTHA *
Sounds like quite the young lady.

JORDAN
She is. She's perfect.

Samantha looks at him. Twelve years old and in love. Again. *
Remember being twelve years old?

SAMANTHA *
No she isn't.

JORDAN
(taken aback)
What? You don't even know her! Why *
would you say that? *

SAMANTHA *
Listen, little man. Let me tell you
something. You're sitting here
getting all Ed Sheeran over some girl
who is probably sitting at home
looking at herself in the mirror and
making a list of everything she hates *
about the way she looks. *

JORDAN
But she's beaut- *

SAMANTHA *
She's a person. A normal person. Talk *
to her like a person, not a princess.
That's how you get to be friends.

Jordan considers this sage advice. *

JORDAN
There's no way that would work.

SAMANTHA
What? Why? *

JORDAN
What would I say? *

SAMANTHA
I don't know. Say anything. Ask her
about homework or something. *

JORDAN
(this thought has
never crossed his
mind)
Homework.
(beat)
I was going to write a poem about
her.

SAMANTHA
No! No poems. Take my advice. Women
want honesty and respect. And
laughter. Life can be hard, looking
in the mirror and counting your
pimples. Sometimes it helps to laugh. *

Samantha stops. This conversation has hit a little close to
home. Jordan finishes his hot chocolate. *

Donny returns to behind the counter, placing the dish bin on
the back counter. *

DONNY
Laugh at what? *

SAMANTHA
How life is really weird sometimes. *

Donny looks around. *

DONNY
You're telling me? Never thought I'd
be here, doing this, and working
for.. Yep. Life can be weird, might
as well learn to laugh at the
weirdness. *

SAMANTHA
(to Jordan)
You want girlfriend advice? Maybe you
should be asking Donny here.

JORDAN
(to Donny)
What would you do?

DONNY
You got a girlfriend?

JORDAN
Not yet.

DONNY
And you want my advice?

JORDAN
I guess.

DONNY
Stay single.

SAMANTHA
C'mon Donny.

DONNY
OK. Fine.
(to Samantha)
What's your advice?

SAMANTHA
I'm not qualified. I never wanted to
date a girl in the seventh grade.

DONNY
Fair point.
(to Jordan)
Does this girl?

JORDAN
Tabitha.

DONNY
Does this Tabitha know that you like
her?

JORDAN
No. She doesn't know I exist.

DONNY

Oh she knows. They always know, and women can be pretty perceptive, you know...picking up on things like that.

The OFFICE DOOR cracks open. Taryn is listening to this conversation. *

JORDAN

They can?

DONNY

Most definitely. But it's a double-edged sword. On the one hand, they'll know if you've done something that you don't want them to know about.

JORDAN

But -

DONNY

But they can usually tell when you like them too. Even if you're not ready to say it out loud.

JORDAN

You sure you know what your talking about?

DONNY

Well, according to Samantha, here, I'm an expert in women. *

(beat) *

I was even married once. *

JORDAN

I'm aware. *

(beat) *

So what should I do tomorrow? *

DONNY

What Samantha said. Make her laugh. *

JORDAN

Like with a joke?

DONNY

Jokes have been known to make women laugh.

SAMANTHA
Or cringe. No. Not sure that's the
best way.

DONNY
Yes it is. You got a joke in mind?
Wanna give it a test drive?

Jordan thinks for a moment.

JORDAN
Do you know what the difference is
between an alligator and a crocodile?

DONNY
No. I don't know. One is-

JORDAN
-an alligator will see you later. But
a crocodile will see you in a while.

Samantha chuckles.

JORDAN (cont'd)
See you later, alligators.

SAMANTHA
In a while, crocodile.

Jordan exits through the OFFICE DOOR, bumping into Taryn,
who has watched this entire exchange. She is rethinking her
decision.

DONNY
(to Samantha)
He'll do just fine.

JORDAN
Oops! Hi Taryn!

TARYN
(recovering)
Hey Jordan!

Taryn continues through into the cafe.

DONNY
Did you want to talk to me, Taryn?

TARYN
Yeah.
(beat)
I did.

Taryn stops. This is the moment, getting ready to fire
Donny. *

DONNY
You okay?

TARYN
(is she gonna do it?)
Yeah. I'm fine.

Donny looks at her expectantly "...and?" *

TARYN (cont'd)
I wanted to talk to you about, um

DONNY
You sure you're OK? You want a
coffee or something? You know
(beat)
maybe a decaf?

Taryn looks at him. *

TARYN
(laughing)
Don't even go there. *

FADE TO BLACK. *