

THE WINGMAN

A ten-minute comedy

by Brian Mitchell

2M, 1 W

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CHARACTERS

PAUL JAMESON – 25-30, male; Serious and timid. Just trying to get in good with the boss

WALT HENRY – 30-55, male. Narcissistic and confident.

WAITRESS: - 20-40, female.

[PAUL and WALT enter the nightclub, fresh from the office.]

WALT:

You ever been to this nightclub before, Jasper?

PAUL:

No, sir. And it's Jameson, sir. Paul Jameson.

WALT:

Right. How long have you worked for me, now?

PAUL:

Almost a year.

WALT:

Right. Do you know why I brought you here, tonight?

PAUL:

No, sir.

WALT:

I see potential in you; that's why I brought you with me tonight. You are a lot like I was at your age.

PAUL:

Me, sir? No.

WALT:

Oh, yes! I had my M.B.A., a new suit; had my nose to the grindstone. Do you see all this? All these people? The action?

PAUL:

Yeah.

WALT: This club is a metaphor, Johnson. It's a metaphor for life. But more importantly, it's a metaphor for business. So you follow?

PAUL:
I think so, Mister Henry.

WALT:
It's after hours, Jackson. You can call me sir.

PAUL:
Thank you, sir.

WALT:
As I was saying, this club is life. There are hunters, like us, and there is prey, like these lovely ladies dancing over there. We are the lions, and they are the antelope.

PAUL:
The female lions do the actual hunting, sir.

WALT:
So what we need to do is cull one of these beauties from the herd. If we were actual lions, we'd pick an old, crippled one. We'll save those for closing time. Right now, we choose a lovely little lady as our target. Do you see how the women stay in packs, Jameson?

PAUL:
I think I'm beginning to understand why they do that, sir.

[The WAITRESS arrives to take the order.]

WAITRESS:
What can I get you gentlemen, tonight?

WALT:
Two rum and Cokes. Tall glasses.

WAITRESS:
Coming right up.

[SHE begins to turn away.]

WALT:
Do you want anything, Jameson?

PAUL:
Just a Coke would be –

WALT:

That's crap. He'll have the same as me. Make it three rum and Cokes.

WAITRESS:

All right. I'll be right back with those.

[WAITRESS exits.]

WALT:

So, I'm going to take you under my wing. Do you know who Hal Loftin is?

PAUL:

Of course. He's the C.E.O. of Titan Enterprises.

WALT:

That's right, and before that he was C.E.O. of Omega Fibers, and before that he was C.E.O. of Colt Springs Water, and before *that* he was the C.E.O. of Halaway Mergers, Inc. That's where I had my first job.

PAUL:

I don't think I'm following.

WALT:

On the day he was fired from Halaway, he took me out for a night on the town. The following day we both left for Colt Springs Water; he as the C.E.O. and me as his right-hand man. His wingman, if you will.

PAUL:

Oh.

WALT:

You'll be my wingman for the evening.

PAUL:

Wingman?

WALT:

Right. We're a team, see? We work together. Did you ever watch any John Wayne war movies? You'll be the artillery to my infantry. You attack from here, and I move my men in from over here. Get it?

PAUL:

I think so.

WALT:

Okay. See that pair of ladies over there?

PAUL:
Yeah.

WALT:
I'll take the bikini model and you can have the fat one.

PAUL:
Um.

WALT:
Is there a missus at home?

PAUL:
Well, yeah, with my dad.

WALT:
She's close to the family, huh?

PAUL:
She raised my four brothers and me.

WALT:
What? No, not your mother. I meant a wife. Are you married?

PAUL:
Oh. No. You?

WALT:
Three times.

PAUL:
What happened?

WALT:
My first wife didn't know me well enough. And my second wife knew me too well.

PAUL:
What about wife number three?

WALT:
She's at home with the kids tonight.

PAUL:
Oh. So you already have a job lined up, sir?

WALT:

That's the first rule of business, Jameson. Have a plan. I've been with this company for three years. I made four million dollars last year. Three point six the year before. Having fired me, I am due thirty-one million in a severance package, and on Monday I start a job paying five point two million per year.

PAUL:

So...

WALT: So, the second rule is to realize that the real money is made by getting fired. From moving from one company to the next. I was given thirteen million by Colt Springs when they let me go. Why, if my wife and I had to live on my salary alone, we'd never get the bills paid!

PAUL:

You took over as C.E.O. after Hal Loftin, right?

WALT:

Yes. He groomed me for it. When he left, I was the only one that knew how things ran. They needed me. And, I need you, Jameson. So here's what you're going to do. Go over to those girls and bring them back here.

[WALT helps PAUL out of his suit jacket and pushes him toward the women.]

PAUL:

I don't understand, sir.

WALT:

I was fired today, Jameson. I've been watching you. If you learn everything I have to teach you tonight, you can go with me to Respite Industries on Monday.

PAUL:

Are you sure?

WALT:

Yes. Bring them back here and I'll do the rest.