

Meh

"The High Voice"

Written by

Paul E. Drecksler

Paul E. Drecksler
pauldrecksler@gmail.com
(828) 273-3031
PO Box 25014
Asheville, NC 28813-0014
www.pauldrecksler.com

ACT 1

FADE IN:

EXT. SIDEWALK IN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY (DAY 1)

BARRY walks out onto the street from a gated apartment building. He stops, takes his phone from his pocket, and presses a button.

BARRY
(into phone)
Call Alan.

Nothing happens.

BARRY
(slowly)
Caaalll Aallaann.

INT. ALAN'S STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY (DAY 1)

Alan is sitting at his desk in front of his Apple computer. Reddit is pulled up on his browser. His iPhone is plugged in and charging next to him on the desk.

(phone rings)

Alan picks up his iPhone and looks to see who's calling. He pulls the cord from the charging port and presses the receive button.

ALAN
(into phone)
Morning meeting?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

Barry slides his sunglasses from his head to his eyes. They are dirty and he takes them off and cleans them with his shirt.

BARRY
(into phone)
Hey, yeah. Morning meeting. What are you doing?

ALAN
(into phone)
Working. Reading some scripts.
You?

BARRY
(into phone)
Been working all morning too.
Taking a break for a walk-and-
talk. Hey, let me ask you
something.

ALAN (V.O.)
k.

Barry starts walking down the street.

BARRY
(into phone)
You give a gift to a husband and
wife... Do you get an individual
thank you from both? Or just one
thank you from the wife?

ALAN (V.O.)
It depends, I guess.

BARRY
(into phone)
I sent Peter and Nicole a gift
certificate for dinner.

ALAN (V.O.)
Did Peter not call you?

BARRY
(into phone)
He didn't call me! No text, no
e-mail. Nicole wrote me a thank
you e-mail, and a Facebook post.

ALAN (V.O.)
Nothing from Peter?

BARRY throws his arm in the air exclamationarily and two women
walking by look back at his flamboyant gesture.

BARRY
(into phone)
Nothing from Peter! I bitched at
him on Google Chat.

ALAN (V.O.)
(laughs)

BARRY
(into phone)
He didn't write back though.
It's been 2 full days. Is it too
hard to pick up the phone and
send a text?

Alan's back to browsing Reddit on his computer.

ALAN
(into phone)
Meh.

BARRY (V.O.)
I'm not even asking for a call.
A text message is fine. Or even
an instant message.

ALAN
(into phone)
Did I tell you about my meeting
yesterday?

BARRY (V.O.)
I messaged him.. "Sup Peter? No
'thank you' no 'love you' for
dinner? Does Nicole do your
thanking for you now?"

Alan clicks on a few links on his computer.

ALAN
(into phone)
(laughs)
It's not like you're asking for
a thank you letter.

Barry stops walking at an intersection.

BARRY
(into phone)
It's not like I'm asking for a
thank you letter! This isn't
1960. I'm just hoping for a call
or a text. Am I asking too much?
Shouldn't I get two individual
'thank you's'?

ALAN (V.O.)
Meh.

BARRY
(into phone)
They've only been married 2
years. That's not long enough
for a combined thank you.

ALAN (V.O.)
And, you've known Peter longer!
What the fuck, Peter?

BARRY
(into phone)
And, I've known Peter longer!
What the fuck, Peter?
(pause)
How'd your meeting go?

Alan stands up from his computer and walks to the window.
The conversation has shifted to something he's interested
in.

ALAN
(into phone)
Great actually! I signed him.
Well, almost. 90%. He really
likes me.

BARRY (V.O.)
What'd he say?

ALAN
(into phone)
He said he'd love to have me as
his agent. He says he wants to
go with me because he doesn't
want to be *just another actor* at
one of the big agencies.

BARRY (V.O.)
That's great, man. Good job!

Alan lights up a cigarette.

ALAN
(into phone)
Thanks man. I've just got to
meet with him on Monday and seal
the deal.

BARRY (V.O.)
What does that mean?

ALAN

You know—dot the i's and cross the t's. Get him under contract. Yesterday was just a meet and greet. We got some coffee, and then afterwards were walking outside and he was out of cigarettes. So I offered him one of mine, and we ended up smoking a few and talking for another half hour.

BARRY (V.O.)

(laughs)

Ah, cigarettes.. Always bringing people together!

ALAN

No joke! We stood outside for like 30 minutes and he chain smoked six of my cigarettes.

Barry crosses the street and approaches some buildings.

BARRY

Hell yeah. Good for you.

ALAN (V.O.)

So that's like 30 extra minutes of one-on-one I got with him to let him know what I can do for him as his agent.

BARRY

But you didn't sign him?

ALAN (V.O.)

He had another meeting later, but he wants to go with me. He said he wants to go with me.

Barry walks past Fred 62 and looks up at the sign. Then he pulls the phone away from his head to check the time.

BARRY

Hey, I'm walking by Fred's. Want to eat a late breakfast?

ALAN (V.O.)

Let's do it. I'll be right down.

BARRY

Alright, I'll see you in a few.

INT. FRED 62 RESTAURANT BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 1)

Barry and Alan sit across from each other in a booth. Both have phones in their hands.

BARRY

What are you going to get?

ALAN

I'm not sure.

Barry picks up the menu and combs through it. Alan puts his phone down.

ALAN

Did you hear about the husband and wife from Georgia who got arrested for kiddy porn?

BARRY

Yeah, I saw that. John Garrett posted about it on his Facebook.

The waiter walks over for the first time. He looks and points at Alan.

WAITER

Eggs 102, scrambled.. with an English Muffin?

ALAN

..with toast.

The waiter nods his head to insinuate that he remembers.

ALAN

And a large orange juice.

BARRY

I'll have mine with an English muffin. And a coffee. Black. And a water. Please.

ALAN

..And Dejon mustard.

WAITER

You got it boss.

The waiter walks to the kitchen. Barry closes the menu and pushes it away.

BARRY

I don't know why I look at the menu. I get the same thing every time. Everything else is too expensive.

ALAN

Can't go wrong with the Eggs 102.

BARRY

It went up in price though.

ALAN

Nah, it's the same price.

BARRY

No look. It used to be \$5.92 now it's \$5.97.

Alan opens the menu and verifies the price.

ALAN

Yes, they did. A nickel raise.

BARRY

Schemey bastards. That's why every price here ends in a weird digit. \$5.92, \$6.41.. So you don't notice when they go up by a few cents.

Alan lays his menu to the side. The waiter comes back with two waters in large glasses, an OJ in a curved glass, a coffee, and a plate with cream and sugar packets.

BARRY

Thank you.

Barry pushes the cream and sugar to the side of the table, then takes a sip from his coffee. He looks at Alan's glass of orange juice.

BARRY

That juice is \$4 a glass.

ALAN

I know. I could buy a gallon at Albertson's for the same price.

Barry points to the curved bottom of the glass.

BARRY

And they use those curved glasses that look big, but aren't really. They cheat you out of the rest of your juice because the glass doesn't have a full bottom.

Barry makes a circle with his hand around the bottom of Alan's glass to indicate how much juice the restaurant cheats Alan out of. He points to the giant glass of water next to him.

BARRY

They should put them in these glasses. Now *that's* a large orange juice.

ALAN

They should put the juice in those glasses.

BARRY

So, what about the husband and wife from Georgia? Did you read about it on Reddit?

ALAN

What's crazy is how they got caught.

BARRY

How?

ALAN

The town flooded and the photographs floated out of their house. Someone found the photos after the water went down and turned them in.

BARRY

I didn't hear about that. I was reading the comments on John Garrett's post though.

ALAN

Yeah?

BARRY

Everyone was commenting shit like, "Prison's gonna suck for those perverts. I hope they get what's coming to them. Don't drop the soap! Don't drop the soap!" Comments like that.

ALAN

See? That's what is fucked up about our system. I'm not saying they shouldn't be in jail, but they shouldn't have to worry about getting raped or killed while in there.

BARRY

Criminals hate the child molesters in prison. I hear they get treated the worst.

ALAN

Whatever they did, they shouldn't have to worry about what happens to them in prison. Prison is supposed to BE the punishment.

BARRY

Yeah, I know what you're saying.

ALAN

The real question is... Is our jail system supposed to be punitive or rehabilitative?

BARRY

I know, I know. We've talked about this.

The waiter comes over with their breakfast. Barry and Alan fiddle with the napkin and silverware. Barry reaches for the ketchup. Alan reaches for the pepper.

BARRY

The problem is that no-one's going to fight for the rights of child molesters. They're last on the list for human rights advocates.

ALAN

True.

BARRY
(different voice)
And what do you do for a living?
"I'm an advocate for child
molesters."

ALAN
Right?

Alan stands up and walks over to the bar, grabs the Dijon mustard, and brings it back to the table.

ALAN
They always forget the Dijon.

Barry checks his phone.

BARRY
I still haven't gotten a thank
you from Peter yet.

A woman sitting at the booth opposite to Barry and Alan sneezes violently without covering her mouth. Barry cowers into the booth and shields his breakfast with his arm.

BARRY
That's disgusting! What the
fuck?

Alan continues eating.

BARRY
She didn't even pretend to
cover. No napkin. No hand cover.
No Dracula arms.

ALAN
Dracula arms?

BARRY
Now there are sneeze particles
floating around the air, landing
in our food. Who the fuck open-
mouth sneezes like that?

Barry pushes his plate away as if he doesn't want to finish.

BARRY
Yeah. Dracula arms..

Barry does Dracula arms to show Alan what it means. He wraps both arms around his mouth and nose. Alan doesn't look up.

ALAN

Katie wants to go to Tim's party tonight.

BARRY

Is this your first party as a couple?

Alan nods yes.

BARRY

(high voice)

Are you a little nervous? Just a little nervous?

ALAN

Not really. Are you and Rita going?

BARRY

She wants to. It's weird that both our girlfriends got invited to the same party.

ALAN

How does Rita know Tim?

BARRY

I don't know. I think she's friends with his girlfriend.

Barry pulls his plate back and starts eating again.

ALAN

Are you going?

BARRY

Probably. I'm more excited to go since you're going. Otherwise I might not go. It's out in Santa Monica.

ALAN

I know. Katie's driving.

BARRY

Traffic shouldn't be too bad if we leave at like 9.

ALAN

What are you talking about? Traffic is going to be awful!

BARRY

I know. You're right. Everyone is heading into Santa Monica on a Friday night. That's why I didn't want to go.

The woman who sneezed gets up from the table and walks past Barry and Alan. She and Barry make eye contact, and Barry gives her the 'eat shit and die' look.

BARRY

There she goes to spread her gross ass germs all across Los Angeles.

ALAN

(laughs)

BARRY

She's a disgusting whore. I bet she does gross shit all the time and no-one likes to be around her.

ALAN

(laughs)

BARRY

I bet she sits on public toilet seats without putting paper down.

ALAN

(laughs)

BARRY

Fucking slut. She's probably all like

(in girl voice)

"I'm allergic to latex. Let's just do it without a condom." And she spreads her gross nasty mucousy vagina all over town.

ALAN

(laughs)

mucousy vagina?

BARRY

Dragging trap across LA. I fucking hate her. She owes me a breakfast.

ALAN
Dragging trap?

BARRY
Yeah. I like to say that now.
"Dragging trap."

ALAN
What does that even mean?

BARRY
Girls drag trap. Guys plant D.
Like that sneezy bitch. She goes
around dragging trap.

ALAN
Oh. Okay.

The woman walks past Barry again and leaves a few dollars tip on the table. Barry is surprised to see her again and looks behind him as she passes by again. He didn't realize she was still in the restaurant.

BARRY
(low whisper)
I'm going to make an OKCupid
profile and start a conversation
with her. Then she'll be
like, "Want to go out?" And I'll
be like, "No, you're a gross
sneezing bitch. And I hate you."
BAM!

ALAN
(laughs)
How do you know she's on
OKCupid?

BARRY
She's definitely single. No-one
wants to date her. She's
disgusting.

Barry can tell he's losing Alan with his on-going joke. He checks his phone.

BARRY
I still haven't gotten a thank
you from Peter yet.

Alan and Barry are both finished eating. They stack their silverware on top of their plates. Alan looks impatiently around the restaurant for the waiter.

ALAN

I hate this part of the meal.
Bring the check!

BARRY

(laughs)
You hate waiting for the check.

ALAN

They should drop it off during
the meal so I don't have to
wait.

BARRY

(agrees)
It's not rude to drop it off
during the meal. If I want
something else, they can pick it
back up and add to the bill.

Alan signals to the waiter to bring the check over. Barry
and Alan have their credit cards in hand.

BARRY

What are you doing the rest of
the day?

ALAN

Reading scripts.

BARRY

For movies, TV shows..?

ALAN

A little of both.

BARRY

If you see any parts I'd be
great for, you know where to
find me. I've got a flexible
schedule. I can make the time.

ALAN

Yeah, well, I'm sure my clients
would love to hear that I gave a
part away to my best friend
who's got zero acting experience
instead of offering it to them.

BARRY

I don't have zero experience. I
starred in a show on Spike TV.

ALAN

You were a non-speaking extra on one episode of 1000 Ways To Die.

BARRY

And I was on that reality show..

ALAN

You were in the audience of Price is Right.

BARRY

That's not zero experience though. That's more experience than some of your clients have. Whatever. Just have your people call my people.

ALAN

I am your people.

Barry ignores Alan's comment and picks up his phone. The waiter brings the cards back in two separate black sleeves. Barry puts his phone down, grabs the black sleeve, and looks up at Alan.

BARRY

How much are you leaving?

ALAN

Three.

BARRY

(joshingly)

Daaaamn, big time movie agent over here. Tipping 30%. Making the working class guy look stingy.

ALAN

(laughs)

I come here all the time.

BARRY

Whatever. I don't care. Three's fine.

Barry signs the receipt with the \$3 tip. Barry and Alan put the pens down, close the black books, and look up at each other.

ALAN

Meh?

BARRY
Yeah let's get the fuck out of
here.

They stand up and walk away from the booth towards the
front door.

BARRY
I'm going home to take a shower
and wash that sneeze off me.
Dumb bitch.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. BARRY AND RITA'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON (DAY 1)

Barry is sitting on the couch with his laptop on his lap.
He's got a large marijuana pipe in his hand. Rita opens the
front door and enters the apartment wearing a white
doctor's coat.

BARRY
Hey!

RITA
Have you been smoking all day?

BARRY
No. I just got home.

Barry puts his laptop on the coffee table, stands up, and
opens the window.

BARRY
Hey, let me ask you something.

Barry sits back down on the couch.

RITA
What?

BARRY
If you sent a gift to a husband
and wife.
(high voice)
Should you get two thank you's?
One from the husband and one
from the wife?

RITA

What do you mean?

BARRY

I mean, should a husband and wife each give a separate thank you if you give them a gift? Shouldn't you get two thank you's?

RITA

Oh. One thank you is probably enough. They're married so..

BARRY

Yeah, but I don't mean that I have to get a call or a hand written letter. A text message is fine. Or an instant message at the very least. Right?

RITA

I don't know, why?

BARRY

I sent Peter and Nicole a gift certificate for dinner. Nicole wrote me a thank you e-mail. And a Facebook post. I haven't heard from Peter though.

RITA

Oh, that sucks. They're married though.

BARRY

Yeah, but only for like 2 years. If they were married for 20 years.. okay.. a combined thank you is okay. But 2 years? 2 years is barely a couple.

Rita picks up a few pieces of mail from the table by the front door and rifles through it.

RITA

Maybe you'll still hear from him.

BARRY

I should've sent Alan and Katie a gift certificate instead.

RITA
Are they coming tonight?

BARRY
Who?

RITA
Alan and Katie. Are they coming
to Tim's party tonight?

BARRY
Maybe.

RITA
Do you still want to go?

BARRY
Well, I never wanted to go.

RITA
We don't HAVE to go, Barry.

BARRY
It's fine. We can go. I know you
want to go. Alan's going, so..

RITA
You said he was 'maybe' going.

BARRY
Yeah, well, he's going.

Rita walks over to the couch and sits next to Barry. She puts her head on his shoulder. She snuffles and wipes her nose with her hand. Barry backs away quickly and her head falls. She sits up.

BARRY
Are you sick?

RITA
No, I'm not sick.

BARRY
I heard you sniffing. You might
be sick.

RITA
I just get allergies.

BARRY
Maybe you're sick. Were you
sneezing earlier?

RITA

I didn't sneeze. I just got stuffy when I walked in here.

BARRY

Alright. Everyone's sick. The whole world is sick. I don't want to get sick.

RITA

I'm not sick.

Rita puts her arm around Barry's neck.

RITA

Your hair is wet. Did you shower?

BARRY

Yeah, I had to. Some dumb bitch sneezed all over me today at breakfast.

RITA

Breakfast? Did you see Alan?

BARRY

Yeah, we had breakfast.

RITA

I thought you had work to do today?

BARRY

(high voice)

I did, but I saw Alan and we had breakfast.

RITA

Did you get any work done today?

BARRY

Yes.

RITA

But you said you just got home.

BARRY

(high voice)

I worked, I had breakfast.. I got home and took a shower and I've been working.

RITA
Why do you always use that
voice?

BARRY
(high voice)
What? What'd I do?

RITA
(laughs)
That high voice. Why do you talk
in that high pitched voice?

BARRY
Hah, the "high voice". It's my
non-confrontational voice.

RITA
I'm not being confrontational.

BARRY
(high voice)
I know, I know! You're
wonderful!
(regular voice)
That's, that's, just how I talk.

Barry's arms are up in the air defensively. He puts his
hand on Rita's knee.

BARRY
How was your day?

RITA
It was alright. I saw like 25
patients today.

BARRY
Oh, I see.
(high voice)
Are you a little tired? Hungry?

RITA
I just want to relax.

BARRY
Alright, you relax. I'm going to
do a little work then.

Barry picks up the pipe from the coffee table.

RITA
You mean smoke?

BARRY
(high voice)
A little smoke, a little work.

RITA
Blow it out the window at least.

Barry puts the pipe back down on the coffee table and turns to Rita.

BARRY
(romantic voice)
You want me to blow it out the window? I'll blow it out the window. Anything you want darling.

Barry leans in and gets close to Rita's ear.

BARRY
(baby voice)
What do you want, baby? You name it, you got it. What do you want? What do you want?

Barry over-affectionately kisses Rita on the cheek real hard a few times and her face scrunches up. She acts annoyed but loves the attention. As soon as she smiles he retreats.

BARRY
(high voice)
A little smoke, a little work.
(regular voice)
You relax.

Barry grabs the pipe off the table and lights up.

INT. RITA'S CAR - NIGHT TIME (DAY 1)

Rita is driving and Barry is in the passenger seat with the seat leaning all the way back. He's stretched out with his arms behind his head. They are stuck in traffic. His phone is resting on his knee.

RITA
This is taking forever!

BARRY
Meh.

RITA
Traffic isn't moving. We're not
going to get there until like
10.

BARRY
Meh.

Rita looks over at Barry disapprovingly.

RITA
You're really high, aren't you?

BARRY
Not REALLY high.
(high voice)
I'm a little high. I'm just a
little high.

RITA
Why do you always have to get
high when we go out?

BARRY
I don't HAVE to get high..
(high voice)
I like to get high. I just like
to get a little high.

Barry looks at Rita. She stares straight ahead.

BARRY
(high voice)
Are you mad? Are you a little
grumpy?

RITA
I just don't understand why you
have to get so high every time
we go out.

Barry looks at Rita for a few seconds while she looks
straight ahead.

RITA
Quit staring at me.

BARRY
I'm not *staring* at you. I'm just
looking at you.

RITA
Feels like you're staring at me.

BARRY

A look isn't a stare. A look is much shorter than a stare. A look has to go on for at least 6 seconds before it's a stare.

RITA

(smiles)

Six seconds?

BARRY

Six seconds--or it's not a stare. Less than six seconds is a look. UNLESS.. you make this face.

Barry clenches his mouth shut, opens his eyes wide, and "stares" at Rita. She looks at him.

RITA

(laughs)

That's a stare?

BARRY

That's a stare. Doesn't matter if it lasts six seconds or not if you make that face. It's always a stare if you make that face. But I was just looking at you, not staring.

RITA

Okay, well then quit *looking* at me.

Barry checks his phone again.

BARRY

Alan texted me a few minutes ago. He's there with Katie already.

RITA

What'd he say?

BARRY

He said, "We're here."

RITA

What'd you say?

BARRY

Nothing, I'll see him in a few minutes.

RITA

It's going to be more than a few minutes.

BARRY

Okay, then I'll see him in a half hour.

RITA

You should text him that we're on the way.

BARRY

What's the difference?

RITA

That way he knows we're running late.

BARRY

What difference does it make if he knows we're running late? Do you think Alan's checking his watch, wondering why we're not on time? It's a party. He's probably talking or drinking or whatever.

RITA

Well, he texted you. You should text him back.

BARRY

Yeah, but then what? I text him back "On the way." He writes back "k see you soon." Besides.. it ruins the surprise.

RITA

What surprise?

BARRY

The surprise.

RITA

What surprise? He knows we're coming, doesn't he?

BARRY

Yeah, he knows we're coming. But it ruins the surprise of us arriving. It's like a little surprise for the people at the party every time a new person walks through the door. Everybody looks and is like, "I wonder who's coming in?" And for a hot second, each new guest is a surprise.

RITA

So you think when we walk in, people are going to be surprised?

BARRY

I mean, not BIG surprised? Not like, "OH MY GOD! WHAT THE FUCK??"

(high voice)

But, little surprised.

RITA

You should text him we're on the way.

BARRY

Alright, alright.

Barry grabs his phone off his knee, turns on the screen for a second, but doesn't text Alan back. He puts the phone back down on his knee.

BARRY

You know I still haven't gotten a thank you from Peter.

RITA

Text Alan that we're on the way.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

INT. THE PARTY - TIM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 1)

Barry and Rita are standing next to each other in the living room--backs facing each other--and talking to different people. Barry is holding a small plate of chips, a few vegetables, and some dip, and he's talking to a woman who's holding a drink in her hand that's almost empty. The woman seems disinterested in the conversation and finishes

her drink while Barry is talking.

BARRY

..after 10 years, that's when the wife can write a combined thank you for both of them. But only 2 years? That's too soon. They're barely a couple. I should get two separate thank you's.

The woman holds up the empty glass that she just finished.

WOMAN

I'm going to get another drink. Do you want one?

BARRY

Nah, we're about to get out of here.

The woman walks away towards the bar.

BARRY

(to the woman)

You know it's been 3 days and I still haven't gotten a thank you.

Barry turns to face Rita.

BARRY

Hey.

RITA

Hey.

BARRY

You want to go?

RITA

Where's Alan and Katie?

BARRY

I don't know. Outside maybe. Let's get out of here.

RITA

Are you bored?

BARRY

Meh.

(high voice)

Let's get out of here though.

Rita looks around the room and spots Tim and his girlfriend Rachel talking to Alan and Katie.

RITA

Alan and Katie are over there talking to Tim and Rachel. Let's say goodbye.

BARRY

(high voice)

Meh. We don't need to say goodbye.

(regular voice)

Let's just go.

RITA

That's rude. We have to say goodbye to everyone.

BARRY

Everyone? We have to say goodbye to *everyone*? Who's everyone? Like EVERY person at this party?

RITA

Not *everyone*, everyone. At least let's say goodbye to Tim and Rachel. They hosted the party.

BARRY

We talked to Tim and Rachel all night. Now we've got to go over there, make small talk, and get into a whole thing?

RITA

We'll make it a quick goodbye.

BARRY

There are no quick goodbyes. Believe me. It's always the same.

(impression)

"So great to see you.. Such a great party.. We should get together sometime.."

RITA

That literally takes one minute. We could have been done already. It's rude not to say goodbye.

BARRY

I think it's rude TO say
goodbye, if you ask me.

RITA

It's rude to say goodbye?

BARRY

They're over there talking, and
we're supposed to INTERRUPT to
say goodbye? If you ask me, it's
more polite to NOT say goodbye
in this situation and let them
finish their conversation.
Saying goodbye is the rude thing
to do.

RITA

Barry, we're not leaving without
saying goodbye.

Barry eats his last carrot and puts his small plate on the
table next to him.

BARRY

The goodbye is over rated. You
know, in other countries, they
don't say goodbye.

RITA

And which countries are that?

BARRY

The Irish don't say goodbye. The
French. They don't say goodbye.

RITA

Well, we're in America. So we
say goodbye.

BARRY

You know what I think? If there
are more than 15 people at the
party--you don't have to say
goodbye. No one even notices
when you leave. No goodbye if
there's more than 15 people.
Less than 15 people--you say
goodbye. That's the rule.

RITA

That's the rule?

BARRY
That's the rule.

RITA
Where do get these rules from,
Barry?

BARRY
It's just the rule. Everyone
knows the rule.

RITA
You're always talking about "the
rules".
(impression)
"6 seconds is a stare."
"15 people to say goodbye."
"There's always time to pee.."

BARRY
"There's always time to pee" is
a GREAT rule! Don't talk bad
about the rule!

RITA
(laughs)
Okay, "there's always time to
pee" is not a bad rule. Now
let's go say goodbye.

She turns to walk away. Barry doesn't move. He's still hung
up about defending his rule. He pulls her back into the
convo.

BARRY
Remember last week when we were
going to the Pantages Theater?
We were about to leave the
house?

RITA
I know what you're going to say.
I remember.

BARRY
And remember--you had to pee--
but you were rushing out the
door? And what did I say? What
did I say?

RITA
You said, "There's always time
to pee."

BARRY

I said, "There's always time to pee!" And was there time to pee? Did you pee?

RITA

Yes, I peed.

BARRY

And what happened? Remember? We got stuck in traffic for 45 minutes driving into Hollywood, and you were SO happy that you used the bathroom before we left. Not such a bad rule then was it? Was it?

RITA

Alright. I told you.. that particular rule is not such a bad one. You win, as usual. But come on, let's go.

They start to walk towards the group to say goodbye.

BARRY

(mutters)

"Not such a bad rule.."

(yells)

There's always time to pee is a GREAT rule!

Barry and Rita walk over to Tim, Rachel, Alan, and Katie. The group splits in half, and Barry talks to the men, while Rita talks to the women.

BARRY

Can you believe this? We've got to go around to everyone at the party and say goodbye.

TIM

That's what you do. You say goodbye.

BARRY

There's like 50 fucking people here. By the time we finish saying goodbye to everyone, it'll be like an hour. We're going to have to start over and say goodbye again. The first people we said goodbye to will be like, "Oh you're still here?" And the cycle starts over again until no-one ever leaves. Everyone's here all night saying goodbye to each other wishing we were home.

ALAN

You've got to say goodbye.

BARRY

Why do I have to say goodbye? Who says I have to give a goodbye? It sucks and it's awkward for everyone.

TIM

How is saying goodbye awkward? Do you feel awkward right now?

BARRY

Yes, as a matter of fact, I feel awkward. This is a little awkward. I want to leave. You know I'm trying to leave. Yet you feel like you have to make last minute small talk to show your appreciation for me being here. And we get into a whole thing.

TIM

Tell you what.. no small talk needed. Thanks for coming.

Tim extends his hand to give a handshake.

BARRY

Alright, alright. Well played.

Barry and Tim shake hands. Tim walks away. Barry turns to Alan and holds his phone up.

BARRY

You know I still haven't gotten a thank you from Peter. It's been 3 days. That's the last time I send Peter and Nicole a gift.

ALAN

What'd you send them again?

BARRY

I sent them a gift certificate to a restaurant. I treated Peter and Nicole to a nice fancy dinner. And I don't get a thank you from both of them?

(pauses)

You know it's one thing if I sent a gift—and the gift is like makeup or tampons. See, that's a gift for Nicole. Only one thank you is needed then.

ALAN

(laughs)

You'd send Nicole tampons?

BARRY

No, but I'm just saying. If I did send her tampons, I wouldn't expect a thank you from Peter.

ALAN

Yeah, I know. You sent a gift for both of them.

BARRY

I sent a gift for both of them. Dinner is a gift for both of them! And, I've known Peter longer. And, they've only been married two years.

The woman who sneezed at Fred 62 Restaurant earlier in the day walks by and makes eye contact with Barry. Barry is surprised.

BARRY

Holy shit! Did you see that? Did you see who that is?

ALAN

No, I didn't see. Who is it?

BARRY

Can you believe this? That's the woman who sneezed on me at the restaurant earlier! That's her!

ALAN

That's the woman who sneezed on you??

BARRY

That's the dumb bitch who sneezed on me! What the fuck is she doing here? Is she friends with Tim?

ALAN

I have no idea. Are you sure that's her?

BARRY

(sarcastically)

Am I sure that's her?

(yells)

Yes, I'm sure that's her! I swear to God that's her. She just walked by me and stared at me.

Barry points to the woman who's now standing by the table of food, eating from a small plate. She's looking at Barry.

BARRY

See? She's still staring at me right now. Do you think she heard what I said about her at the restaurant? I didn't know she was still there when I was saying all that.

ALAN

No fucking way! That's crazy. There's no way she heard you. Why is she looking at you like that though?

BARRY

She's not *looking* at me. She's *staring* at me. She's been staring at me for over 6 seconds. That's a stare, not a look.

ALAN

Yeah. She's staring at you
alright. She looks upset.

BARRY

Has she been here the whole
time?

ALAN

I have no idea. This is the
first time I've seen her.

BARRY

(points to table)

Oh my God! Fuck!

ALAN

What?

BARRY

I was eating that food! I've
been eating that food all night!

ALAN

So?

BARRY

So? SO? The sneezer has been
eating that food! She probably
touched everything. Open face
sneezing all over the food and
drinks. Shaking people's hands.

ALAN

So?

BARRY

So? I ate food! I shook hands!

(pauses)

I'm going to get sick. I'm sick.

ALAN

To be fair, whatever she's got,
you already got it this morning
when she sneezed on you.

BARRY

You're right. Fair enough.

(pauses)

Still. I wish I hadn't seen her
here. Now I'm going to be
thinking about it all night.

ALAN

Try not to think about it.

Rita walks over to Barry and Alan after saying goodbye to Rachel.

RITA

Are you ready to go?

BARRY

(sarcastically)

Am I ready to go? You mean you don't want to say goodbye to all these people before we leave?

RITA

Shut up.

BARRY

I don't want to be told later that I was rude for not saying goodbye to all these nice people.

Barry points to a random woman at the party who is standing a few feet away.

BARRY

You know, I don't think I said hello to that woman. I don't even know who she is. Should I say goodbye?

Barry waves at the woman and gives a phony smile. She looks confused that Barry is waving at her.

BARRY

Bye! Bye! Goodbye!

RITA

(laughs)

That's enough. We don't have to say goodbye to everyone.

BARRY

(high voice)

Alright, just checking...

RITA

(to Alan)

Nice to see you Alan.

ALAN

Nice to see you Rita.

Rita walks away. Barry turns to Alan and nods.

BARRY

Alright.

Alan nods back.

ALAN

Alright.

Barry pats Alan on the arm twice, then turns and walks towards the door with Rita. They pause as a man and an extremely beautiful woman with huge tits and a low cut shirt enter the party through the door Barry and Rita were about to exit. Barry's eyes meet the woman's tits and he stares as she walks past. Rita notices.

RITA

Okay, Barry. *That* was a stare.

BARRY

(high voice)

Meh, that was a stare.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT 3

THE END