

SHADOW BOX

Written by

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Address
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FADE IN:

INT. COFFEESHOP - DAY

Steve (white, mid 40s) and James (black, mid 20s) sit across from each other at a table in the window. Each has a GOLF BAG resting near the table. Steve rubs his lower back gingerly.

JAMES

I told you to take it easy on the drive.

STEVE

What can I say? I play to win.

JAMES

If you really wanted to win, you'd stop closing your eyes right before you hit the ball.

STEVE

For the last time, I don't do that.

JAMES

For the thousandth time, you do, and it's embarrassing. We were supposed to let the clients win anyway.

Steve doesn't respond. James shifts in his seat until he's unable to deal with the silence.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So how are things with Debra? Are you guys still talking about...

STEVE

Divorce? No, we worked something out.

JAMES

Well, I'm glad you guys are making it work. What did she make you do, go to couples counselling or something?

STEVE

"Or something" sounds about right. We definitely go somewhere every week, but it's not a therapist. You know the Dry Lizard?

JAMES

That sketchy bar out on Route 91?

STEVE

The very same. The wife and I go every Friday for swingers night.

JAMES

You did not just say swingers, did you? That is some shit I just didn't need to know about.

STEVE (SPEAKING LOUDER)

C'mon you prude. It's 2015. You're telling me that eating ass is on the menu, but a little swinging is too much for you, James.

JAMES

Hey man, I told you about that shit with Connie in confidence.

STEVE

And I haven't told anyone.

JAMES

Except this whole coffeeshop right now.

The two men look around. They notice everyone avoiding their gaze.

STEVE

Okay, I'm sorry about that man. I'm a little overexcited. But you're still with Connie, right?

JAMES

Yeah.

STEVE

And she's still...

JAMES

Still what? Still Asian? Yes Steve, she's still Asian. But that doesn't mean she's a masseuse, and it doesn't mean we're going to go swinging with you.

STEVE

Calm down. It's not such a big deal.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Let's talk about this like adults.
What is your big problem with
swinging?

JAMES

Oh, I don't know. Maybe that I
don't want to see other dudes fuck
my girlfriend.

STEVE

Well, you don't have to watch. And
we do plenty of other things
besides sex.

JAMES

Yeah, is there a knitting circle?

STEVE

No, it's a sense of community, of
people you can trust. Well, one of
the girls, Phyllis, does knit, but
that's beside the point. On
Tuesdays we do this thing called
the Shadow Box.

JAMES

Shadow Box?

STEVE

Yeah, basically it's like this. One
girl goes into this wooden box,
see? And we put a projector behind
her and it projects her silhouette
on the wall and she does a little
bit of a striptease. It's a lot
like burlesque. Super classy, super
sexy.

JAMES

And what is everyone getting out of
this?

STEVE

We are all jerking off.

JAMES

There it is. I'm still out.

STEVE

You're stifling yourself, James.
Think about it this way, what's the
craziest thing you've ever done?

JAMES

Sexually? Connie and I got busy in a Target dressing room last month.

STEVE

You amateur. Do you know what the Tennessee Two-Step is?

JAMES

Do I want to?

STEVE

Either way, I'm telling you. First, you have to stretch, it's better if you already do yoga, then you liberally apply Crisco all over...

JAMES

I don't want to hear it. And I don't think that everyone in here wants to hear it either. Can we get back to golf? I want you to take my golf guy's card.

STEVE

Why? I don't need a golf guy.

JAMES

What are you talking about. Tiger Woods has a golf guy, and he's the best golfer of all time. You're saying you're better than Tiger Woods?

STEVE

No, I'm just saying I don't need a golf guy.

JAMES

Steve, you have no problem with another guy fucking your wife, but you won't let one teach you how to golf?

STEVE

Some things are just too personal. Plus, right before the puts it in Debra, I...

Steve looks down.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Close my eyes.

James furnishes the card. Steve takes it and lays his head down on the table.

Fade Out.