

LAST SHOT OF LOVE

(Excerpt)

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FADE IN:

INT. COLLIN'S TAVERN - NIGHT

A small hole-in-the-wall spot that serves it's customers strong cheap drinks, day or night.

Liquor filled SHOT GLASSES are raised in the air.

MIGUEL (O.S.)
One...two...three!

CLINK!

FRIENDS (O.S.)
CHEERS!

MIGUEL CORTEZ (20s), boyish, charismatic, and tipsy, lowers his glass and takes a shot. He is surrounded by his FRIENDS, all binge drinking.

MONTAGE: BAR SHENANIGANS

- FRIENDS argue over a game of pool.
- FRIENDS smoke cigarettes in the back will having a loud conversation.
- FRIENDS have a drunken dance off.

END MONTAGE.

BARTOP - CONTINUOUS

Miguel sits on a stool. Looking amused as he watches his friends enjoy themselves. He pulls out his phone.

PHONE SCREEN:

He opens his social media app and scrolls passed various photos. One photo catches his attention - his eyes widen.

It is photo of AVA DIAZ (20s), all smiles and dressed for a night out. The photos show Ava celebrating with her FRIENDS.

Miguel reads the caption: *"Celebrating before the move!"*

He clicks on Ava's profile. He scrolls passed numerous photos of Ava celebrating.

He checks the comments, they read: *"Congrats on the job!"*
"We'll miss you!" *"I wish you luck on your new adventure!"*

BACK TO BARTOP

Miguel tosses his phone on the bartop, he's crushed. He signals to the BARTENDER, a shot is poured and delivered. Miguel throws it back in one gulp.

He grabs his phone again.

PHONE SCREEN

Miguel scrolls passed photos of him and Ava. In the photos, they both look happy and in love.

BACK TO BARTOP

Miguel's face saddens as he look at the photos of him and Ava.

PHONE SCREEN

He goes back to Ava's social media and checks the location of the photos.

FORKS AND KNIVES BISTRO - posted 2 hours go.

UPTOWN ROOFTOP BAR - posted 1 hour ago.

THE LOST LEAF LOUNGE - post 5 minutes ago.

Bingo! He pulls up his RIDESHARE APP - *Nearest car is 30 minutes away.*

MIGUEL

Damn.

He looks up the walking distance to the bar - *15 minute walk time.*

EXT. COLLIN'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Miguel puts on his coat as he rushes out the bar. He looks inside through the window and sees his FRIENDS still partying, no one noticing he has left. He heads to--

EXT. LOST LEAF LOUNGE - NIGHT

Miguel walks up and finds a long line of PEOPLE waiting to get in. He spots the tall and intimidating BOUNCER at the bar's entrance.

EXT. ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The Bouncer lets in a GROUP from the line. Miguel tries to sneak in behind them.

BOUNCER

Whoa!

The Bouncer blocks him.

BOUNCER (CONT'D)

Back of the line.

MIGUEL

It's okay. I'm with them.

BOUNCER

Nice try. Back of the line.

MIGUEL

C'mon, man. It wouldn't that big a deal if you just let me cut.

BOUNCER

Not gonna happen.

MIGUEL

Please. It's important that I get inside.

Beat.

BOUNCER

You got twenty bucks?

MIGUEL

What?

BOUNCER

Give me thirty bucks and I'll let you cut the line.

MIGUEL

You just said twenty.

BOUNCER

Forty bucks, and I'll let you in.

Miguel checks his pockets.

MIGUEL

I don't have forty bucks.

BOUNCER

Do you have fifty bucks?

MIGUEL

I don't have any cash!

BOUNCER

I take venmo.

Beat.

MIGUEL

Are you serious?

BOUNCER

I'm messing with you. Back of the line.

Miguel walks to the back of the line with his head down.

He spots a DELIVERY TRUCK parked by the bar. He sees a DRIVER wheeling kegs off the truck and taking them to--

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Miguel peers around the corner and watches the Driver head to the BACK DOOR.

The Driver props the door open and walks into the bar. Miguel follows and enters--

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Miguel passes through COOKS and SERVERS, trying to make it seem like he belongs there.

INT. LOST LEAF LOUNGE - NIGHT

A trendy cocktail bar filled with young hip working professionals and overpriced drinks.

Miguel searches the bar. He looks around, slowly losing hope. Until he spots Ava. She has a bright smile that stands out from the crowd.

He looks to the table next to him. At the table is a YOUNG COUPLE, too preoccupied with each other to pay attention to the drinks in front of them. Miguel quickly snags one of their drinks

INT. LARGE BOOTH - NIGHT

Ava and her FRIENDS are gathered around with their drinks. They all toast.

FRIENDS
TO AVA!

Miguel walks up to the booth, raising his glass.

MIGUEL
To Ava!

Silence. The table stares at Miguel as he awkwardly raises his drink.

AVA
Miguel?

MIGUEL
Hey! It's so crazy running into you, right? I was here with some friends and I look over and...here you are.

Ava covers her surprised look with a smile.

AVA
Yeah. Here I am.

The two share an awkward hug.

MIGUEL
Such a coincidence, right?

AVA
Uhh...yeah. Huge coincidence.

Ava's FRIENDS try to act casual.

AVA (CONT'D)
I'm surprised your here. This place isn't usually your scene.

MIGUEL
I've been branching out. Trying out new places, seeking new opportunities.

(MORE)

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

(beat)
Looks like you're celebrating.

AVA

We are...
(beat)
I'm moving actually.

MIGUEL

Did you finally get the promotion?

Ava smiles and nods. Miguel lights up.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Ava, that's amazing!

AVA

Thank you.

MIGUEL

Seriously, congratulations. You've work so hard for that position. You deserve it.

AVA

Thank you, I'm excited.

MIGUEL

It's out of state right?

AVA

Yup, Arizona. I'm flying out there in a few days.

MIGUEL

Well, I need to join this celebration then. How about a round on me?

AVA

Oh, no. I don't want to take you away from--

FRIEND 1

I'll have whatever is most expensive!

FRIEND 2

Is the kitchen still open?