# Booth 8 by Walter Koning (2017June13 – Version2)

* This is the story of a day in the life of a waiter named Andy
* Andy rides a skateboard to work at a restaurant in the Mission
* He unlocks the door and settles in prepping the restaurant for the day
* Kitchen staff arrive
* Other staff arrive
* Patrons arrive
* Booth 8 is the table at the front of the restaurant by the window overlooking the street
* Andy services booth 8 all day
* Andy’s voiceover is his only verbal communication in the film
* Throughout the day booth 8 turns over 7 times with new patrons (7 people/groups sit there)
* At the end of the day Andy sits in booth 8 as the voiceover continues
* Show b-roll of the city from a drone
* Fade to black

**Booth 8**

EXT – Mid morning on Sunday – City streets from Alamo square to a restaurant at 20th and Mission in San Francisco

(Scene 1)

A guy (Andy) in his late 20’s is riding a skate board through San Francisco. He rides in full control screaming down Hayes next to Alamo Square. He continues across Market, down Valencia, and across to Mission via 20th Street. Andy arrives at the exterior of a brunch spot called Jims Restaurant and unlocks the door. He walks into an empty restaurant.

INT – Mid morning – Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 2)

Andy walks briskly through the restaurant to the kitchen. He sets down his skateboard and backpack. Grabs clothes from the pack and walks into the bathroom to change. The camera shows him as he enters the bathroom in commuting clothes and departs the bathroom in work clothes suited for a waiter at a casual brunch spot.

Andy (VO):

What matters?

Does my headache matter? Do you matter?

Does cosmetic surgery matter? To whom? Why?

Does the shooting in Missouri matter? How about the shooting in DC? Or the shooting in the Hollywood movie sets?

What matters?

Does my ripped shirt matter? Does my ripped CD matter? What's the matter?

Why bother?

Does a fake smile matter? Does a corporate liquidation matter? How about a milkshake? Or a liquidation manager?

Or an acquaintance with some sense of what matters?

Who knows what matters?

Does my headache matter? To whom? Why?

(Scene 3)

Andy is wiping down tables, setting up chairs, polishing spots off glasses and silverware. Two members of the kitchen staff unlock and walk through the front door. Andy waves and acknowledges in a welcome manner without a smile. He continues to prep the restaurant for the day by setting tables for the first patrons.

Andy (VO): This time last year I was single. This time last week I was in love. This time today I’m hungover, frustrated, and here I am at work like it’s any other day.

Her name is [girls name]. We met at a picnic playing kickball. Every time I finished a beer she’d hand me another. It sounds like such a little thing, “here, have another”. But in the beginning it’s that little interaction that leads to the “hey, you’re really cute”, which leads to the first date, second, third, the dating, the love, the sacrifices, the long nights in, the dreams of forever.

And then the little things start to turn into bigger things. “And when you’re done with that could you do this?” And then you’re looking at the finish line and wondering if it’s just up ahead, or maybe around the next bend, or if it’ll be awhile still. But you know you’ll get there eventually. You just know it.

And maybe that’s what does you in. It’s not the incompatibility. It’s just that you focus on the negative instead of the positive.

Ext – Mid morning – Outside Jim’s restaurant

 (Scene 4)

Patrons begin walking into the restaurant. A hostess seats them. The restaurant is bustling. Booth 8 is empty. A guy and girl arrive together outside the front door. They look like went to a club the night before, fucked all night, then decided to go to brunch together. He opens the door for her and they walk in.

Andy (VO): And then there’s the day after you end it and you just want to go back to the beginning when you could just focus on the nice things.

Club Guy: After you

Club Girl: Why thank you

INT – Mid morning – Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 5)

The hostess seats the club couple in booth 8. She brings them water, no ice, and menus. Andy approaches while the couple is talking. He takes their order while they continue talking to each other. He walks away back to the kitchen. The camera follows him, then returns to the conversation in booth 8. The club girl is sobering up, enjoying breakfast and checking her phone regularly. The club guy is sobering up, waking up, and fully engaged in the conversation.

Andy (VO): What matters? Does my hangover matter?

Club Girl: I am soooooo hungover.

Club Guy: You’re telling me.

Club Girl: Coffee please. Black.

Club Guy: One for me, too. Room for sugar. Last night was amazing!

Club Girl: Amazing! [She makes the sound effect of the drum beat from the club]

Club Guy: [He joins her in the drum beat]

[Chuckling together]

Andy (VO): In the beginning it’s all about the lovey dove. The first time you look in her eyes and think maybe she’ll kiss you.

Club Girl: You know I don’t usually sleep with someone on the first night I meet them?

Club Guy: Neither do I.

Club Girl: Last night was amazing. [giggling]

Club Guy: [smiling] I’m so glad you came over when you did. [Guys name] was being such an idiot. Did you seem him dancing like that?

Club Girl: I didn’t even notice. I spent the whole night checking you out.

Andy (VO): When you’re with someone you feel like a king. You’re on top of the world. Flying high.

Club Guy: This water doesn’t have any ice in it. Waiter! Could I get some ice?

Club Girl: Ice. That’s funny. What do you need ice for? Aren’t you drinking hot coffee?

Club Guy: Yeah. So what?

Andy: [pours water from an ice water pitcher]

Club Guy: Thanks. Hey, why didn’t you put ice in my water to begin with?

Andy: [walks back to the kitchen]

Club Guy: What’s with that guy?

Club Girl: [laughing at him] I have no idea but you just got worked up over some ice water.

Club Guy: Fuck off, eh.

Club Girl: I’m soooo hungover.

Club Guy: So what’s your name anyway?

Club Girl: [holds out hand] Sam. Nice to meet you.

Club Guy: I’m Peter. My pleasure.

Andy (VO): At what point do you start thinking this could be the start of something?

Club Girl: [checks her phone] What time are you meeting up with

Club Guy: [Guys name]? I’m not worried about it. He can wait. I’d rather be here with you.

Club Girl: Is that so? Well me too.

Club Guy: I could seriously spend the whole day with you.

Club Girl: And we could fuck away the afternoon until we make love by the fire tonight?

Club Guy: We don’t have to wait until tonight.

Club Girl: Do they have a fire pit here? You could just disrobe me here? [checks her phone]

Club Guy: Check please!

Club Girl: No really. Give me your number. Let’s get brunch sometime.

Club Guy: Brunch?! It’s 415-555-1212

Club Girl: Well it was nice to meet you Peter. [gets up to leave]

Club Guy: Wait? That’s it?

Club Girl: I’ll call you. [kisses him on the lips goodbye]

Club Guy: [disappointed] But Sam. Want to catch a movie tonight?

Club Girl: Don’t worry. I’ve got your number. [she walks out briskly]

Club Guy: [to Andy] I just had the best time with the hottest girl. Now what? [he leaves cash and walk out of the restaurant]

Andy (VO):

I miss her. I miss her love. I miss her touch. Of course I do.

Someday. Maybe someday soon I’ll have new loving arms around me. I’ll get that glow about me and I’ll be satisfied once again.

INT – Mid morning – Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 6)

Andy waves goodbye to the club girl and guy. They wave goodbye and depart the front door of the restaurant. Andy cleans the table methodically. He makes two trips to the kitchen and back to booth 8. He sets the table and prepares it for the next patron(s). Two ladies in their early 30’s arrive. They look alike but one looks classy while the other looks flashy frumpy.

Andy (VO): I miss her love. I miss love. But I won’t dwell on it, simply reminisce and remember all the good times. Were there ever bad times? I guess there were. But they didn’t seem to matter then. Or now.

Lawyer: This is the place I was telling you about.

Actress: I’m way overdressed.

Lawyer: Stop. You look fine.

Actress: Seriously overdressed. I should have worn a burlap sack.

Lawyer: And I should have put on makeup.

Andy (VO): I don’t miss it all. Her time management or her make up. I don’t miss missing her, longing for her, my jealousy, feeling bad for being sad.

Lawyer: [to Andy] Hi. Could we have two of those massive bloody mary’s? Do you still have those? Do you still

Andy (VO): [Nods and writes it down]

Actress: And a black coffee.

Lawyer: One of the blood mary’s is for her.

Actress: He knows.

Andy (VO): [smugly smiles and nods and walks away]

Lawyer: So. What have you been up to?

Actress: Same old shit. Have you ever been on set with me? I forget?

Lawyer: Just once. It was the longest day of my life.

Actress: Says the lawyer. No, really though. You know what I’m talking about. It’s great to make the money but it’s a shit job.

Lawyer: Bull shit!

Actress: I’m serious. Just last week we took over the pier in Santa Monica to shoot one scene. ONE SCENE! It took 4 hours. You could see people who flew to California from Minnesota and St. Louis and Boston just standing there watching. Some of them staring at my tits. Some of them watching the way a movie gets made. But most of them just itching to walk up and down the pier to check it off their tourist activity book checklist.

Lawyer: You’re funny.

Actress: I’m serious. It was hot as balls out there too. I must have been powdered down 100 times to keep the sweat from glistening too brightly. [laughter]

Lawyer: [laughing] Life is hard.

Actress: So hard.

Lawyer: What are you gonna eat? The beignets here good but the French toast with raspberries and crème fraiche is to die for.

Actress: I think I’ll stick to whatever they put in the bloody mary and then order another one.

Lawyer: They pay you to be skinny, I swear.

Actress: Do you see all of these people staring at me?

Andy (VO): They have been.

Lawyer: They’re not.

Actress: They are. You just haven’t noticed.

Andy (VO): I noticed.

Lawyer: [to Andy] I’ll have the French toast with crème fraiche.

Actress: When this bloody mary is half empty bring me another.

Andy (VO): The guys at the bar have started checking out both of them. But they’re so engrossed in their conversation neither of them have noticed. [brings food out]

Actress: Wow. That was quick.

Lawyer: So what’s your next film?

Actress: It’s a film where two women eat breakfast and gossip about boys without a care in the world.

Lawyer: Ooooh I like it.

Actress: Do you see those guys at the bar?

Lawyer: Those guys? They look like they could be brothers. I mean. Not like that.

Actress: Brothers? The black guys? Oh shit. You’re right. Holy crap they’re twins.

INT – Noon– Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 7)

Twin guys are standing by the bar waiting for a table. They are sexy-as-fuck, black men. They are joking around and chatting while they wait. The classy and flash/frumpy lady at the table notice them. The guys walk over to booth 8.

Andy (VO): I don’t miss the never knowing where she stood, or the feeling that I’m merely great but not her type.

Lawyer: Oh my gosh. He noticed us.

Actress: I’ll handle this.

Twin 1: They see us.

Twin 2: Just relax.

Actress: [to the twins] Hey. So we’re just sitting there have brunch and we saw you checking us out.

Twin 1: Sorry about that.

Twin 2: [laughs at him]

Actress: Want to join us?

Twin 2: I’m [guys name]. This is my brother [guys name].

Actress: Come on over.

Twin 2: Works for me.

Twin 1: [muffled] These girls are way out of my league.

Twin 2: [to his brother] Buck up. Let’s go.

Lawyer: Hi, I’m [girls name].

Actress: This is [guys name] and [guys name]. They’re our new best friends. What are you drinking?

Twin 2: I’m still having a smoothie. You know. Just got done working out.

Lawyer: [to her friend] I can see that.

Twin 1: I’m just having an orange juice.

Actress: So what are you guys doing? Just got back from a night out?

Twin 2: We were salsa dancing all night and now it’s time for a little recovery before we head to the soup kitchen.

Twin 1: Soup kitchen? He’s joking.

Lawyer: He’s funny.

Actress: And cute.

Twin 2: Thank you. You’re not so bad yourself.

Twin 1: Oh man.

Actress: Hey [girls name]. I totally forgot. I need to pick up my shit for the shoot.

Twin 2: We don’t want to interrupt your brunch. Could we get your numbers and maybe catch you at a time when things are less rushed?

Lawyer: Here. Text me. We’ll set something up.

Lawyer and Actress: [they rush out and smile as they depart]

INT – Mid-afternoon – Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 8)

Twin guys are having lunch in booth 8.

Andy (VO): I don’t miss her everything

Twin 1: They didn’t pay.

Twin 2: Hahahaha. But we’ve got digits.

Twin 1: And what are you gonna do with those? Cheat on your boyfriend?

Twin 2: I got them for you. You should thank me for all the tail I get you.

Twin 1: Bloody hell. Give me that. You know they’re gonna know I’m the wrong brother, right?

Twin 2: Just be your shining self. Don’t worry about it. You’ll at least get some the first night. After that it’ll be up to you to keep it going.

Twin 1: This whole dating thing is fucked up. I hate it.

Andy (VO): I just miss the love. I miss the companion and the friend I once thought she was.

Twin 2: Hey. Relax. Just because the ladies love me more than you.

Twin 1: I just wish I had your charisma. Why do you get all of the girls numbers anyway? You know you’re not gonna call them.

Twin 2: I get them for you.

Twin 1: But as soon as they meet me they wonder why I’m so sad, depressed. Why am I so sullen? When they meet you they think they’ve struck gold. Then they hang out with me and it’s like they’re stuck with an imposter.

Twin 2: Just be yourself. One of them will work out. And until then live it up!

Twin 1: Are we getting anything to eat?

Twin 2: I’m all good. You?

Twin 1: I’m good. Let’s roll. [pays for both bills]

INT – Mid-afternoon – Outside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 9)

A couple is wrangling kids as they walk across the street down the block from the restaurant. The kids are picking up things on the street. The kids are distracted by window displays. The parents gently prod them to keep moving along. The family of four (husband, wife, boy child, girl child) are outside of the restaurant. The mother wipes them off before they walk into the restaurant.

Andy (VO): I once told a girl that I felt like I was going to change the world someday. It was on a first date. She told me she was going to have kids. I told her I didn’t plan to have any. She shook my hand and said goodnight at the end of the date.

Maybe I will someday. Who knows.

I want to change the world. I want to make it a better place. I want to make a difference. I want people to change for the better. I want people to want what’s right. I want the world to do what’s right. I want honesty, sincerity, trust and love.

Wife: Come on. Let’s go inside.

Husband: You ready for lunch? Who’s ready for lunch?

Child (boy): I want pancakes.

Child (girl): Yeah! Pancakes.

INT – Mid-afternoon – Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 10)

Andy welcomes the family to the restaurant. He provides water, with ice, menus, and crayons for the children. He does not provide paper for them to write on. The mother motions for paper. Andy retrieves paper and provides it. The family orders and eats while continuing to wrangle the children.

Andy (VO): I want peace. I want people to be themselves. I want them to be real. I want them to do what I want. I want people to want what I want. I guess I don’t want them to be themselves.

Wife: Do you have any paper?

Husband: Something for them to right on?

Andy (VO): Of course. [hands them paper]

Child (boy): Thank you.

Child (girl): The red crayon. I want the red crayon.

Andy (VO): Of course [hands her a red crayon]

Wife: Could we have a grilled cheese. A BLT. A side order of your soup of the day. Three cokes.

Husband: And a big bacon deluxe burger.

Andy (VO): Of course [writes it all down, smiles and walks away]

Husband: What are you drawing?

Child (girl): A puppet.

Child (boy): A dog. Can we get a dog?

Child (girl): Yeah, can we get a dog?

Husband: What kind should we get?

Wife: [Guys name] we’re not getting a dog.

Husband: Someday.

Andy (VO): Someday we’ll have a house, and a dog, and we’ll go on vacations to places like Cozumel and Amsterdam. We’ll relax on a beach and drink cocktails. We’ll go to Hawaii and fall in love all over again.

Someday you won’t ride that skateboard anymore. You’ll drive to a real job like an adult. And I’ll stay at home and take care of the kids.

We’ll be a happy family together.

Husband: Someday we’ll get a dog. Maybe next year when you’re a little older.

Child (girl): Yay!

Wife: Maybe next year. We just need a little more time in the day and space in the yard.

Andy: [delivers lunch and waits to see if they need anything before walking away]

Wife: Who wants a grilled cheese?!

Child (boy): I do!

Wife: And [girls name] here’s your soup. Be careful, it’s hot.

Husband: [mock blows on the soup to teach the girl]

Child (girl): [blows on the soup before taking the first bite and burning her lips]

Husband: Be careful it’s hot.

Child (girl): Ow.

Andy (VO):

So many single people everyone waiting for a supermodel. You see an attractive person and think they should have an attractive spouse. What about those ugly people? Who do they get?

I'd say I'm mediocre and I have the chance at anyone? Who's to say that I don't deserve a gorgeous babe? What about those ugly people? They have a chance at anyone too? There's nothing stopping a great looking female from being attracted to a lumpy, lopsided, lazy looking man? But a guy is less likely to go for a woman who doesn't have it going on?

Or maybe it's our goals? Maybe the woman sought after will match our lifestyles, our vicarious dreams for our future? If we're athletic we want an activity partner. If we read we want a literary foil. If we reflect upon the 1800's, the industrial revolution, the electronic age, we may desire a parallel mind. Someone who'll feel the same, use the same tools, be submissive all the same.

Physical features attract. Beauty maintains. Habits annoy. Common interests propel. Exactly alike stagnates.

INT – late afternoon – Outside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 11)

The family has departed. Booth 8 is empty. The restaurant is busy but not bustling anymore. It’s quieter.

Andy (VO):

I began thinking about what would happen. What would happen if I were old. What would happen when I couldn't do my profession anymore. What would happen if I had never purchased a home. If I couldn't afford to pay rent on my rental abode anymore. What would happen if I had no family. If my friends were around, in Florida or Phoenix. Or if they were in contact a couple of years ago, but I hadn't seen them since. You know how it goes.

So I was thinking it would be miserable. I was thinking I wouldn't like living alone. I was thinking I wouldn't be able to afford my necessities. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to continue working in the same field, making the same wage, doing any of the same things I always did. I was afraid my life and loves would be overhauled and I wouldn't be happy.

Then my body would fail me. Walking to the mailbox would take hours. I'd start losing teeth, and needing caps and bridges. I'd start losing my gray hair. I'd wrinkle and begin to wither away. In the mirror I'd find an image that wasn't me. It would astonish me to find that I'd earned skin pigmentation, sunspots or whatever they're called. My muscles would have deteriorated so much that I wouldn't be able to play anymore. Moving would be difficult. Lifting would require assistance. Even jars of peanut butter would be too difficult to open.

INT – late afternoon to Evening – Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 12)

Booth 8 has table settings for two. An older gentleman arrives. He’s roughly 60-70. He’s by himself and is seated in booth 8 by the hostess. Andy arrives with water, menus, and a smile. The gentleman acknowledges the extra table setting and requests that it be left on the table. Andy departs before returning to take the order. Andy departs and returns many times while the gentleman eats alone. Additional attempts to remove the extra table setting are turned away. After the meal Andy shakes the man’s hand as a genuine friend and the man departs the restaurant.

Andy: [gives a warm welcome to the older gentleman as he enters, he’s a familiar face]

Older gentleman: Oh you can leave that extra place setting right there.

Andy: [nods and briefly walks to get the menus and water before returning]

Older gentleman: Oh I don’t know. What are the specials? [mutters before giggling knowingly] I know. I know. You don’t have any specials. [he flashes a charming smile]

Andy: [motions to see if he needs anything else]

Older gentleman: Oh no. I’m alright.

Andy (VO): [walks to the back of the restaurant and watches the older gentleman sitting alone, watching the other patrons, looking out at the people walking by] I don’t want to be old. I don’t want to be alone. I was happy dating her. Maybe it could have worked out. We could have made it work. Cozumel.

Older gentleman: [to himself] Oh it’s alright. Maybe next week.

Andy (VO): [walks back to the older gentleman to share his space for a minute, to give him some company] Need anything? She’s not coming this week either? Did she leave you? Did she die? Did you ever have anyone join you for an afternoon meal? You look so… alone.[Andy smiles and makes the older gentleman feel less alone. Andy returns with the bill and includes a senior discount.]

Older gentleman: I don’t have much but here’s a little something extra for you Andy. [he includes an extra 50 cents]

Andy: [smiles are exchanged and Andy helps him put his jacket on before walking him out of the restaurant]

INT – Evening – Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 13)

The “perfect” San Francisco couple arrive. They are wearing clothes some might consider costume, others might think of as Burning Man “playa” gear. They have a relationship that you only wish you had. Andy provides water, one glass with water, one without. He takes their order without providing a menu. The couple reminisce over stories of shared and personal experiences. They order a bottle of wine, then another. Andy smiles and laughs each time he is at their table. Others in the restaurant stop by to say hi. The couple have this look in their eyes of pure love and contentment. They depart and wave goodbye to the whole place.

Andy (VO): I don’t want to be old and alone.

SF Man: blah

SF Woman: blah

INT – Evening – Inside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 14)

Booth 8 is empty. The restaurant is empty. The kitchen staff are sweeping up and depart. Andy is walking around closing things down. He stops in booth 8 and has a seat. He has switched back into his commuting clothes. He is contemplating the day, life, and the pursuits of mankind.

Andy (VO): The woman in my dreams will love me too.

I want someone who doesn't mind if I'm spontaneous. If she joins me that's just great but she better enjoy it for the joy of it, not because she wants to make me happy. It makes me sad when the woman I love isn't happy just to be happy.

I want someone who lives to make each day a good day. Each day doesn't have to be lived like it's the last. That's a farce.

Each day there should be no regrets for not doing what's important to you.

I want to smile. I want to laugh. I want to love. I want to be happy. I want to be stoic sometimes too. I want to relax and do nothing. I want to play sports. I want to travel. Alone or with someone it doesn't matter. What matters is that I feel love.

I want to feel welcomed. I don't want to be fake. I just want to be honest. I want someone who will let me be me.

The woman I have in my dreams will let me love her too.

INT – Evening – Outside Jim’s restaurant

(Scene 15)

Andy departs on his skateboard. The camera follows him through traffic and the city nightlife. The camera rises above the street higher and higher. Andy becomes smaller and smaller until he blends into the backdrop of the street. The camera rises high until you can see the city. Then fade to black.

Andy (VO): I hope.