

PAYING RENT

"The Double Date"

Written by

Jesse Riback

805 S Wooster St Los Angeles CA 90035
(973) 224 - 2953

ACT ONE

1. EXT. THEATRE - NIGHT

DREIZIN "DRE" ROSEN (23) paces back and forth. He's your typical average dude who thinks he's smarter and better looking than he is. He uses the people around him for his own personal gain.

He stands next to HOLDEN (23), the best looking guy you've ever seen, who pours creatine powder into his water bottle. Holden's good at everything. It's actually irritating.

A "Help Wanted" sign hangs in the window.

HOLDEN

What time you got?

DRE

You're wearing a watch.

HOLDEN

You know I can't tell the time.

DRE

Seriously?

HOLDEN

Hey, do you know if they make designer watches that are digital?

DRE

I don't know.

HOLDEN

I've always wanted, like, a Brolex or a Breitling but-

DRE

That's stupid. Nobody's going to pay thousands of dollars for a digital watch.

HOLDEN

You're probably right-

DRE

Listen, can you do me a favor tonight?

HOLDEN

What?

DRE

Don't hang me out to dry. Like, if she wants you to go home with her, and my date doesn't... Those walks alone, they're tough.

HOLDEN

Where's your confidence? I have a feeling we're both gonna get lucky-

Dre smiles.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

I got your back. Don't worry.

DRE

Thank you. You paid the rent, yeah?

HOLDEN

Yes, it's on autopay-

The gleeful scream of RACHEL (23) enters. She's as good looking as Holden is.

RACHEL

(sing-songy)

Holdennnnn! You look great.

She hugs Holden.

HOLDEN

(sing-songy)

You don't look too bad yourself.

DRE

Nobody's ever sung my name before.

HOLDEN

(sing-songy)

Drrreeeee!

DRE

Thank you, but it's not the same.

RACHEL

My roommate, Emma's just parking the car. She'll meet us inside.

DRE

(joking)

You're letting a woman drive a car?!?!?

Holden smiles at Dre but Rachel's stone faced.

RACHEL
That's not funny.

HOLDEN
Yeah, that's not funny.

Dre waves his hands in the air.

DRE
(mutters)
So much for having my back.

2. INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

Holden sits in between Rachel and Dre waiting for the play to start.

It's mostly empty. RON, who we'll meet later, sleeps in the back.

DRE
Big crowd...

RACHEL
Beautiful watch!

Holden holds up his wrist.

HOLDEN
This ol' thing?

Holden and Rachel laugh together.

DRE
Ask him the time. Go ahead.

RACHEL
Why?

Holden looks at Dre. "Not cool."

Dre puts his hands up.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
How'd you guys meet?

HOLDEN
I love this story. You tell it Dre.

DRE
Don't make it sound like we're a couple.

3. EXT. LA STREET - NIGHT

Holden, Rachel, and Emma walk along the sidewalk eating their ice cream.

Dre walks behind them, sometimes next to them on the grass or street, you know what I'm talking about.

RACHEL
So, people just text you to model?

EMMA
Randomly?

HOLDEN
Yeah. Isn't it sick?

EMMA
Must be nice.

HOLDEN
I'm sure you get texts like that too.

EMMA
No.

HOLDEN
Really?

DRE
She said she doesn't get the texts.
I don't either, don't worry about
it. Not everyone's like you.

HOLDEN
I don't know... if I was a modeling
agency, I'd be texting you.

Emma and Rachel both blush and look at each other.

RACHEL
He's so cute, right?

EMMA
The cutest.

Dre DIGS his spoon into his ice cream.

DRE
He's the best!

They stop.

RACHEL
Do you want to come up, Holden?

HOLDEN
Oh?

RACHEL
I'll make you a coffee.

HOLDEN
The night's still young I guess...

Holden looks at Dre.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
But I promised not to leave Dre...

DRE
(embarrassed)
Promised? We didn't make a promise.

RACHEL
You made a little pinky promise.
That's so adorable.

Emma and Dre look at each other awkwardly.

DRE
I love coffee. Who doesn't like
coffee? I started drinking coffee
when I was 13. When I was a Bar
Mitzvah. I figured if I was a man,
I could drink coffee. You know?

EMMA
(yawns)
I'm pretty tired, think I'm gonna
hit the hay. But it was nice
meeting you.

Dre's face drops.

Emma reaches out her hand for a fist bump.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Don't leave me hanging.

Dre fist bumps her.

RACHEL
Alright, Holden, we're going up.

Holden turns to Dre.

HOLDEN
I feel bad dude.

DRE
Don't feel bad. I'll be okay.

Holden hugs Dre tightly.

HOLDEN
You're the man.

Dre turns to walk away.

DRE
Be safe kids!

EMMA
See you around Dre!

Dre smiles, adding a skip to his step.

4. INT. DRE AND HOLDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dre walks in the apartment giddy.

DRE
See you *around*? See you *around*? Oh,
I'll be *around*.

He holds the mail and plops it on the counter.

He scans through and finds "Rent Eviction Notice"

DRE (CONT'D)
What the fuck-

Dre opens the letter and skims it.

DRE (CONT'D)
"Pay \$4,000 by Friday end of day or
you will be evicted." Fuck me!

5. INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

We can't see anything. But a bed is rocking.

HOLDEN (O.S.)
Fuck me!

ACT TWO6. INT. DRE AND HOLDEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Dre, half asleep and tired, puts a bagel in the toaster.

He's on his phone. He looks up Emma's LinkedIn profile and sees she's the Admissions Leader of the Theatre they went to the previous night.

He yawns as Holden swings through the door singing OKLAHOMA.

HOLDEN

Oh, what a beautiful mornin... Oh,
what a beautiful day...

Dre hands Holden the eviction letter.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

Dude-

DRE

You fucked us. Fucked us worse than
you fucked that annoying girl last
night.

HOLDEN

You thought she was annoying?

DRE

That's what you're hung up on?
We're going to be homeless.

HOLDEN

I think the correct term is
unhoused.

DRE

Sorry. We're going to be unhoused
unless we come up with four grand!

HOLDEN

Don't worry about it, we'll come up
with the money. Good things happen
to good people.

Dre rolls his eyes.

DRE

Good things happen to good-looking
people.

HOLDEN
Relax. We'll figure it out.

DRE
How? I got laid off from Dunkin'
Donuts and I'm through all my
savings.

HOLDEN
You got fired!

DRE
I didn't get fired.

HOLDEN
You called a midget a munchkin.

DRE
It was a mistake!

HOLDEN
Or was it a munchkin a midget?

Dre waves the eviction letter angrily.

DRE
Heelllllooooo?

HOLDEN
I get you're mad at me, and it is
my fault. But it's not like you've
been contributing to the rent at
all.

DRE
You know I'm working non-stop on my
high concept AI Broadway British
Musical The Myth of Marjorie Manor.

HOLDEN
And-

DRE
And the Sparkling Twinkle In Her
Eye.

HOLDEN
What?

DRE
That's the name of the musical!

HOLDEN

You know what? I've been supportive. But you can't expect me to pay the rent forever.

DRE

No, you're right. I expected you to pay the rent the last few months and you couldn't even do that right!

Holden stands up and hugs Dre.

HOLDEN

I just hate it when we fight. I love you buddy-

Dre pulls away.

DRE

We need jobs.

HOLDEN

Where?

DRE

How about... that theatre from last night?

HOLDEN

Why there?

DRE

I saw a help wanted sign. You have any other ideas?

HOLDEN

I can reach out to my agent.

DRE

We need a tangible way to make money. Four grand by Friday. Let's both make sure we have steady work in the meantime.

HOLDEN

Let's work at a theatre!

7. INT. THEATRE - DAY

Holden and Dre sit at a table with CHERYL (50s), the Theatre Owner.

CHERYL

I have two openings. A custodian
and a Box Office Man.

DRE

Now, I don't want to brag, but I
won the Elon University 2024 ticket
sales competition.

Cheryl points at Dre.

CHERYL

Custodian.

DRE

Seriously?

Cheryl points at Holden.

CHERYL

I need you to be the face of the
box office while people pick up
their tickets.

HOLDEN

It's okay, I don't mind washing
dishes.

CHERYL

You're too pretty to be hiding in
the back cleaning toilets.

DRE

And I'm not?

CHERYL

No, it's not that, uh-, you're just
not. Yeah, you're not.

Dre looks pissed.

8. INT. THEATRE - BASEMENT - DAY

Dre, wearing a dirty apron, vacuums the carpet.

He picks up some loose hair. Gross. He GAGS.

9. INT. THEATRE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Holden makes sure the pamphlets are in a neat pile.

HOLDEN
This isn't so bad.

RON (60s) well dressed and intense enters.

RON
You're not Lauren.

HOLDEN
I was. Had the reassignment surgery
last week.

Ron takes off his glasses.

RON
I hope you got a receipt, because
you got ripped off.

HOLDEN
I'm just kidding. I'm the new host,
Holden.

RON
Holden what? Your hairy nuts?

HOLDEN
(stunned at Ron's quick wit)
Uh, what?

RON
I'm just kidding. But I need my
matinee tickets please. Name's Ron
Berkshire.

HOLDEN
Of course.

Holden looks through the desk but doesn't see his tickets.

RON
Chop, chop. I'm not getting any
younger here.

HOLDEN
One second, sir.

Holden just takes two tickets from the pile.

RON
You're a smart kid.

HOLDEN
I am?

RON
What do you do, other than this
shitty robot job?

HOLDEN
I model sometimes.

RON
Sometimes? Should be all the time.

Ron hands Holden a business card.

RON (CONT'D)
You know what this is? It's a
business card.

HOLDEN
Yes, sir.

RON
My assistant gave me one of those
electronic business cards that you
tap on the phone. He now lives
under the bridge on exit 87 off the
110 expressway.

HOLDEN
Oh, uh, serves him right...

RON
You know what, I only come here
because I have insomnia, and these
boring plays are the only things
that put me to sleep.

Holden smirks.

RON (CONT'D)
Tell you what, after I take a leak,
come with me to my office.

Holden reads the business card, which reads: "**Brolex**"

RON (CONT'D)
It's a new branch.

Holden smiles.

10. INT. THEATRE - BATHROOM - DAY

Dre wipes down the sink trying not to throw up.

MICKEY

Hey.

DRE

Jesus-

Dre jumps, he thought he was alone.

MICKEY (late 20s) is a low key guy with a psychotic switch. He sits on the ground throwing and catching a quarter in the air.

MICKEY

What, you never washed a sink before?

DRE

No, I had a... never mind.

MICKEY

Never mind what?

DRE

I had a cleaning person growing up?

MICKEY

Oh, so you're a spoiled little twat aren't you?

DRE

I'm cleaning now aren't I?

Mickey walks to the sink and SPITS an ORANGE LOOGIE in there.

MICKEY

Clean that.

DRE

Ugh.

Dre, scared, starts cleaning.

MICKEY

I think you like my sister.

DRE

What?

MICKEY

I think you want to grab her by the neck-

Dre backs away.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
And fuck the shit out of her. Don't
you?

DRE
You're scaring me.

Mickey laughs.

MICKEY
I'm just messing around. Joshing.

11. INT. THEATRE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Holden plays "Jetpack Joyride" at the Host stand. Emma
enters.

EMMA
Holden?

Holden looks up.

HOLDEN
Emma! Hey! You look exhausted.

EMMA
Didn't get much sleep last night...

HOLDEN
Sorry...

EMMA
You gotta have sex further away
from the San Andreas fault. It's a
hazard.

Holden shrugs shyly.

HOLDEN
Can I get you your ticket?

EMMA
You work here now?

HOLDEN
I do! You're coming to see the show
again?

EMMA
No, my family owns the place.

HOLDEN
Really? You didn't tell us that.

EMMA
Surprise. Why'd you get a job here?

HOLDEN
I made a minor oopsie and forgot to
pay the rent the last three months.

EMMA
That's a major oopsie.

HOLDEN
Yeah. Dre's really mad at me-

EMMA
Dre?

HOLDEN
Yeah, remember him?

EMMA
Is he here?

HOLDEN
Cleaning the bathroom I think?

Emma walks off quickly.

Ron SLAMS the playbill on the box office stand.

RON
Now, that was a grade A piss. I
feel 25 again.

HOLDEN
Great to hear!

RON
Let's go, before they ask me to
donate more money.

HOLDEN
I don't know if I should leave my
post.

RON
Come with me and you'll make more
money in five minutes than you will
five years at your so-called *post*.

Holden exits the box office stand with Ron.

RON (CONT'D)
Atta boy.

They start walking.

HOLDEN

Let me ask you something. Why don't you make digital watches?

RON

Hmmm-

HOLDEN

I mean, it would be a *lot* easier to tell the time.

RON

(laughs)

Now that's an idea.

12. INT. THEATRE - DOWNSTAIRS - DAY

Mickey presses the broom against Dre's stomach.

DRE

I just needed a job. I didn't fuck your sister. I don't want to fuck your sister. I will never fuck your sister.

Emma enters.

EMMA

I hate getting rejected.

Dre turns to Emma, he turns bright red.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Mickey. Broom Down.

MICKEY

The dude's a creep. Take it from me.

EMMA

Broom down. Now.

Mickey throws the hose, fussing down like a baby.

MICKEY

Sorry sis. I'm just looking out for you.

Emma and Mickey hug. Maybe a second too long.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I love you more than Barry Bonds
loves steroids.

EMMA

I love you more than Billy Joel
loves the piano.

MICKEY

I love you more than Mom loves
Botox.

They step away from their hug.

EMMA

Give us a minute, Mick.

Mickey exits but looks at Dre.

MICKEY

"I'm watching you."

Mickey exits.

EMMA

What the fuck?

DRE

I'm the one who should be saying
'what the fuck' he almost killed
me!

EMMA

He's harmless.

DRE

We don't know that!

EMMA

You know what I know? I never told
you my family owned this theatre.
One blind date and you get a job
here?

DRE

Coincidences, huh?

EMMA

You were on my LinkedIn page. Eight
times.

DRE

Noooo I wasn't.

EMMA
Cut the shit.

DRE
How did you know-

EMMA
Did you seriously not know LinkedIn
tells you when somebody visits
their profile?

Beat.

DRE
Is that why my eighth grade Spanish
teacher blocked me?

EMMA
Probably! How many times did you
stalk her account?

DRE
Not the point! I was at an
impressionable age. Ms. Berrios...

EMMA
Gross.

DRE
I'm sorry. I needed a job. But
now... I'm *around*...

EMMA
What?

DRE
Around...

Emma looks befuddled.

EMMA
I have no idea what you are talking
about.

DRE
Forget it, not important.

EMMA
You guys need some rent money,
yeah?

DRE
How did you know-

EMMA
I spoke to Holden out front.

DRE
Oh.

EMMA
You can work the rest of the day,
but you're fired.

DRE
I'm fired?

EMMA
My mom looked at the security
footage, she said you don't know
how to use a vacuum.

DRE
I know how to use a vacuum!

CUT TO:

13. INT. BASEMENT (FLASHBACK)

Grainy security footage of Dre fumbling with the vacuum.
He Doesn't know how to turn it on.
He Gets his finger stuck.
Moves it but it's not picking up the dust.

CUT BACK TO:

14. INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dre and Emma continue their conversation.

EMMA
My friend Lucy's having her
bachelorette party. And she
wants... it's so weird... a male
stripper.

DRE
I can do it. If that's what you're
asking?

EMMA
I was actually thinking-

DRE

Oh, let me guess, you want Holden?
Holden, just because he's tall,
jacked, and his face is
symmetrical?

EMMA

Pretty much, yeah. Not naked or
anything, just down to the
underwear. The rate for that is a
thousand bucks.

DRE

I'll let him know. Thank you-

EMMA

It's not you, I just think my
friend would like-

DRE

It's fine, if I ever need a
stripper for a bachelor party I'll
ask for Rachel.

Emma laughs.

DRE (CONT'D)

Yeah, that was a pretty good joke,
wasn't it?

EMMA

(smiles)
Until you said that. Back to work.

DRE

Wait. Am I safe with...
(whispers)
Mickey?

EMMA

(laughs)
Maybe he'll toughen you up.

Emma exits, on her way out.

EMMA (CONT'D)

See you around!

Dre makes a face.

DRE

She did know-

BOOM! Heavy garbage bags pummel Dre.

It's Mickey with a crazy smile.

MICKEY

Take out the garbage. Now!

Dre sadly hoists a garbage bag.

15. EXT. THEATRE - DAY

Emma enters shocked.

The host stand is empty and there's a LONG LINE of PATRONS at the door.

EMMA

Holden? Ugh, you're both fired.

ACT THREE16. INT. BROLEX - CONTINUOUS

Holden follows Ron into his office. Not far from Ron's office are two mid-century modern chairs.

RON
Take a seat.

HOLDEN
Wow, these are phenomenal chairs.

RON
Son, that's an original 1956 Eames
Ottaman.

HOLDEN
(clueless)
Oh, nice!

RON
I used to not let anyone sit on it,
not even my mother.

HOLDEN
Shit, want me to get up?

RON
No, sit and enjoy. My mother passed
two weeks ago and it reminded me
that...

Ron points to his awards, his amazing office and the bustling city outside.

RON (CONT'D)
She was a bitch.

HOLDEN
Oh...

RON
You want the chairs? I'll have them
sent to your place.

HOLDEN
I couldn't. They're too nice.

Ron sits down.

RON
(changing subject)
A digital Brolex watch. How genius.

HOLDEN
I've always wanted one.

RON
And now you actually can.

Ron grabs a mock-up box. He gifts it to Holden.

RON (CONT'D)
We had it tested and manufactured
just in the last hour.

Holden opens the box and there it is. A digital Brolex.

HOLDEN
Wow! Can I try it on?

RON
Kid, I like your creative
innocence. No offense, you're kind
of dim, but at the same time...
genius.

Holden puts it on.

HOLDEN
Ask me what time is is! Quick, ask
me!

RON
What time is it?

Holden makes a smug face, stretches his wrist, and checks his
watch.

HOLDEN
A quarter after four.

They laugh.

RON
That's the campaign.

HOLDEN
What's the campaign?

RON
What time is it!?!

HOLDEN

It's 4:15. I just said that.

Ron exhales, realizing Holden's moron side is not an act.

RON

Holden, I want you to be the face of the campaign. Commercials, magazines, a press tour...

HOLDEN

This is so awesome!

RON

Yeah, you're handsome, but there's also just something raw about you.

HOLDEN

No, I always wear condoms. Nothing to be worried about.

RON

Name your salary. What do you want?

Holden thinks about it.

HOLDEN

My roommate and I need four grand.

RON

Fine. But... think bigger.

HOLDEN

(trying to think fast)
Umm, four grand and a Trader Joes gift card?

RON

Come on, you can do better than that.

HOLDEN

And Coachella VIP passes... for the *whole* weekend.

Ron thinks...

RON

Brilliant idea. I'll have you walking around, as the new brand ambassador of Brolex...

Ron stands up and goes to shake Holden's hand, but Holden hesitates.

HOLDEN

Wait...

RON

What is it?

HOLDEN

I'll take the chairs.

RON

Deal.

They shake hands.

17. EXT. THEATRE - DUMPSTER - NIGHT

Dre, soaking wet, attempts to throw out six garbage bags in the overflowing dumpster.

He holds his nose in disgust.

DRE

Can I have some help?

MICKEY

Nah.

Mickey plays "Rock, Paper, Scissors" by himself.

Dre picks up the heavy garbage bag and tries to open the dumpster with his other hand.

He fails.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Try again.

Dre opens the dumpster door and tries to fling it further open.

He flings it and throws a bag up there but the door comes CRASHING back. Closing on the garbage bag.

DRE

Damn it!

MICKEY

Fling it all the way open.

DRE

What do you think I'm trying to do!?!

Dre picks up a garbage bag but garbage falls out onto his legs.

He gags, trying not to throw up.

18. INT. DRE AND HOLDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Holden lounges on his brand new chair from the Brolex office.

He watches Austin Powers on the TV.

HOLDEN
Mini me, you funny bastard.

Dre enters. Sweaty, clothes gross, exhausted.

Holden looks at his new digital watch.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
Do you have any idea what time it is?

DRE
Um-

HOLDEN
Because now I do!

Holden looks at his new digital watch.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
It is 11:30 at night!

DRE
I called you ten times!

HOLDEN
Oh, sorry, I decided to go dark today. Detox a bit.

Dre gives up.

DRE
Checks.

HOLDEN
Great news brother. I got the money. I got the four grand.

DRE
You didn't think to tell me?

HOLDEN
You're looking at the new
spokesperson of the Brolex digital
watch.

DRE
Digital watch?

HOLDEN
We're not gonna be unhoused dude!

DRE
(sighs)
I'm gonna take a shower. Oh, I got
another job for you.

HOLDEN
(holds his nose)
You stink bro. Like, you reek.

Dre's face drops.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
(indifferent)
What's the job?

Dre is about to talk but stops himself.

DRE
Well, get this...

19. INT. GIRLS APARTMENT - DAY

Four girls sit in a circle very excited.

LUCY
He's hot, right?

EMMA
Don't worry.

RACHEL
You're gonna love him.

LUCY
I feel so naughty!

RACHEL
You'll see. He's like the hottest
guy of all time.

LUCY
The Hgoat!

"Sun Will Always Shine" by Jesse Samuel plays abruptly.
The Girls squirm in excitement.

RACHEL
(happy)
Oh my God!

The door busts down.

It's Dre, not Holden.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
(pissed)
Oh my God.

END OF SHOW

"Sun Will Always Shine" by Jesse Samuel continues to play
over the credits.