

The set-up:

ADAM and JAMES (late 20s, best friends), reconnect over Halloween night in NYC. Adam is dressed in a toga, James in the back half of a horse costume.

EXT. NYC FINANCIAL DISTRICT - NIGHT

The first stretches of sunlight put us at about 5am.

Adam and James walk along the empty sidewalk.

ADAM

Where the hell are we?

James looks at the nearest street sign which reads "People with A.I.D.S. Plaza."

JAMES

Pretty far downtown. Like where my apartment is actually.

ADAM

Great! There's a 24 hour diner over here.

JAMES

Alright, that's it for me. I need to figure out how to get this horse costume returned. And get in touch Daniella before she breaks up with me. And find my wallet.

ADAM

Daniella sucks. Listen, you selfish bastard. This is like the closest thing we've had to having a night out in months. I'm extremely hungry. I've had a fucking horrendous night. Do you think you could find it in your heart to do me this one tiny little service of accompanying me for a bite of food to nourish my miserable soul? Who knows... maybe you'll even enjoy yourself. If you can relax for five minutes.

(beat)

Who cares about a damn wallet? I'm always losing my wallet.

JAMES

It's a twenty-four hour diner?

The come to an -

EMPTY LOT -

- and look through a fence, into a deep pit exposing the many layers of the city's subterranean strata.

ADAM

I guess it's closed.

JAMES

What street is this?

James locates a street sign but it's so inexplicably cloaked in shadow he can't read it.

ADAM

I just ate here. Like yesterday.

A pack of jovial AUSTRALIAN hooligans amble up.

AUSTRALIAN #1

Where'd the diner go mates?

ADAM

We were just investigating that same phenomena.

AUSTRALIAN #2

So much for our meat pie break. I could do with another drink.

Our boys walk with the Aussie's.

AUSTRALIAN #3

It's for the best. Their meat pies were disgusting.

ADAM

Who took the diner away? It was an institution. Doesn't anything last is this city?

AUSTRALIAN #1

That's the beauty of this city, mate. Constant flux. Constant change.

AUSTRALIAN #3

I'm down with change. Change is good.

ADAM
Change sucks.

AUSTRALIAN #2
Let's go to the after, after party.

ADAM
Did you say after, after party?

AUSTRALIAN #3
(whispers)
The password is "go with the flow".

James looks into the eyes of his dirty horse head.

JAMES
I've got to find your legs.

Australian #1 puts his arms around his shoulders.

AUSTRALIAN #1
Come'on mate. There's legs where
we're going.

AUSTRALIAN #3
And a mirrored wall covered with
greasy tit and ass prints.

JAMES
Fuck this. I'm going home.

ADAM
Listen man. I'll be honest. There's
some stuff going on with...well, I
was kind of hoping we could talk.
You know, sit down, have a drink
and actually talk.

JAMES
Fine.

ADAM
You're the best.

EXT. STAIRWELL TO AFTER-HOURS BAR - NIGHT

They descend into the pink-lit bar.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

It's a dark bar with plus-sized, exhausted-looking strippers dancing against a greasy mirrored wall. It's half empty, just a few dirty rockers and some Hasids.

They're served drinks; the Aussie pays.

ADAM

Wow, it's like Halloween in here, only this is how the girls always dress. I love the sincerity!

AUSTRALIAN #1

What's your costume meant to be anyway? Julio Caesar?

JAMES

He's a train wreck.

ADAM

Trains are for wrecking. Unlike your tight-ass, I have learned to go with the flow.

Adam wanders off.

JAMES

Come on dude, "go with the flow?" What is that, an 80's R&B song? Or a self help book?

AUSTRALIAN #1

Nah, that's Tao mate.

JAMES

Huh? I don't think he's a Taoist, more of an idiot savant maybe. What the hell is this place?

AUSTRALIAN #3

An after hours bar, mate. A good one.

JAMES

I didn't know they had those down here, in the financial district.

AUSTRALIAN #3

The best ones are here. This little grimy oven, for instance, runs into a morning thing with the Wall Street crowd.

JAMES

The Wall Street crowd is into cheap
coke and tired women?

AUSTRALIAN #3

Dude, that's the cornerstone of
your country's great economy!