Friar Tuck's. A dive bar. Ben and Ray sit at a table drinking pints. Ben is buried in his phone.

MARK
(points to a girl)
See that girl over there?

BEN
Yeah.

MARK
Go say something to her right now.

BEN
Say what?

MARK
Anything.

BEN
What if she doesn’t want me to talk to her?

MARK
She probably does.

BEN
How do you know?

MARK
Because you haven’t said anything yet.

BEN
Come on-

(Mark takes Ben’s phone from him.)

MARK
Go! You’re not getting your phone back until you interact with a real person. For your sake. Ask her something. Anything.

BEN
Like...
MARK

I don’t know. Up to you. Just go.

(Ben walks up to Random Girl.)

BEN

Excuse me.

(He sings.)

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE DINOSAUR?
NO, I MEAN IT, IS IT ONE THAT ROARS?
OR IS IT SILENT LIKE A BIG PTERADACTYL
IN THE SKY, THAT’S A FACT YOU’LL LEARN FROM WIKIPEDIA

DO YOU WANT ANOTHER BEER?
I’LL GRAB ONE FOR YOU AT THE BAR OVER HERE
IS THAT A STELLA OR A CRAFT HEFEWEIZEN BLONDE,
A DRAFT I FOUND OUT ABOUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TAKE A LOOK AT EVERYBODY IN THIS CITY
THEY ALL THINK THEY’RE INTERESTING AND PRETTY
BUT DON’T HAVE ANY DOUBTS OR FEARS
‘CAUSE YOU ARE BOTH,
SO, CHEERS.

(Embarrassed, Ben goes back to Mark.)

BEN

So dumb.

MARK

Not dumb! The problem is that you talked her face off. You gotta give people a chance to respond.

BEN

But the whole thing felt so dishonest.

MARK

Well, what would have made it honest?
BEN
If I had just said “Hi. Will you have sex with me?”

MARK
Then just say “Hi. Will you have sex with me?”

BEN
No.

(Mark points to Another Random Girl.)

MARK

(Ben goes up to Another Random Girl. He sings.)

HEY, I REALLY LIKE YOUR SHIRT
SEE, THAT’S THE ONLY WAY THAT I CAN FLIRT
I’M REALLY CLEVER BUT IT NEVER SEEMS TO FUNCTION
AND I LOSE ALL THE GUMPTION TO SAY WHAT I REALLY THINK

WHEN I’M CONFRONTED WITH A GIRL, AT A BAR
IT’S A PLACE, HERE WE ARE
AND I’M DRINKING SO I THINK I’M THINKING LIKE A MOVIE STAR
AND I’M TRYING TO CONVINCE YOU JUST TO WALK INTO MY BED
JUST BY SPEAKING FROM MY HEART
THOUGH I’M REALLY IN MY HEAD

I’M KIND OF STRANGE, I KNOW, IT’S TRUE-ISH
MAYBE I’M THIS WAY BECAUSE I’M JEWISH
AND I’M NOT THE KIND WHO WANTS TO WHINE OR TO DINE
FINE- FUCK IT-
WILL YOU HAVE SEX WITH ME?

(Disgusted, she walks away. Ben goes back to Mark, who is applauding.)
BEN
It seems to me like you’re the *expert*, Mark.

MARK
I’ve been off the market for three years, why would you listen to me?

BEN

MARK
Right. ‘Cause that’s also not humiliating.

BEN
I’ll take a shot, then.

MARK
Onward, lusty gentleman!

(Ben goes to sit at the bar a couple of seats away from JULIE, who, during the above, has made her way to the bar. Her back is to us. Ben starts eating from a bowl of beer nuts. She keeps looking over at Ben, trying to figure out something to say to him. He refuses to notice her, worried he will be humiliated again if he does. She possesses a visible insecurity similar to Ben’s. She sings.)

JULIE
HOW ‘BOUT A PEANUT?

BEN
NO.

JULIE
OH.

BEN
THEY’RE MINE.
JULIE
K FINE.

(A beat.)

BEN
YOU WANT A PEANUT?

JULIE
THAT'S KIND

BEN
KINDA STALE

JULIE
EPIC FAIL.

BEN
OH WELL.

JULIE
WHATEVER.

BEN
NEVERMIND.

JULIE
WHAT'S IT LIKE?

BEN
WHAT'S WHAT LIKE?
JULIE

TO BE A LITTLE BITCH.

BEN

I’M NOT A BITCH!

JULIE

YES YOU ARE.

BEN

NO I’M NOT!

JULIE

WELL YOU HAVEN’T EVEN LOOKED AT ME
OR ASKED ME FOR MY NAME
YOU’RE A BORE!

(A beat. He looks at her.)

BEN

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE DINOSAUR?

JULIE

WHAT’S YOURS?

BEN

I DON’T KNOW.

JULIE

WHY’D YOU ASK?

BEN

IT’S A WAY TO START A CONVERSATION.
JULIE

IT'S FEELING MORE LIKE AN INTERROGATION.

BEN

COME AGAIN?

JULIE

WHAT ABOUT ME
SAYS THAT I'M EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT
REMOTELY INTERESTED IN DINOSAURS

BEN

YOU’RE FEROCIOUS.

JULIE

THAT’S ATROCIOUS.

BEN

THIS IS DUMB!

JULIE

WE’RE SO DUMB!

BEN

WE’RE JUST TALKING ABOUT TALKING-

JULIE

LIKE WE REALLY ALWAYS KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY.

(Counterpoint begins.)
BEN

AND IT’S NOT LIKE I’M RUDELY INTERRUPTING YOU OR SOMETHING
BUT IT’S RARE TO HAVE A FASCINATING TALK ABOUT NOTHING
I’M A TOOL, YOU SEEM COOL EVEN THOUGH YOU’RE BLINDLY RAGING
IN A SENSE- WAIT- NO OFFENSE ALTHOUGH YOU’RE THOROUGHLY ENGAGING

AND ALSO NOT A PHONY
BY MAKING AN ATTEMPT TO GET TO KNOW ME
I DON’T EVEN SURE I EVEN KNOW ME
BUT NOW I KNOW YOU
I HEAR THE MOMENT KNOCKING
GOTTA WAIT ‘TIL WE STOP TALKING-

JULIE

WE’RE NOT WITTY
WHAT A PITY
NO!
COMMUNICATING’S NOW A THING WE DO ALONE IN THE CITY
BECAUSE WE ALWAYS HAVE OUR HEADS IN THE CLOUDS
AND BY CLOUDS I MEAN PHONES

I’M GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY, SEE
I’VE BEEN TOLD I COME OFF CRAZY WHICH ISN’T ACCURATE ‘CAUSE
MOST GUYS ARE JUST FULL OF SHIT
YOU’RE ON THE CUSP OF BURSTING
SO ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO SHUTUP FIRST THING OR WE COULD STOP-

(Counterpoint ends).

BOTH
-AT THE SAME TIME
(They hold the word “time” for a while before they cut off at once. An awkward silence. The lights in the bar start to come on.)

BEN

The lights are coming on.

JULIE

Just their time to, I guess.

BEN

Probably trying to kick us out early.

JULIE

Yeah. It’s a Monday. Slower.

(A beat.)

BEN

What’s your name?

JULIE

Julie.

BEN

I’m Ben.

(They do an awkward handshake. Another beat.)

BEN

So are you, uh, driving home?

JULIE

I don’t have a car. Actually I live, like, right around the corner!

BEN

Oh! Nice. I live in Noho, so I’m, probably gonna take the Metro back.

JULIE

Oh, do you want a ride?

BEN

You just said you don’t have a car.
JULIE
Oh, wha- yeah! I did! That- I just- that’s so...
    (starts laughing)
Wow. La-di-da. La-di-da.

    (Another beat.)

BEN
So, what’s your, number?

JULIE
My number? HA!

BEN
“Ha?” Why “ha?”

JULIE
(trying to embarrass him)
You don’t need my number.

BEN
But I wanna stay in touch.

JULIE
Why?

BEN
Because I like you! I’m trying to, you know, connect!

    (Makes a gesture with his hands that suggest connection)

JULIE
EW! GOD!

    (Julie gets up from the bar and heads for the door.)

BEN
Wha- what? What did I-

    (She stops and bursts into laughter. At him.)

BEN
Ok. This is officially extremely off-putting. Goodnight and good luck.
(He starts to go back to his table.)

JULIE
Wait.

(He stops.)

JULIE
(aologetically)
Do you wanna come over? Just for a drink. Like a nightcap.

BEN
You just laughed at me for asking for your number.

JULIE
Yeah, but-

BEN
And called me a “little bitch.”

JULIE
I know, I just...
(says this extremely quickly)
I get uncomfortable really easily and it’s not you it usually never is but I’m getting to the point where I wanna meet someone who’s not totally a jerk so when I meet someone who might not be totally a jerk I get nervous and when I get nervous I tend to-

BOTH
Push.

(They look at each other with a mix of apprehension, trust, and attraction.)

BEN
Look, you know, you’re cool and all, but I’m gonna take a pass tonight. I got a busy day tomorrow and I gotta get up early and sort some stuff out.

JULIE
Like figuring out what your favorite dinosaur is?

(She starts to walk offstage.)

JULIE
That’d be a nice start.

(She is off. Ben sings.)
BEN

WHAT’S MY FAVORITE DINOSAUR?
HARD TO SAY CAUSE THEY’RE NOT HERE ANYMORE
HE ISN’T GUIDED BY HIS DOUBTS OR HIS FEARS
MAYBE THAT’S HOW HE LASTED MILLIONS OF YEARS
AND DOESN’T NEED TO WAIT FOR A RESPONSE
AND NOT AFRAID TO GO GET WHAT HE WANTS
BEFORE HE DISAPPEARS
THEN IT’S TRUE
MY FAVORITE DINOSAUR
IS YOU

(He turns back to Mark. He throws him his phone back. Ben races out the door back after her.)