

RAZE - THE SERIES

EPISODE 1:1 MIDORI SOUR

Written by

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INT. BAR LOUNGE - NIGHT

A soulful lounge singer is finishing her set as the crowd is mesmerized by the performance.

The small but rowdy crowd applauds as she finishes her song.

EVA

Thank you! Thank you so much. You guys are too kind. Just please remember to tip your waitresses and bartenders. Even that asshole in the back

She points to the bar in the back of the room. A few in the audience turn to applaud Frankie, the bar owner.

Frankie -- late 20's, Tall, broad shouldered, a perfect mix of the masculine and feminine. Wearing a head wrap with a lollipop in his mouth. His facial expression is one of constant judgement and disdain.

FRANKIE

(He whispers to himself)
Bitch.

Frankie feigns interest in the applause. Waving and nodding at Eva and the audience.

He leans on the bar top as he is approached by one of the waitresses holding a tray of empty glasses.

Vanessa -- 22, Bubbly personality. Wannabe model. Some would call her an air head.

VANESSA

That guy over there has been ordering midori sours and flirting with me all night.
(She puts a cherry in her mouth)
He's cute too.

FRANKIE

Honey run as far away as you can as fast as you can.

He points to the man in question using his blowpop as his index finger.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Because any man that's ordering multiple midori sours on a Friday night has got some seriously fucked up needs. Like he wants you to be his mommy kind of shit.

Vanessa looks at Frankie confused. Then she looks down at the empty glasses on her tray.

VANESSA

Well -- he says he wants two more midori sours

(She grins playfully and hands the empty glasses to Frankie)

And he offered me \$500 to go home with him tonight.

Frankie slams the glass on the counter.

FRANKIE

Bitch is you just worth \$500? I mean seriously is that all the kitty is worth.

VANESSA

I mean its just with my rent coming up and tips not coming like I need them too I figured--

Frankie interrupts.

FRANKIE

So you figured you were just gone be a low rent hooker.

VANESSA

No no no! He said I didn't have to do nothing but keep him company.

Frankie turns around to the register and aggressively searches for the man's credit card that was given for his tab.

FRANKIE

Bitch!

(He hands Vanessa the card)

Take that man his card back. Tell him his tab is closed. Thank you and come again.

Vanessa slumps away slowly like a wounded puppy.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

(Raising his voice)

And when you're done with that go
find yourself some self respect and
common sense while you clean my
bathrooms.

Frankie walks to the corner of the bar where a drunk man is sitting disheveled and slumped over the bar top. Frankie leans on the bar top and looks out at all the patrons. Time seems to slow down as he takes inventory of every person present. Their emotions, their energy, and their very essence is as open to him as any book.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

There are some hopelessly dumb
mothafuckers in the house tonight.

(He puts his blowpop in
his mouth and pats the
drunk gentleman on the
shoulder)

But you already knew that didn't
you Red.

Red mumbles something inaudibly and flaps his hand gesturing Frankie to leave him alone. Frankie turns to walk away.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Drunk ass!

INT.-BAR --NIGHT

Frankie is wiping a cocktail glass with a rag while staring pensively at the man he has started calling "Midori Sour".

Frankie's POV -- Midori Sour sips his drink in slow motion. Everything is hazy around him. He runs his fingers through his hair and taps his pinky ring on his glass.

Woman's Voice O.S

Frankie what the hell did you do
Ness!?

Frankie is startled by the woman yelling at him as she storms to the bar. It is the other bartender Mickey.

Micki -- 34, Raven haired with a short temper. She doesn't take shit from anybody. Dressed in a black halter top and black jeans and black boots.

FRANKIE

Bitch, what you talking 'bout?

MICKI

Why is Vanessa sitting in the
bathroom sobbing while she scrubs
the toilet like goddamn Cinderella?

FRANKIE

And bitch are you her fairy
godmother?

(He turns his ear to
Mickey with sass)

I didn't think so.

Mickey walks over and pops a couple of olives in her mouth.

MICKI

I'm just trying to help her out
before she causes anymore of a
scene than she already has.

(She gestures to the
patrons)

You do have customers remember.

Frankie smacks Mickey's hand as she reaches for more olives
and closes the lid.

FRANKIE

Look ho, she was about to get mixed
up in some real bad shit with Mr.
Midori Sour over there. Shit I
don't think her little country ass
can handle.

They both lean on to the bar top and watch the man.

MICKI

What kind of shit? What do you
see?

FRANKIE

I don't know but he got some real
bad juju going on over there. Like
dark and mad and violent.

MICKEY

Well why didn't you tell Ness that
(She lifts up from the bar
top)

Instead of insulting her.

FRANKIE

Because her simple ass wouldn't
have understood it even if I told
her he was Jeffrey fucking Dahmer.

They both glance back at Midori Sour and notice Vanessa slinking back to his table and sitting in his lap.

MICKI
Well fix it because it looks like
baby girl is a glutton for
punishment.

She points to Frankie and then to the situation at the table and back to Frankie. Then walks away to help a customer.

INT. BAR, MIDORI SOUR'S TABLE -- NIGHT

Vanessa is sitting on Midori's lap running her fingers through his hair. He kisses her arm and each of her fingers. He kisses her neck and whispers something in her ear.

VANESSA
Oh you are so bad!
(She giggles)
But I can be bad too.

MIDORI
I know you can baby.
(He picks up his drink and
sips it)
Have you thought about my offer?

VANESSA
Yep. I'll go home with you on one
condition.

MIDORI
And what is that?

He looks at her pensively. There is a hint of annoyance.

VANESSA
You have to be nice to me and not
make me do anything I don't want to
do.
(She feigns thinking)
And you gotta call me your
girlfriend.

Midori kisses her hand as Frankie walks up to the table. He has a blowpop in his mouth and attitude on his face.

FRANKIE
Vanessa can I speak with you for a
moment...
(MORE)

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

(He turns his attention to
Midori)
-- in private.

VANESSA

Frankie, I'm on my break can we do
this later. I'm with my boyfriend.
(She kisses his forehead)

FRANKIE

Your boyfr--

MIDORI

(He extends his hand to
shake Frankie's)
Nice to meet you, Frankie is it? My
name's---

Frankie holds up his blowpop and stops him mid sentence.

FRANKIE

I'm just gonna keep calling you Mr.
Midori Sour. How 'bout that?

Midori and Vanessa chuckle. Midori's laughter stops as he
looks murderously at Frankie.

MIDORI

I like that. You're a pretty funny
guy Frankie.

FRANKIE

I'm alot more than that.

MIDORI

I'm sure you are.

Frankie and Midori glare at each other as the latter strokes
Vanessa's hair like she is a pet.

FRANKIE

OK. Vanessa just give me a minute.

Vanessa rolls her eyes.

VANESSA

Fine. But don't yell at me.
(She kisses Midori)
I'll be right back baby.

Frankie and Vanessa walk from the table far enough that
Midori can't hear.

FRANKIE

I thought I told you that man was bad news?

VANESSA

I know. But then he gave me \$500 cash up front.

(She pulls out cash from her bra)

He wants to take care of me and I got bills to pay.

Frankie's face drops in disbelief. He pulls the blowpop from his mouth as he tries to understand her perspective.

FRANKIE

Look I get it. You're a grown ass woman and can make your own decisions. I'm just trying to keep you from getting caught up in some shit.

VANESSA

You're right. I AM a grown woman. Which means I don't need you trying to be my daddy or my big SISTER or whatever it is you trying to be.

Frankie looks noticeably shocked.

FRANKIE

You know what?! Fuck you too bitch.

(Frankie turns to walk away)

And I hope he chokes your narrow ass out.

Vanessa walks back to Midori's table. Frankie walks back to the bar where Mickey is pouring a drink.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Well I tried.

MICKI

Did you? Did you really?

FRANKIE

I mean I started to try.

(He rolled his eyes in the direction of a now empty table where Vanessa and Midori were seated)

But then she pissed me off.

Mickey grins and shakes her head. She pours two shots.

MICKI
You know you're ridiculous right?

FRANKIE
And you know you love it.

They smile and chuckle. Mickey hands Frankie a shot to take.

MICKI
Well cheers to trying to try and
being fucking ridiculous.

INT. BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Frankie and Mickey are behind the bar cleaning glasses and settling receipts. Eva the singer walks to the bar and sits down next to Red. She is obviously disgusted by his drunkenness. She focuses on Frankie and Mickey.

EVA
Hey guys. Can I get a white wine?

MICKI
Hey sweetie. Sure thing.
(She pours and hands Eva a
glass of wine)
That last set was beautiful. That's
one of my favorites.

Frankie turns around from the register and notices a glass of wine has been poured.

FRANKIE
You see we're trying to clean up
but you just HAVE to get you some
booze in your system don't you?

MICKI
That one glass is NOT gonna keep us
here any longer than we would have
been already. Calm down.

Micki tops off Eva's glass.

MICKI (CONT'D)
So how were the tips tonight?

EVA
They were decent. A guy even
offered me a recording contract --
if I let him give me a bath.

MICKI

Ew! What the hell kinda people are you letting in here Frankie.

FRANKIE

See first of all it is not my fault that she attracts some creepy ass fans. Secondly, What's wrong with a little service from time to time.

MICKI

Nasty ass!

Frankie turns back to the register with attitude.

EVA

I'm just glad to have a steady place to perform.

MICKI

I'm just glad to hear music that's not Beyonce for once.

FRANKIE

Don't come for the queen. That's the kinda shit that will get you fired in here. Ain't that right Red?

Red grunts and falls to his side.

Frankie snatches the half empty glass of wine from Eva and shoots it. Then turns back to his business.

EVA

So tell me what is the drama of the night?

MICKI

Well, Frankie is being an asshole as usual.

EVA

Of course.

FRANKIE

Bitches.

MICKI

And Nessa has been all over some super hot weirdo all night.

EVA

Yeah. I saw them almost swallow each other earlier.

Frankie turns around back to the ladies.

FRANKIE

Where the hell is Vanessa? Her break was over 45 minutes ago.

MICKI

She's probably in the parking lot "servicing" her new man.

FRANKIE

Just classless.

They all laugh.

EVA

I can't with y'all tonight. I'm going to bathroom.

Eva runs towards the bathroom. Mickey and Frankie go back to their duties.

Moments later Eva's scream is heard from the bathroom.

EVA (CONT'D)

FRANKIE!!!

Frankie, Micki, and a couple straggling patrons run to the bathroom to see what has happened.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The group is standing over something on the bathroom floor.

MICKI

Oh my god!

EVA

I think she's dead!

A lifeless Vanessa is sprawled on the floor. Evidence of violence is present.

FRANKIE

God damn it!

(Eva buries her face in
his chest)

Bitch I tried to tell you.

FADE OUT.