

SANDWICH SHOP
"PILOT"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. PARKING LOT BEHIND PIGGY'S HOT BUNS

ANGLE ON: The only car in the parking lot.

The DISTRICT MANAGER, MARTIN HOWELL (late 40s) seen spying on PIGGY'S HOT BUNS with binoculars from his car. Sees he's being filmed. Aggressively drives away. A close up on the rear license plate is shown: MRTNMAN (Martin Man)

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. PIGGY'S HOT BUNS, ESTABLISHING SHOT - SO EARLY IN THE MORNING THE SKY IS STILL DARK

Interior lights of store turn on.

INT. PIGGY'S HOT BUNS (PHB), BACK OF THE HOUSE (BOH)

Shot of a clock hanging in the BOH, 5:00 AM flashing. The sound of cardboard boxes hitting the floor interrupts shot as camera refocuses on empty boxes being thrown out of the WALK-IN COOLER.

The GENERAL MANAGER, ARIKA MCALLISTER (early 30s) emerges, ripping tape off the bottom of a box that's almost bigger than her (marked with the name of some food product) and breaks it down. This goes on for a beat until a cellphone rings. She then notices the camera. She looks away and pulls her phone out of her pocket, making her way out of the boxes surrounding her feet.

ARIKA

(Peppy and smily)

Hello? Oh, hi Oliver!

(Smiles, said with a forced peppy voice)

Oliver, you've known me for years now, my name is pronounced air-ick-a, not air-EEK-a.

(Fake laughing)

I know, I know, it's just a joke. Very funny.

(Looking through the window of the BOH door)

Yeah, it is a dark morning.

(Still peppy, but slight annoyed tone)

Yep, I do have that full-visit with Martin today.

(Rubbing her forehead)

Uh huh. Yes, I do have one of the biggest catering orders of the year today. For the university, their big freshman orientation.

(Not even faking it anymore, obviously annoyed, looks at the camera)

Yep, and thank you for reminding me, I do have a new trainee coming in today as well.

(MORE)

ARIKA (CONT'D)
 And it was indeed a truck day.
 Nothing gets past you, Oliver.
 (Resumes being peppy)
 Speaking of truck day, I'm gonna
 need to swing by, they shorted me
 on salami and meatballs.
 (Back to annoyed after
 hearing what was
 certainly a dick joke)
 Ha ha, good one. I'll see you in a
 few hours.

Arika hangs up and turns to look at the pile of boxes. She stands maybe at five feet tall. She practically swims her way through the boxes and goes back into the walk-in cooler. Moments later, more empty boxes are catapulted out.

INT. DINING ROOM - ARIKA TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

ARIKA
 My name is Arika McAllister. I have
 been with PIGGY'S HOT BUNS for
 about two years now. I started out
 as an ASSISTANT MANAGER at our
 DOWNTOWN location, before this
 CAMPUS shop was even built. I was
 what they'd call an EXTERNAL HIRE.
 The guy on the phone earlier?
 (Playfully rolls her eyes)
 Yeah, that was Oliver. He's the
 GENERAL MANAGER of the downtown
 store,
 (Beat)
 And my former boss. He's harmless,
 really. Just a big jokester if
 anything. Taught me everything I
 know! Can you believe all the other
 general managers in the district
 are men?!

ARIKA (V.O.)
 I've been running this store for
 the past year now. It's the newest
 in the district. I have a great
 crew, you'll meet them all soon.

Montage of shots of Arika trying to adjust a crooked picture of the staff that's way too high for her to reach. She eventually fixes it, and turns to the camera enthusiastically. She's cringe but charming. The picture slides back to being crooked after a beat.

ARIKA (RESUME TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW)
 (Fake humility as if she
 hasn't perfectly
 practiced the answer to
 this question)

My favorite sandwich? Probably the
 chicken salad. What's great about
 it is it's such a simple recipe.
 Mayo, chicken, salt, pepper, and
 pre-diced celery. It's great, and
 just like all our other sandwiches,
 it's served on a hot bun! Just like
 the sign, see?!

Arika points up as the camera zooms in to a "hand-painted"
 sign hanging in the dining room above her, among other
 "vintage memorabilia" that reads: You'll love our hot buns,
 guaranteed!

INT. BOH OFFICE AREA

Shot of time from the computer screen, 6:27 AM. Arika shown
 sitting at the desk doing paperwork. Store phone rings. Arika
 picks it up intuitively without breaking her gaze from her
 paperwork.

(Very peppy)
 ThankyouforcallingPiggy'sHotBuns,
 this is Arika, howmayIhelpyou?
 (Goes back to normal tone)
 Oh, hey Luke. Kay, be right there.

Arika jumps out of her chair that is actually more of a bar
 stool.

ARIKA
 (To camera)
 Just one sec, gotta let Luke in.

Arika walks out of the office area. Moments later the FOOD
 PREPPER, LUKE (19), a tall, lanky teenager walks in and over
 to the food prep table. Headphones covering his ears, his
 music is so loud we can hear it. Arika comes in behind him.

ARIKA (CONT'D)
 So Luke, we have that big order for
 the university today,

Luke is clearly not listening, or even paying any attention
 to Arika.

ARIKA (CONT'D)
 (Speaks up, trying to be
 more assertive)
 So I've upped your prep list quite
 a bit. Make sure you're weighing
 everything.
 (To camera, pointing at
 Luke)
 He's just really focused.

LUKE
 (Takes headphones off one
 ear)
 What?

ARIKA
 (Pats him on back)
 Alright, get a-slicin!

Arika practically skips back into the office area, while Luke gives the camera an annoyed look.

INT. DINING ROOM - LUKE TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

Luke looks into the camera with very little enthusiasm, headphones around his neck.

LUKE
 Arika's a pretty chill manager. I
 actually got hired by the manager
 before her, Dwayne. He said he
 hired me because of the socks I was
 wearing.
 (Perks up)
 I'm wearing them now! Check these
 bad lads out.

Camera pans down to show him revealing his long tube socks that say BEER PONG CHAMP along the sides.

INT. BOH FOOD PREP AREA

LUKE (V.O.)
 I used to work at Subway. It was a
 lot easier because we literally
 didn't have to cut a damn thing.

Close on pepper jack cheese slices falling from the slicer.

LUKE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Everything was pre-sliced. Some of
 our stuff here is, but not the main
 items.

(MORE)

LUKE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Outta salami at Subway though? No
 problem. Just run into the cooler
 and cut open a box. Easy peasy
 mothalicka.

Camera pulls out to reveal Luke standing at the slicer, shirt
 untucked, no belt, headphones on. He's working autonomously
 as he sings along to his music in an unusual falsetto voice
 that isn't awful, surprisingly (It's All Coming Back To Me
 Now by Celine Dion is playing into his headphones based on
 what he's singing.)

LUKE (RESUME TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW) (CONT'D)
 Here though? We slice all that
 shit. Cheeses, veggies, meats.
 Somethin' about better quality or
 some shit. I'm in charge of slicing
 everything to all our specs to
 (Finger quotes)
 Avoid unnecessary waste, I guess.
 But using the scale is so annoying.
 Totally throws off my groove. So I
 just tell Arika I use it,

LUKE (V.O.)
 Sometimes I keep the same piece of
 meat on there the whole morning.

Shot of some sliced turkey sitting on the scale while Arika
 walks by.

ARIKA
 (To camera, pointing at
 Luke, mouthing)
 He's such a hard worker!

LUKE (RESUME TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW)
 She never questions it.
 (Beat)
 What's my favorite sandwich? Dude,
 anything covered in barbeque sauce,
 that shit is tight.

INT. SERVICE LINE

Camera zoomed in on 7:00 AM sharp on the cash register
 screen. Slowly zooms out to reveal the ASSISTANT MANAGER,
 GAVIN (mid 20s) clocking in, wearing correct uniform, in
 contrast to Luke.

Luke emerges from the BOH holding bags of freshly sliced
 meat, headphones around his neck. Gavin notices him.

GAVIN

Luke, where's your belt?

Luke looks at the camera, then at Gavin, and walks back into the BOH. Gavin shakes his head.

ARIKA

(Very energetic, talking quickly as she walks from BOH, never letting Gavin get a word in)

Gavin! My man! So glad you're here. Listen, we've got a busy day ahead of us, so I hope you're ready!

(She continues talking nonstop and eventually leaves. The camera focuses on Gavin's face as he looks into the camera helplessly)

INT. DINING ROOM - GAVIN TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

GAVIN

Ya know, I wish I could say it was out of character for Arika to just run off like that, but ya get used to it. It is really important that she get downtown asap though, since we have that big order today. I actually used to go to this university, but to get the assistant manager promotion, I had to take a year off school so I could focus on my training. And that was two years ago. Working full-time and being a student full-time is almost near impossible. When I was going to school though, I actually was studying graphic design. I still try to practice it with these little paper tags we have to wear whenever corporate wants us to promote new sandwiches. Also, Arika lets me decorate our chalkboards. Buuut, I don't get paid for it, I have to take it home or do it off the clock.

(Said with excitement)

On the bright side, I got five hours of sleep last night.

(Beat)

Usually I get four.

(MORE)

GAVIN (CONT'D)

(Clears throat)

Anyway, nothing really happens around here, so y'all picked an eventful day to start filming. Hopefully the new trainee won't be lame. Haven't heard much about who it is though.

(Beat)

My favorite sandwich? Well, a month ago I'd say our chicken sandwich with bacon and lots of ranch. But my girlfriend, Lorelei, wants us to try being vegan together.

INT. DINING ROOM

GAVIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

So I've been trying to eat more salads. None of our dressings here are vegan though.

Gavin seen eating a salad with no dressing. Takes a bite and looks dissatisfied. Looks around to see if anyone is watching. (Beat) Pulls a small bottle of ranch out of his pocket and pours the entire thing on his salad. He dumps whatever is left in the bottle directly into his mouth, patting the bottom to not miss a drop.

INT. DINING ROOM - GAVIN TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

GAVIN (CONT'D)

It's been a struggle. But, it makes Lorelei happy, so I guess it's worth it. Giving up ranch completely is immoral though.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. PHB - DOWNTOWN LOCATION**

Outside of building looks more industrial than the Campus shop. Arika drives into frame and is seen parallel parking her car and entering through the front door.

INT. PHB - DOWNTOWN LOCATION DINING ROOM

Ceiling to floor windows make up the majority of the wall space. The same "hand-painted" sign shown at the campus store (You'll love our hot buns, guaranteed!) is seen hanging on the wall. Employees can be seen diligently working on the service line, almost robotic and synchronized, all in the correct uniform. Camera follows Arika into the BOH.

INT. DOWNTOWN LOCATION BOH

This BOH is laid out drastically different than the campus store. As soon as you enter you're in the office area, 8:00 AM can be seen flashing on the clock. From the office area, the BOH branches into three different directions. Straight on leading to the dish and mop sinks, the right leading to the walk-in cooler, and the left leading to a door that opens up to the service line.

The DOWNTOWN GENERAL MANAGER, OLIVER OLIVERY III (late 30s/early 40s) is seen sitting at the computer. After hearing the door shut behind Arika, he turns around.

OLIVER

(Loud, pompous)

There she is, AIR-EEEEEEKA!

(Laughing heartily,
roughly patting her on
the shoulder, so hard
that she stumbles a bit)

ARIKA

(Nervously laughs,
composing herself)

Very funny, Oliver. But just Arika
is fine.

OLIVER

Right, right. So anyway Areeka, you
ready for your full visit today?
Rumor has it someone's getting
fired. And my bet's on you.

ARIKA

Well thank you for your words of encouragement, but I can assure you, my staff and store are ready for Martin.

OLIVER

Your staff, huh?

ARIKA

(She gives him a look)
Oliver.

OLIVER

In all seriousness, I'm happy you think so. Ignorance is bliss, after all.

(Cracking himself up)

But anyway, let's get your salami stick and balls so you can get out of my store, right?!

Arika fake smiles and laughs, but looks into the camera annoyed and somewhat stressed out.

INT. DOWNTOWN LOCATION DINING ROOM - OLIVER TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

OLIVER

What can I say about little Areeka? Well, although she has quite the rack, she just sucks at her job, man. But me? I know what I'm doing. I never let anything fall out of line. But Areeka, she's quite the pistol. Never wanting to take my advice. Couldn't imagine why. My ex wife was the same way. But my four boys, all the spitting image of their old man.

(Beat)

My favorite sandwich? A roast beef with triple meat. No cheese. Lots of red onion and mayo.

INT. CAMPUS LOCATION SERVICE LINE

Gavin works on getting the service line set up. 9:30 AM can be seen on a small clock on the service line. Premade cinnamon buns are being baked through a conveyer belt oven.

The NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER TRAINEE, MOLLIE (mid 20s) enters the store from the front entrance. Very attractive and put together. Immediately catches Gavin's attention.

MOLLIE
 (Genuinely happy and smiley)
 Hi, I'm Mollie! Arika's supposed to be training me to be an assistant manager. You're Gavin, right? It's great to meet you!
 (Extends her hand for a handshake)

Camera pans over to Luke in the background, his jaw dropped.

GAVIN
 (stumbling on his words, returning her handshake)
 Y-you're the new trainee?

MOLLIE
 Mhmmm! Is now a bad time?

GAVIN
 (Still shaking her hand)
 Uh no, not at all. And yeah, I'm Gavin.

Mollie giggles nervously and looks down, Gavin hasn't let go of her hand.

GAVIN (CONT'D)
 (Realizing he hasn't let go, tries to recover)
 Ah - I'll show you around. Arika should be back soon.

INT. DINING ROOM - MOLLIE TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

MOLLIE
 (Very full of life, has an infectious smile and charming laugh)
 Today's my first day at this store! I've heard lots about it, but it's a lot bigger than what people say. So some things about me. Well, I'm actually from Michigan. I moved here with my boyfriend of three years and six months, Neil.
 (MORE)

MOLLIE (CONT'D)

He actually drove me here today because he didn't want me to get lost. He's so sweet in that way. I'm actually from the farthest store in the district, it's about an hour from here without traffic. Anyway, I used to be in school for pre-med, but that wasn't really my vibe. I'm not really sure what to do as far as school goes now, but I'll figure it out. Maybe I'll get into my marine biology era, or maybe nutrition?

(Starts daydreaming)

Oh sorry. My favorite sandwich? Actually, I'm not sure if I'm *allowed* to say this. But, I haven't ever eaten our food. I have celiac disease, so I can't eat anything made with wheat flour. I'm also really big into clean eating and organic foods, and avoiding seed oils. Unfortunately, Piggy's food doesn't really fall under those categories.

(Realizing how bad that just sounded, tries to pivot)

But enough about that! The crew here seems to be really nice. Gavin was very welcoming. I've heard a lot of good things about him from phone calls I've had with Arika.

INT. DINING ROOM - LUKE TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

This is the most enthusiastic we've seen Luke. He gets down on his knees and makes an overdramatized praying gesture to the 'Piggy's Hot Buns' gods for sending Mollie to this store.

INT. DINING ROOM - GAVIN TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

Gavin shuffles around uncomfortably. Clears his throat. Shrugs his shoulders. Trying to hide his attraction to Mollie.

INT. SERVICE LINE

10:00 AM can be seen on the service line clock. Gavin is inputting an order into the catering system on the cash register. The phone next to the register starts ringing.

Gavin answers. The CATERING MANAGER, RILEY (20) can be heard on the other end.

RILEY

(On phone, not seen)

Ayy, Gavin. I'm running a little late, but I'll be there soon.

GAVIN

(Trying to play it cool,
but slightly annoyed)

Alright, sounds good to see you when you get here.

Gavin continues to plug in the order on the register. Suddenly a terrible mechanical noise from up above is heard. The air conditioner died. Steady streams of water begin to trickle down from the ceiling overhead, the service line has now become a rainforest.

Arika walks in the front entrance with the product from downtown.

ARIKA

(Noticing the water
steadily falling from the
ceiling)

You have GOT to be effing kidding me.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. BOH OFFICE AREA**

Buckets scattered all throughout the store catching water. Everyone red in the face and sweating. Luke uses his hat as a fan.

The DAY SHIFT MANAGER, SELENA (20) enters office from dining room. Gavin seen typing up a service request for maintenance for the AC.

SELENA

(Double checking schedule
posted in the back)
My shift started at 11 right?
(Gesturing to buckets)
And when the hell did we become
more energy efficient?

GAVIN

(Not breaking focus from
computer screen)
Yeah, you're good. And about an
hour ago. I'm trying to get it
fixed now but the internet's not
letting my service request go
through.

SELENA

(Said while grabbing an
apron and walking off
screen in the direction
of the service line,
sarcastically)
What else could go wrong today?

INT. DINING ROOM - SELENA TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

SELENA

(Gets more and more
annoyed as she keeps
talking)
This is actually my first and only
job. I started working with the
company when I was 16 on weekends.
Never called off. I'm probably one
of the only managers that has
worked their way up from an
associate. Most are external hires.
(MORE)

SELENA (CONT'D)

And the thing with external hires is they don't know every aspect of their job, really. Like Gavin. He was hired in as a shift leader, so he doesn't know what I know. I also sometimes get stuck doing truck orders, which is *supposed to be* an assistant manager and up task. Out of anyone in this district, I've actually been with the company the longest. I'm also a student, but they really like scheduling and calling me in during class. Mostly to cover for our catering manager, Riley.

(Beat)

My favorite sandwich? Probably the veggie. It has hummus and feta cheese, and I put literally every vegetable we have on it.

(Beat)

Lunch meat scares me.

INT. SERVICE LINE

Clock shown flashing 11:46 AM. Arika is continuing to show Mollie around. The team is trying to put together the large catering order.

ARIKA

(Gesturing to each person
as they work on other
tasks or walk by)

Alriiiiight Miss Mollie, this is the daytime crew! You already know Gavin and Luke.

Gavin shyly nods at Mollie as he's building sandwiches for the large order and passing them to Luke to load onto the conveyer belt oven for toasting. Luke gets distracted checking Mollie out as she walks by and drops a sandwich on the ground. Gavin elbows him.

ARIKA (CONT'D)

And thennn we have Brad, Leah, and Grace.

DAY SHIFT "SANDWICH ARTISTS" BRAD (21) and LEAH (16) seen putting toppings on sandwiches that are coming out of the oven, for both the order and for customers in-line. DAY SHIFT CASHIER, GRACE (late 40s) seen cashing out some customers.

ARIKA (CONT'D)
And last but not least...

SELENA
(Urgently walking up to
Arika)
Arika!

ARIKA
Selena. What's up buttercup?

SELENA
(Interrupts Arika before
she finishes her
sentence, very frantic
and stressed)
I know there's a lot going on right
now, but where the hell is Riley?!
I can't be shift manager AND
catering manager. This order needed
to be out ten minutes ago, and
we're STILL putting it together!

ARIKA
(With full confidence)
Selena, I'm sure Riley will be here
any second and has a perfectly good
reason for being late. He would
never leave us hanging, he knows we
have this order today.

Just then, like magic, the phone rings once. Arika answers it
reflexively. Could it be?

ARIKA (CONT'D)
(On phone, peppy)
ThankyouforcallingPiggy'sHotBuns,
this is Arika, howmayIhelpyou?
(Beat)
Oh hey, Riley!
(Points to phone and
mouths to Selena)
It's Riley.

Selena rolls her eyes, Mollie winces as she witnesses this
exchange.

ARIKA (CONT'D)
You won't be able to come in at all
today?

Selena shown getting more frustrated.

ARIKA (CONT'D)
(Avoids looking at Selena)
Um, okay. Well, see you tomorrow.
Yep, bye.

Arika attempts to hang up the phone as smoothly as she answered it, but misses and struggles. She eventually gets it and awkwardly clears her throat, still avoiding Selena's gaze.

SELENA
(Obviously pissed off and
frazzled)
So he can just call off, just like
that?! He KNEW this order was today
Arika! Why would he do this to us?!
Shit!

ARIKA
(Trying to be assertive,
but comforting)
Hey now, there will be none of that
vulgar language in this shop.

The sound of a large metal pan hitting the floor offscreen.

LUKE (OFFSCREEN)
(Yelling)
FUCK!

ARIKA
(Clears her throat)
I know this sucks, but you're great
and our sandwiches are great, and
I'd LOVE to help, but I really need
to be somewhere that isn't here.
(Pats Selena on back and
walks off screen, Selena
left with her mouth wide
open)

MOLLIE
(Approaches Selena, trying
to be positive and
helpful)
Hey, I can help you out! Our
catering manager used to call off
all the time too and I'd get stuck
with it. Just tell me whatcha need
and I'm on it!

SELENA
 (Still frustrated, rolls
 her eyes and walks away
 from Mollie)

INT. SERVICE LINE

Very fast paced, lots of cuts of different actions:
 interacting with customers at different stations, everyone
 talking over each other that nothing distinct as far as
 dialogue can be made out, live acoustic music playing in the
 background. 12:17 PM seen on a small clock located on the
 wall behind the service line. The order that was due for
 12:00 PM can still be seen being made.

Phone rings. Selena looks over at it, annoyed, already
 knowing it's the DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY.

SELENA
 (Tries to compose herself
 before answering, takes a
 deep breath and picks up
 the phone)
 Thank you for calling Piggy's Hot
 Buns, this is Selena, how can I
 help you?
 (Beat)
 Oh, hello. Your order? Yes, I know
 it was due at 12:00 PM.
 (Beat)
 Actually, our delivery driver JUST
 left with the order.

Camera pans over to the order that is still clearly being put
 together, then back to Selena.

Right in the middle of the chaos, the man seen in the COLD
 OPEN, Martin Howell, quickly walks in. Holding his hands up
 as he walks by the camera as if they are unwanted paparazzi.

Camera stays on the service line, but pans with Martin as he
 walks into the BOH. Through the clear window on the door
 separating the service line and the BOH, Martin is seen
 checking if anyone is around. He takes an envelope out of his
 jacket pocket and stuffs it underneath a box of salt and
 vinegar chips that wasn't put away from the truck this
 morning.

Quick pan back to Selena.

SELENA (CONT'D)
 (Still on phone, almost on
 the verge of tears)
 Yes, it is unacceptable. I would be
 more than willing to comp your
 entire order.

Selena brings up the order on the cash register screen,
 camera zooms in on the total: \$1000.

INT. DINING ROOM

Arika and Martin are seated across from each other. Arika
 uncomfortably shuffles in her seat, embarrassed from the shit
 show around her, but Martin is not phased.

MARTIN
 (Very to the point and
 blunt)
 Arika, I know your shop hasn't been
 doing the best. Maybe that's on the
 economy. Or maybe that's on you.

Arika looks at the camera with confusion, then back at Martin
 who is either unaware or doesn't care at how offensive he is.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
 But, I think you'll be pleased to
 know that there are going to be
 some drastic changes coming in the
 very near future.
 (Martin laughs heartily)

ARIKA
 (Fake laughing with him)
 What kind of changes, sir?

MARTIN
 (Takes a bite of his hot
 bun sandwich and
 continues to talk while
 chewing)
 I cannot disclose that information.
 But just know that you have done
 everything you can. And even when I
 didn't believe in you, you
 continued to somehow believe in
 you. Which is admirable, I guess.
 (Beat)
 Or pathetic. Whichever you prefer.

Arika swallows hard. She's definitely certain she's going to get fired. Just as she goes to defend herself, police cars swarm around the exterior of the shop.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(Stands up)

Ah, right on time. I've gotta tell ya, our hot buns make for one tasty last meal.

(Takes off his suit jacket)

I won't be needing this where I'm going.

(Places jacket on the back of the chair where he was sitting)

Four cops bust into Piggy's, clearly disrupting lunch. The musician abruptly stops playing. They come directly for Martin, who is completely calm. Arika stands in disbelief as Martin is willingly taken away in handcuffs.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SERVICE LINE/DINING ROOM

Camera shows Arika in the BOH on the phone through the window in the door of the service line.

Quick pan to Selena who is in the middle of an interview with a POTENTIAL NEW HIRE at a table in the dining room.

ANGLE ON SERVICE LINE: Brad, Leah, and Grace. Grace seen lounging on her cash register while Brad and Leah work semi-diligently, cleaning out sandwich stations and sweeping the floor. Dodging buckets of water from the still-leaking ceiling. They're gossiping about Martin's arrest.

BRAD

I heard Martin was in charge of a huge drug cartel in Mexico.

GRACE

Maybe he was a pimp and one of his girls ratted on him.

LEAH

I overheard Arika saying he was taking customers' credit card information to pay for a Swedish hair transplant.

They all ponder it.

BRAD

Yeah, I could see it.

Quick pan back over to Selena, asking interview questions to a male teenager.

SELENA

So on your application, it says you don't have any previous work experience. Why do you think you'd be qualified to work at Piggy's?

APPLICANT

Y'all get free food if you work here, right?

Selena looks into the camera with a 'why do I even try' expression, when the phone rings.

SELENA
 (To applicant)
 Sorry, you mind if I grab this?

APPLICANT
 Nah.

SELENA
 (Walking over to phone)
 Great, thanks.
 (Under breath)
 Thank god.
 (On phone)
 Thank you for calling Piggy's Hot
 Buns, how can I help you?
 (Angry customer can be
 heard shouting on the
 other line, but no actual
 dialogue can be made out)
 I'm really sorry that you didn't
 like our service, what happened
 exactly?
 (Beat)
 You didn't get lettuce and tomato
 on your BLT? Did you ask for
 lettuce and tomato when they asked
 you what else you'd like on your
 sandwich?
 (Beat)
 Well, our workers are actually
 trained to not put anything on the
 sandwich unless the customer tells
 them to. Everything is
 customizable.
 (Customer shouting gets
 louder and more
 aggressive)
 Yes, I'm aware that lettuce and
 tomato are in the name of a BLT.
 (Line 2 of the phone
 starts to ring)
 I'm sorry sir, can I put you on
 hold really quick? Thanks.
 (Clicks line 2)
 ThankyouforcallingPiggy'sHotBuns,
 thisisSelena, howmayIhelpyou?
 (Rolls her eyes)
 You're calling about the status of
 your application?

INT. DINING ROOM - SELENA TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

SELENA

(Frazzled, barely keeping
it together)

One word to describe my job?
Demanding. But it's fine. Anything
for the customers, right? Even if
they treat you like you don't know
how to do the job you've had for
four years, right?

INT. BOH OFFICE AREA

Arika still on a conference call with the REGIONAL MANAGER,
STACEY FARBUS (mid 40s), and other GENERAL MANAGERS from the
district. An online article about Martin's arrest can be seen
on the computer screen, with a picture of Martin titled "THIS
PIG'S BUNS ARE TOASTED".

STACEY (ON PHONE)

So what exactly happened, Arika?

ARIKA

(Walking around the BOH
while on phone, putting
leftover boxes of chips
and utensils from the
truck that never got put
away onto wire shelves)

Well, he came in for what I thought
was our full visit. We were just
sitting in the dining room. He made
it sound like I wasn't doing very
well with the shop and all, and the
next thing I knew he was in
handcuffs.

OLIVER (ON PHONE)

Heh, kinky.

STACEY (ON PHONE)

Really, Oliver? We have a situation
on our hands and you find this a
good time to be a pervert? We just
had a very public arrest of our
District Manager in one of our
fairly new stores. Damage control
must be done.

OLIVER (ON PHONE)

I couldn't agree with you more,
Stacey.

(MORE)

OLIVER (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
 And may I say, your voice sounds
 extra beautiful and assertive
 today?

Oliver continues to be a kiss-ass and Arika rolls her eyes, tuning him out. She lifts up a box of salt and vinegar chips and finds the envelope Martin hid earlier, 'ARIKA' crudely scribbled on the front. She opens it and finds a handwritten letter inside, titled 'HOW TO NOT SUCK AT RUNNING THE DISTRICT'. Arika snaps back to reality.

OLIVER (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
 It's time for *someone* who has
 been so very loyal to this company
 to move up, and take on the
 responsibility, and honor of being
 District Manager.

STACEY (ON PHONE)
 I couldn't agree more, Oliver. So
 I'm sure you'll be happy to know,
 that the rest of us here at
 corporate would like to hand the
 position over to Arika.

Arika drops the note from Martin. She's speechless.

OLIVER (ON PHONE)
 What.

STACEY (ON PHONE)
 Arika, do you accept? I'm sorry
 this couldn't be in person.

OLIVER (ON PHONE)
 Stacey, do you really think Aree- I
 mean, Arika is ready for this?

ARIKA
 Yes, absolutely! I accept!

INT. DINING ROOM

Arika seen reading the note while eating a sandwich. The service line can be seen from this spot in the dining room. The CLOSING SHIFT "SANDWICH ARTIST", MILES (20), is shown working on tasks.

GAVIN
 Arika!

ARIKA
 (Clumsily hides the note)
 Yeah, Gavin?

GAVIN
 Dallas just called off, we need a
 manager to close tonight.

ARIKA
 Have you tried calling Hana? C'mon,
 Gavin. You should really know what
 to do when things like this happen.
 I'm kinda busy here.

Gavin walks away, annoyed. Arika waits a bit before pulling
 out the note and continuing to read.

GAVIN (OFFSCREEN)
 (Loudly)
 HANA SAID NO.

ARIKA
 (Without looking up, still
 reading, in a sing-song
 voice)
 Then you're closing!

INT. DINING ROOM - ARIKA TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

ARIKA
 What can I say about my shift
 managers? Well, Selena is very hard
 working, but she also takes things
 wayyy too seriously. Girl needs to
 chill, ya know what I'm sayin? But
 Dallas and Hana?

ARIKA (V.O.)
 Well, Hana is SUCH a sweetheart.
 She takes care of her grandmother
 and she is SUCH a dedicated worker.
 She just turned 21 last month, but
 she didn't want us to take her out,
 which I think is SO mature of her.
 I actually awarded her 'Employee of
 the Month' for the third time this
 year.

Shows clips of SHIFT MANAGERS HANA (21) and DALLAS (mid 20's)
 working during Arika's voice over.

Hana is super friendly with customers, but whenever no one's in the shop, she plays around on her phone and watches TikTok. Occasionally pulling a flask from her pocket and taking a quick drink.

ARIKA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Dallas, on the other hand, is not always on his A-game. I think he has a drinking problem. Always on his phone, never completes his tasks. Hana ALWAYS has to pick up his slack, and she NEVER complains.

Dallas works continuously, but walks away before Arika can see he did anything. Immediately Hana stands where he was and pretends to look as if she was working on whatever he just finished. Arika nods at her proudly. When Arika walks away, Hana goes back to her phone to watch TikToks.

ARIKA (RESUME TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW) (CONT'D)

I really admire her.

INT. DINING ROOM - GAVIN TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

Gavin shakes his head 'no' to the descriptions of Hana and Dallas. He's aware of the truth, but Arika is oblivious.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. BOH OFFICE AREA**

5:45 PM can be seen on the clock in the background. Soft crying is heard before the camera reveals Mollie, sitting in the office chair holding a box of tissues. Her hat sitting on the desk next to her. She realizes the camera's on her after a few moments and tries to fix herself up, quickly wiping her eyes.

Gavin enters from the dining room to office area, noticing Mollie.

MOLLIE

(Notices Gavin, stands up,
trying to pack her
things)

Sorry, I know I should be gone by
now.

GAVIN

(Showing genuine concern)

No, no, you're fine. Are you okay?
What's going on?

MOLLIE

(Sits back down,
immediately crumbles,
almost unintelligible)

Oh, um. It's just, at my old store,
I felt really confident in my
position, ya know? I felt like I
was a great coach and like I was in
control.

Gavin hands her a tissue.

MOLLIE (CONT'D)

(More composed)

Thanks. I guess after everything
going wrong today, I'm just not
sure if I'm fit to be an assistant
manager. Maybe I should just stay a
shift manager and go back to my old
store.

GAVIN

No you can't go back!

(Catches himself)

I mean, look, you have a passion
for this job.

(MORE)

GAVIN (CONT'D)
 And that spark gets lost far too
 often during these types of
 promotions. Arika really sees
 something in you, and
 (Hesitates, looks at the
 camera, then to the
 floor)
 I do too.

Mollie begins to blush. Their eyes catch a little too long.

GAVIN (CONT'D)
 (Clears his throat)
 Anyway, I know today was kind of
 rough. New store, new team, and
 anything that could go wrong has.
 But that doesn't mean it'll always
 be this way. You'll find your place
 here.

MOLLIE
 Thank you, Gavin. I really feel
 better. Who knows, maybe I'll like
 this shop so much, I won't even
 want to go back to my home shop.
 (Laughs)

GAVIN
 (Fake laughter because he
 doesn't want her to go
 back)
 Right, wouldn't that be
 (Cut off by Mollie
 embracing him)
 Crazy...

Gavin looks at the camera, surprised, but looks away when he
 feels himself blushing again. At first not reciprocating her
 embrace, but eventually he does. (Beat) The lights flicker,
 Gavin and Mollie look up while still holding each other, and
 the power goes out. Screen goes black.

ARIKA (OFFSCREEN)
 SHIT.

EXT. PHB BACK ENTRANCE

MOLLIE (V.O.)
 Overall an okay day, my new
 coworkers are really awesome.

Mollie seen exiting the building and getting into a large
 truck.

MOLLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I think I'm gonna love it here.

The driver is her boyfriend, NEIL (late 20s), who is muscular and has a large build, complete opposite of Gavin. We see Mollie go in for a kiss, but gets rejected by her boyfriend who seems annoyed. Tires squeal as he aggressively drives past the camera.

INT. BOH STORAGE AREA

Completely dark, until the light of Arika and Gavin's phones appear. Trying to figure out the fuse box, neither of them seem to have a clue. Their height difference is comical. 6:00 PM can be seen on one of their phone screens.

ARIKA
Welp, I guess the only thing that can be done is transferring all of the product downtown so it doesn't go bad.

GAVIN
Yeah, I guess so.

ARIKA
(Said quickly before he can get a word in)
Soooo I'm gonna go, ya know, big first day tomorrow as the new DM and all! I'll call Oliver on my way home to let him know you're coming to drop everything off. Oh! And make sure you send the service request to get the AC fixed! Have a good night!

We hear Arika pat Gavin encouragingly on the back and quickly leave, scurrying out of frame. Still illuminated by the flashlight of his phone, Gavin looks at the camera with a 'what the fuck just happened?' expression.

EXT. PIGGY'S HOT BUNS

Sky slowing turning dark. Street lights begin to flicker on. Interior of PHB pitch black other than a stream of light coming from a flashlight. 7:00 PM can be seen on the clock tower in the distance.

Gavin emerges from the store, loading product into his car that's parked out front, which is definitely too small for the job. Miles following behind him, also carrying boxes of product.

EXT. PIGGY'S HOT BUNS - GAVIN TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

Miles can be seen in the background, leaning on a wall, vaping.

GAVIN

(Passive aggressively)

I have to load everything in my car, about \$3,000 worth of product, and drive 20 minutes to our downtown store so it doesn't spoil. Doing this alone, will probably take me until 10ish after all the driving back and forth. The only other people with cars would have gotten a few hours of overtime for the week if they came to help. Which corporate is highly against. Buuut since I'm salaried, it's fine, and encouraged if I work over 40 hours a week, that I don't get paid extra for. Rather than giving the hours to someone that actually needs them. Or paying me more.

(Deep breath)

GAVIN (V.O.)

(A bit calmer)

Miles is gonna stay in the shop and help me load things into my car with each trip I make, but other than that he can't really help since he doesn't have a car. So much for closing early.

Montage shots of Gavin and Miles trying to tetris boxes of food into Gavin's way too small car. Some boxes fall out of the car onto the ground, spilling food everywhere, or are just accidentally dropped by Miles. A large gallon of ranch falls and cracks open on the pavement. Gavin, visibly distraught, sheds one tear in mourning.

GAVIN (RESUME TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW)

(Getting annoyed again)

And I open tomorrow on top of it.

(Remembers)

And still need to submit that request to get the AC fixed.

EXT. PIGGY'S HOT BUNS

Close on the wooden 'OPEN' sign hanging in the window. Gavin seen flipping it to 'CLOSED'.

GAVIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But ya know, just another day at
Piggy's.

END PILOT