

**RED TAPE**

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INT. BAR - NIGHT

CUSTOMERS scan their small, sleek, CHROME BRACELETS over a sensor in the wall. A light blinks green as the crowd enters through a large revolving door.

LARRY LARSON, early thirties, under-dressed, scans his bracelet to enter. He confidently motions forward - but the revolving door doesn't open for him. Larry scans his bracelet again. He notices a sensor above the door blinking red.

Larry gives the door a few weak pushes, it still won't let him pass. He spots a large group about to enter the bar. Larry manages to squeeze through with them.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

PATRONS are packed in like cattle. Unnecessarily loud DANCE MUSIC blares in the background. Bright neon strobe lights reflect off the cold metallic floor.

Larry approaches an automated

DRINK DESPISER

He watches a woman in front of him scan her bracelet. The machine dispenses her beverage.

Larry moves forward, scans his bracelet. The machine doesn't respond. Larry tries it again; he notices a red light flash in the corner of the machine.

Larry looks behind him - at least a dozen annoyed people are waiting for their drinks.

BILL, early thirties sharply dressed, approaches Larry.

BILL  
There you are.

LARRY  
My bracelet isn't working.

Larry scans his bracelet once more - still nothing.

BILL  
Here, use mine.

Bill quickly scans his bracelet through the sensor.

The machine pours him a glass of beer.

DRINK DISPENSER

(woman's voice)

This is your fifth alcoholic beverage tonight Mr. Jones. Please drink responsibly.

BILL

Glad somebody's counting.

Bill hands the beer to Larry. They walk to a nearby

BOOTH

JASON and HAROLD, two business types in their late twenties, are busy chatting. They slide over as Bill and Larry take a seat.

JASON

(to Larry)

Hey, there he is. We thought we were gonna have to send out a search party.

LARRY

Sorry guys, my bracelet's been malfunctioning all night; couldn't even start my car.

BILL

Well did you call tech support?

LARRY

I was on hold for over two hours - finally decided to walk.

BILL

(twirling his bracelet)

I was in the shower the other day and this thing started making all kinda weird noises. I thought I was going to get electrocuted.

JASON

Maybe it got freaked out at your naked young body.

Bill shoot him a dirty look. He looks around the table.

BILL

I forgot to get a drink for myself.

Jason downs the rest of his beer.

JASON  
I need one too.

The two men walk away.

Harold twirls his bracelet.

HAROLD  
You hear about the couple upstate  
that were electrocuted while in the  
shower together?

LARRY  
Yeah. I read that they got drunk,  
hit there heads and drowned in the  
tub.

Harold scoffs.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Another conspiracy Harold?

HAROLD  
(to his bracelet)  
You know how dependent we've become  
on this thing?

LARRY  
They're just making life simpler.

HAROLD  
QUOTE.

Jason and Bill return. They bring a couple hamburgers to the table.

LARRY  
Technology is what moves us forward  
as a society.

Jason and Bill start to dig in.

HAROLD  
And how do government sanctioned  
toys created for spying help our  
society?

JASON  
Come on guys; take a break and have  
some chow.

Larry picks up one of the extra a burgers.