PAID PARKING

A couple get creative in search of a late night drink.

FADE IN:

INT - HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

Close-up of a JUKEBOX in a dark hotel bar. There is a quiet CLICK as someone unseen puts a coin in, and MR BIG STUFF starts playing. JESS (early 30s, in a maxi dress and heels) comes out from behind the jukebox in a crouching run. A second later she darts back to grab a wine glass. Music and visuals fade out.

INT - HOTEL LOBBY - EVENING

Earlier that evening. Jess (in the same dress plus a coat) and JAMIE (early-30s, wearing a suit) stand in a hotel lobby after checking in. Off to one side, we can see the hotel bar. Jamie is complaining, Jess looks tired.

JAMIE
Just promise me that when we get married, we won't have an accordionist. Seriously. Who wants an accordion solo at their wedding? And! There'll be free parking!

JESS
I liked the accordion. And it was £2.50, Jamie.

JAMIE
That's not the point! I had to carry around a pocket full of change all day.

He jingles his pockets angrily as they cross the lobby.

INT - HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Jess sits on the bed brushing her hair. Jamie walks towards the shower, still dressed but towel in hand.

JAMIE
It's just like, isn't £75 for a butter dish enough money to spend on one wedding? They could at least have coughed up for the...

JESS
Parking. Yes.

She looks up at him, exasperated. He raises his eyebrows.

JAMIE
What’s wrong?

JESS
I just...
(sighs)
Do you really care about that stuff?

JAMIE
What do you mean?

JESS
I mean, there was nice food, cheesy music... You couldn’t just enjoy it?

JAMIE
I enjoy things.

JESS
Like what?
(beat)
Jamie, tell me the last time you did something just for fun.

JAMIE
I...

JESS
Exactly.

JAMIE
Hey, come on, we can still have fun.

JESS
Ok, great. Then... let’s go and get a drink.

JAMIE
Oh... really? You know I have that work call tomorrow, and we have to leave by 10...

JESS
Of course.

She lies down. Jamie sits next to her and the coins in the pocket chink. He sighs.

JAMIE
Ok, fuck it. Let’s go.

JESS
Really?

JAMIE
Yeah, why not.

She sits up and he leans over and kisses her.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Let’s go and enjoy ourselves.

JESS
You’re sure?

JAMIE
I’m sure. Though... it’s 11.30.
Will the bar even still be open?

JESS
Of course, it’s a... fairly cheap
hotel - people here definitely want
to drink. It’ll be open all night.

INT - HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

They stand in the lobby, looking at the entrance to the bar, which is clearly closed. Jamie goes to the NIGHT RECEPTIONIST

JAMIE
Hi - is there anywhere we can buy a
bottle of wine?

NIGHT RECEPTIONIST
Sorry, no - the bar closes at 11.

JESS
Nice try, babe.

JAMIE
No! I’m not giving up that easy.

He looks around, then nudges Jess and whispers.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Look - they haven’t even locked the
bar. You can literally see the
bottles. We could easily grab one
without anyone knowing. We just
have to... cause a distraction.

JESS
Seriously?

JAMIE
Seriously.

She grins, nods, and walks over to the receptionist.

JESS
Hi... so, I'm sorry, but we came down here because there's a really loud noise coming from outside the room - I'm not sure where from.
(beat)
I know it sounds crazy, but it sounded like an accordion...?

In the background, Jamie stifles a laugh.

The receptionist raises her eyebrows, but nods.

RECEPTIONIST
Which room?

JESS
24. Thank you. We'll... wait here, if that's ok.

The receptionist looks at her suspiciously, but leaves. Jess and Jamie stand around looking innocent until she's in the elevator, then slip into the bar.

INT - HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

Jamie leans over the bar and grabs a random bottle.

JESS
(Whispers) Screw top! Screw top!

JAMIE
What?

JESS
You want to hang around here looking for a corkscrew?

JAMIE
Oh.

He selects a different bottle, and picks up two glasses. Jess raises an eyebrow.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
What? We can be fun *and* dignified. Now, just crawl over to the exit.

They run back towards the lobby, bent low to try and hide - but stop suddenly by the jukebox as the receptionist walks back to her desk, looking around for them.

JESS
Shit. What now?

Jamie looks around, then grins at her. Pulls out a coin from his pocket.

JAMIE
Paid parking.

JESS
Wh-

Jamie stands up, and a second later there's a quiet 'click' and the jukebox starts playing MR BIG STUFF. The receptionist looks towards the bar, surprised - then makes her way over. As she gets closer, Jamie nods at Jess.

JAMIE
(whispers) Go go go!

They both start to run. After a few stops, Jess turns back and grabs the wine glass.

INT - HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jess and Jamie bundle into their room (number 11), giggling. Inside, they pour the wine and raise their glasses, take a sip.

JAMIE
That's… that's terrible.

JESS
Oh yeah, really bad.

INT - HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Jamie and Jess lie asleep in each other's arms, both still in their formal clothes - the mostly full wine glasses forgotten next to the bed.

FADE OUT.