

# **A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR** **BY NATHAN CHRISTOPHER**

## **SYNOPSIS**

It's late on a Wednesday evening in a nondescript bar. There are no customers; the bartender has nothing to do except kill time. She's not supposed to be here anymore anyway, in this nothing-to-see-here town midway between two better places.

Although the chicken sandwich is pretty damn good.

And then a man walks in.

## **ABOUT NATHAN CHRISTOPHER**

Nathan Christopher ([www.thenathanchristopher.com](http://www.thenathanchristopher.com)) writes plays about the universal truths of everyday life. Through the exploration of familiar moments—falling in (and out of) love, the death of a loved one, an act of violence, the slow decline of age—his work offers new perspectives, questions the conventional, provides comfort, allows us to laugh and, most of all, ask us to look inward rather than outward because that's how we start changing the world.

Christopher is the author of six plays: PICKING UP, TO REMAIN SILENT, A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR, SORRY (NOT SORRY), CLAIREVOYANT, and EVE: A PALINDROME PLAY.

[PICKING UP](#) was a winner in the “Script” category of the 86<sup>th</sup> annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition. A musical version of the show, created with lauded singer-songwriter [Gregory Douglass](#), made its off-off-Broadway workshop debut to a sold-out house as part of the Emerging Artists Theatre's Fall 2019 New Work Series. It was also featured in Undiscovered Works at Dixon Place's Monthly Storytelling Series (NYC) in April 2020, and celebrated in a special broadcast on [Musical Theatre Radio](#) in October 2020 to mark the one-year anniversary of the show's creation.

Christopher is a member of the Dramatists Guild, and has supported the Atlantic Theater Company, founded by David Mamet and William H. Macy, since 1999. Follow him on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and read his work on [National New Play Exchange \(NPX\)](#).

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

HER:

A bartender.

HIM:

In town for the night.

## THE PLACE

A bar.

## THE TIME

Wednesday, late in the evening.

## NOTE

The song “UP IN THE AIR, JUNIOR BIRDMEN” is an actual tune in the public domain that has many variations. The version included in the play can be referenced by following this URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHuWCNCEIHA>.

AT RISE: HER has her back to the door, cleaning the bar shelves or mirrors, or she could be restocking. No other people are in the bar. HIM walks in.

HIM

You guys still open? Nothing else in town seems to be.

HER

We're open.

(HER turns around and freezes briefly, then recovers. HIM doesn't notice.)

HIM

Thank God. I just need a drink and a bite. Long drive.

(Sits on one of the stools. HER hands HIM a menu.)

Quiet out tonight. You'd think there'd be more people around.

HER

It's Wednesday.

(HER gets a glass and starts making a drink.)

HIM

Still. People drink on Wednesdays. Could I get a –

HER

(Places a drink in front of HIM.)

Bourbon, neat.

HIM

How'd you – ?

HER

Lucky guess.

HIM

Do I – ?

HER

I don't know. Do you?

(Uncomfortable beat. HIM sips the drink.)

HIM

Shit.

Excuse me? HER

Tastes great. Thanks. HIM

(HIM studies the menu, avoiding eye contact. HER waits.)

Any specials? HIM

This is a bar, not some farm-to-table. HER

I know. I've been here. HIM

Welcome back. HER

(Uncomfortable beat.)

You don't mean that. HIM

Why wouldn't I? Customer service. HER

(The phone rings. HER moves to answer it. HIM watches.)

HER  
(On the phone.)  
Bar. The kitchen's open 'til 11. Yep. No problem.  
(HER hangs up.)

How's the chicken sandwich? HIM

That or the burger. HER

I try to limit the red meat. HIM

So the chicken sandwich? HER

Sure. HIM

As-is or buffalo style? HER

Buffalo style? HIM

Hot sauce and blue cheese. Like wings. HER

No, thanks. HIM

Fries? HER

Or? HIM

Fries. HER

Fries it is. HIM

Okay. HER  
(Enters the order into the computer.)

To go. HIM

Got it. HER

(HER starts to polish some glassware. HIM watches for a beat.)

I'm sorry, but have we met? HIM