**Out Late**

**By Dave Carley**

**Play Synopsis:**

Tyler has followed his father downtown. His Dad has been disappearing from their suburban home one or two nights a week, and Tyler wants to know where he is going. *Out Late* (based on a true incident) is the story of what Tyler learns this night – and how he responds to the discovery of his father’s double life.

**Cast:**

TYLER, 19. Old enough to drive and to be figuring things out. Dressed in shorts or sweats, T shirt, no shoes. A jock.

DEAN, 30s, maybe older. He is a cleaner in the bathhouse.

**Location:**

Outside the door to Spa 2000. The spa is discreetly signed. Maybe a pink light but all pretty discreet.

**Time:**

About 11 pm

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*The set: An exterior door. Maybe a pink light. Maybe the words “Spa” or “Spa 2000” on it, but discreet. Night-time sounds of the city.*

*Light comes up on TYLER, pacing or standing outside the door. He seems to want to go inside, but is unsure. He’s agitated. DEAN enters, walks up, and is about to go in.*

**TYLER:**  Wait.

*(DEAN pauses.)*

Can I ask you something?

**DEAN:**  Yeah?

**TYLER:** What kind of place is this?

*(DEAN is immediately on guard.)*

**DEAN:** How do you mean.

**TYLER:** What goes on in there - is it a bar?

**DEAN:** Why don’t you come in and see – *(Registers how TYLER is dressed; cautious again.)* Where’s your shoes?/

**TYLER:** So it’s a bar, a regular bar –

**DEAN:** Why –

**TYLER:** Just tell me, is it a – what kind of bar?/

**DEAN:**  Why the questions.

**TYLER:** My Dad just went in there.

**DEAN:** Oh.

*(TYLER seems to be about to go in. Dean stops him.)*

Sorry. It’s a club. Private.

**TYLER:** You said it was a bar.

**DEAN:** I didn’t say anything. It’s more of a club than a bar. It’s not public.

**TYLER:** What do you mean/

**DEAN:** You can’t go in. For starters – shoes?

**TYLER:** I just want to know what goes on in there/

**DEAN:** Where are your shoes?/

**TYLER:** Just tell me what/

**DEAN:**  Where are you from?

**TYLER:** Northridge.

**DEAN:** You came all the way down here from the burbs dressed like that, what you don’t have shoes in Northridge?

**TYLER:** I was in a hurry.

**DEAN:** Yeah, I’d be in a hurry too/

**TYLER:** Dad went out, Mom came running downstairs and told me to follow him.

**DEAN:** Why?

**TYLER:** Cuz he’s always going out, we don’t know where. I jumped in the van – didn’t have time to change, I followed him here. That’s his car. He went in five minutes ago. So it’s a club, like a private club, why does it say ‘spa’ -

**DEAN:** You really want to know what goes on in there.

**TYLER:**  Yes!

**DEAN:** *(Pause.)* Gambling.

**TYLER:** *(Not sure he’s believing this.)* Gambling.

**DEAN:**  Yeah. If your Dad’s in there he’s gambling.

**TYLER:**  Gambling. Like slots -

**DEAN:** No, poker, stuff. Pretty high stakes.

**TYLER:** So you’re going in to gamble -

**DEAN:**  I work here.

**TYLER:**  My Dad doesn’t even buy lottery tickets.

**DEAN:** Lots of guys keep it quiet.

**TYLER:** I don’t think he’s gambling, he could do that online.

**DEAN:** It’s more fun in person.

**TYLER:** You’re shitting me about this. Why’s the sign say ‘Spa’ then.

**DEAN:** Because it’s not legal OK. It’s gambling, there’s all sorts of licence shit, it’s not legal without it, you know how many people you have to pay off, so they call it something else. *(Around this point, DEAN has figured out who TYLER is.)* You shouldn’t be following your Dad around. You really followed him all the way in from Northridge -

**TYLER:** He’s always going out, twice a week.

**DEAN:** That’s not allowed?

**TYLER:** He says he’s going for a drive, if he says anything, a lot of times he just leaves, and he’s gone, three four hours.

**DEAN:** It’s his life.

**TYLER:** He’s driving us crazy.

**DEAN:**  Look, you should go home.

**TYLER:**  I have to find out what he’s doing.

**DEAN:**  I told you already. He’s playing poker. Now: guy code. You don’t have to tell your Mom what he’s doing. Go back home, just say you lost him on the way in. Make things easy. Then, OK, OK, do this: *(Thinking fast.)* Tomorrow. Get your father alone - tomorrow. Sit down with him, tell him you followed him here. OK? Tell him you talked to a guy outside and he told you it was a gambling place. Then let him talk. You can’t come in. You’ve got no shoes and – how old are you –

**TYLER:**  19.

**DEAN:**  Yeah, that’s too young , you have to be 21. With shoes.

**TYLER:** You the manager?

**DEAN:** I clean the rooms. *(Gentle.)* Go home?

**TYLER:** It’s wrecking our family. Mom’s crying all the time. Gambling.

*(Tyler hesitates, then begins walking off. Looks like it might be the end. DEAN seems to be about to go inside, then turns back.)*

Tyler.

*(Tyler turns.)*

You’re Tyler aren’t you.

**TYLER:** How’d you know?

**DEAN:** Your Dad’s shown me your picture. I didn’t recognize you at first because the picture, you look different in your football uniform. He talks about you all the time. He’s really proud of you. He’s always talking about your games, he’s proud, he’s a good man, don’t ever think otherwise. If I’d had a father like yours…

**TYLER:** What.

**DEAN:** Let’s just say, my father wasn’t bragging about me. You’re lucky. *(Turns to go in.)*

**TYLER:**  It’s not gambling is it.

*(Pause.)*

**DEAN:**  *(Turns back.)* No.

**TYLER:**  It’s a gay – place.

*(TYLER starts to walk towards the door. DEAN stops him.)*

**DEAN:**  You can’t go in. There’s other people there. It’s not fair to them. Or your Dad.

**TYLER:** Why won’t he tell me? You think that’s fair?

**DEAN:** No. It’s not fair.

**TYLER:** So

**DEAN:** So he’s afraid.

**TYLER:** Afraid of what?

**DEAN:** What you’ll do.

**TYLER:** I want to go in and talk to him/

*(As TYLER tries to go in.)*

**DEAN:**  No, Tyler, Tyler, you’re not going in there, no, it’s not the right place for you – to confront him.

**TYLER:** I just want to talk.

**DEAN:** Not here, go home.

**TYLER:**  Don’t tell me what to/

**DEAN:**  They won’t let you in. There’s a guy on door. You have to be buzzed – there’s a camera. *(Points.)* Listen to me. Tell your mother you lost sight of him on the way down, seriously. Then talk to him when he gets home, just the two of you.

**TYLER:** Can’t you get him to come out. Tell him I’m out here/

**DEAN:**  He needs time. You need time. Wait at home. He’ll be home soon. If it’s OK, I’ll tell him you were here. That we talked.

**TYLER:** I’ll wait by his car.

**DEAN:**  You cannot stay out here. Not looking like that, not this time of night, let Sam have some time, to prepare.

**TYLER:**  What’s he have to prepare?

**DEAN:** What he wants to say.

**TYLER:** He’s gay, what’s there to say!

**DEAN:** Let him say it. Wait for him at home.

**TYLER:** What if he doesn’t come home.

**DEAN:** He will. He always does, doesn’t he?

*(TYLER turns to leave, takes a few steps, turns.)*

**TYLER:**  What’s your name?

**DEAN:** Dean.

**TYLER:** Dean. Tell him – Tell him -

*(TYLER turns to go, turns back.)*

Tell him it’s OK.

*(TYLER leaves.)*

**BLACK.**