

LOCKDOWN VOL 2: QUIZ

Written by

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FADE IN

MIKE (mid 40s) is hosting an online quiz on a Zoom call. He's a quiet chap but he loves his online audience. We just see him and no one else. He's just finishing up.

MIKE

So that's your lot everyone. Thanks for coming. We'll have another wine quiz next week. Stay safe and I'll see you all then. See you. Bye

Mike waves to the camera. We hear a chorus of 'byes'. But then ANDY pops up in a video box. Andy (mid 40s) is friendly but more boisterous compared to Mike.

ANDY

(calling out)

Mike! Mike! Its Andy. How you doing?

MIKE

Bloody 'ell. Andy, Andy...(searching for the surname), Andy..Woodman isn't it. Haven't seen you in a while.

ANDY

Must be twenty years mate. Actually over 20 years. Shit. That's a long time.

MIKE

What are you doing on my wine quiz?

ANDY

I dunno. I stumbled across the link somewhere and... It was only when I saw your ugly face I realised it was you.

MIKE

Thanks for that.

ANDY

You know what I mean. 20 years! Didn't know you were a wine buff.

MIKE

Its just a hobby really. I know a bit about it, and one of my mates suggested I did a quiz, you know for Lockdown, keep people entertained.

ANDY

Well it passed the time. Not sure I scored that well. What was that one about Bordeaux?

Mike looks down at some flash cards he is using.

MIKE

Er. It was.. What grape varietals...

ANDY

(interupts)

Varietals? What sort of poncey word is that?

Mike knows what he is talking about.

MIKE

(sighs)

What grape varietals are used in the production of red wine in the appellation of Bordeaux?

ANDY

See I've already forgotten. Wasn't it Cabernet something, and then that one he hates in Sideways?

MIKE

You tell me...?

ANDY

You know... Oh shit what was it. M, M, M, Merlot?

MIKE

Half a point. It's Merlot and cabernet sauvignon.

ANDY

That's the one. Cabernet shitting Sauvignon. I drink the stuff mate, but haven't got much of clue really.

Andy remembers something

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hold on a sec, weren't you on that Bordeaux trip we did? Shit when was it? Nineteen ninety....seven?

MIKE  
 (slightly off-handish)  
 Think it was more like 98.

ANDY  
 That was a cracking holiday s'far  
 as I can remember. Sadly the finer  
 details are a little bit hazy. It  
 was all that Cabernet...Sau...

MIKE  
 Cabernet Sauvignon?

ANDY  
 I know, I know... And Merlot

MIKE  
 Don't forget the Merlot

They both spit copying the character in Sideways.

ANDY	MIKE (CONT'D)
Fucking Merlot	Fucking merlot

The two of them laugh gently.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
 I seem to remember there was a  
 girl. What was her name?

Mike starts shuffling his quiz flashcards.

MIKE  
 (batting it away)  
 I don't remember.

ANDY  
 Don't remember? You, the quiz  
 master? Come on, it must be there  
 somewhere?

Mike continues to try and bat this conversation away.

MIKE  
 (knowing smile)  
 Must have lost it in the copious  
 bottles of wine we drank. You  
 remember that campsite...

ANDY  
 (sticking with it)  
 Hold on hold on. What was her name?  
 Jill? June? Judith? Jen...Jenny  
 that was it.

MIKE  
(reluctant)  
Yeah. Jenny. That was her name.

Mike is hiding some memory.

ANDY  
She was quite a stunner wasn't she.  
I mean you know, for the time. And  
age.

Mike gives a look.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
Look I'm not some middle age man  
perving after...well I suppose,  
what was she? 19? I've everything I  
need in Mrs Woodman thank you very  
much.

MIKE  
Your mother?

ANDY  
(laughing)  
Wife you idiot.

Andy starts to remember that trip and that girl.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
Jenny? She was...how can I say it,  
flexible?

MIKE  
Yeah alright, I don't need to know  
the details.

ANDY  
Shit it's all coming back to me  
now. We had sex in the vineyards of  
Chateaux Margaux. Chateau fucking  
Margaux!

MIKE  
Yes I know. I was there.... Well  
not there there. At the campsite.  
Putting up the tent. Getting dinner  
ready for how many? 8 of us?

ANDY  
(sticking with Jenny)  
Hold on, she wasn't the klingon was  
she?

MIKE

The what?

ANDY

You know klingon? Clings on? She got all needy if I recall. God she was young. I mean we weren't much older. But it was just sex. A bit of fun out among the grapes. And then on with the waterworks. "How can you leave me?" Blah blah blah. Klingon!

MIKE

(reticent to join in)  
Yeah well...

ANDY

I wonder what happened to her? You know what, I don't really care. (laughs) It was great sex and then we parted company.

MIKE

(serious)  
You unceremoniously dumped her. In front of everyone. Humiliated her.

ANDY

I don't remember that.

MIKE

You don't remember pushing her away? Calling her names? You were a complete bastard to be honest.

Andy now tries to deflect this thinly veiled attack from Mike.

ANDY

Moi? Surely you're thinking of Steve and that Goth girl from the beach.

MIKE

(reluctant)  
No...it was you. You were a right shit.

Andy tries again to deflect.

ANDY

(matey)  
Come on...

MIKE

There are ways and means to end a summer fling mate and I'm afraid you were quite the arsehole.

ANDY

Alright, alright. It's 20, 25 years ago. I bet she's a career woman now, happily married with kids and you know the whole house and garden thing.

Mike needs to tell Andy something.

MIKE

You know she fell pregnant?

ANDY

When? Then? What? How'd you know?

MIKE

I stayed in touch. I had a call from her 'bout 4 months after we got back. She told me it was yours.

ANDY

Pah. Girl like that? Bet she bedded boys wherever she went.

MIKE

No, she was quite sure. It was yours.

ANDY

Fuck me! So there's a twenty something Andy or Andrea out there.  
(realisation)  
Shit, what am I going to tell Kate?

MIKE

Slow down. Jenny didn't have the baby. She, well she went for a termination.

ANDY

Jesus an abortion. Hold on, how'd you know all this?

MIKE

(horrid memories)  
It was me that took her to the clinic....She had no one to turn to, so I said I'd help.

ANDY

And you didn't think to tell me?

MIKE

You treated her like shit. I mean real shit. She didn't want anything to do with you.

ANDY

So you stepped in, the knight in shining armour?

MIKE

I was just a friend.

ANDY

And you've kept that a secret for 20 years? Are you still in touch?

Mike looks away, sad.

MIKE

(quiet)

No.

ANDY

No? What happened?

MIKE

Well she, shit Andy this is why I didn't tell you. And this is why we didn't stay friends.

(lets that sink in)

Not long after the abortion, she...well she killed herself.

ANDY

What? This just gets better.

Mike can no longer contain his usual quiet demeanour.

MIKE

(angry)

What the fuck d'you mean 'its gets better'. For God's sake Andy she killed herself! She felt so guilty, so lost, so...I dunno.

Mike is full of his own guilt and remorse.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I tried my best, but it wasn't good enough. And you...

ANDY  
(defensive)  
I didn't know! This is not on me.

MIKE  
No, it's not on you. You're just  
the one that knocked her up,  
humiliated her, dumped her and set  
her off on this...downward spiral.

ANDY  
(slightly pleading)  
But I didn't know.

MIKE  
Little things mate. Interactions,  
moments of spite. Fuckin simple  
cruelness. They all have dire  
consequences. What you do, what you  
did affects people's lives. It  
affected hers.

ANDY  
(drained)  
But I, I didn't know.

MIKE  
(resigned)  
No you didn't know.

Mike ends the Zoom call leaving Andy to contemplate his  
actions.

FADE OUT.