

LAST CALL

by Joe Hanrahan

Setting: Bar. Table. (with maybe a table tent.) Two Chairs. Music playing a moment or two before actors entrance. Fades as we get into the scene

Characters: Don and Eric

Don and Eric enter, holding bottles of beer. Look around, spot empty table.

DON: This look good? Let's take this one.

(they sit)

DON: All right. Cheers, man.

(offers bottle, ERIC is looking down, away.)

DON: Hey, Cheers! Prosit! Huh?

(ERIC acknowledges, they clink bottles)

DON: Happy Days...whatever.

(DON drinks, ERIC doesn't)

DON: So, this place is a little quiet tonight, huh?

(pause, DON surveys the place)

DON: Nobody really too interesting here.

(ERIC looking down)

DON: You OK, man?

ERIC: (taking sip of beer) Yeah. Yeah.

DON: Yeah. Good to get out.

(takes big drink)

DON: Yeah. (another drink) Yeah, I feel like doing some damage tonight.

Hey?

ERIC: What? Oh, yeah.

DON: Yeah. (does a quick double-take at ERIC)

Oh yeah.

So how about those Cards, huh?

ERIC: Mmm? Yeah.

DON: (couple sentences inserted here, depending on how team is doing at the time of production)

Didja watch the game last night?

ERIC: What?

DON: The game last night. Cards. Watch it?

ERIC: (pause) No.

DON: Yeah. I turned it off about the seventh.

So...have you talked to Gerry lately?

(ERIC shakes head)

DON: Wonder how that new job's workin' out. He was pretty stoked about it.

(pause)

Uh, Eric. Eric!

ERIC: Yeah. What? (takes small drink)

DON: You...OK...with this? You wanna go someplace else. Or...

ERIC: No. This is fine.

DON: Yeah? Maybe? OK. OK. This is good. Here? Alright, man.

(pause)

ERIC: Don...

DON: Yeah.

ERIC: Something happened...

DON: Yeah?

ERIC: Today.

DON: Yeah?

ERIC: Something...

(pause)

DON: Yeah?

ERIC: I found out...

DON: Yeah, what?

ERIC: I'm going to die.

(pause)

DON: What? Wha...? What do you mean?

ERIC: I was at the doctor's...

DON: What for? Were you feeling sick, or...?

ERIC: No. I went for a drug test.

DON: Drug test? You work at a Whole Foods.

ERIC: Yeah, they do an annual thing, I don't know...

DON: So, you went for a drug test. And what, the doctor...?

ERIC: I didn't have to see the doctor for that. I just ran into him. We just started talking.

DON: And...

ERIC: And...he let me know.

DON: What? Let you know what...? What's going on? What's wrong?

ERIC: I'm going to die.

DON: You're gonna...?

(ERIC nods, mournfully)

DON: Jesus! JESUS! I...I don't know what to say...

ERIC: Yeah.

DON: God. I'm so so sorry, man. So sorry. This is...terrible, man.

ERIC: Tell me about it.

DON: God. This was today?

ERIC: Yeah.

DON: So you're just processing this. What is it? What do you have?

ERIC: (shaking head again) I wanted...I wanted to do so much.

DON: Yeah...

ERIC: I wanted...you know...to write. I've never...taken the time... and I know...I know I have it inside me. A play, a novel. I have ideas, I just never took...never had the time...and now...

DON: Yeah...

ERIC: And I've never...loved...y'now, really loved. I've never let myself get close enough to a woman to really...really...love her. Let her love me. I've let so many go...so many mistakes..

DON; Well, man, all of us...

ERIC: I'm probably never gonna have kids!

DON: You might consider yourself lucky there...

ERIC: My name is going to die out with me!

DON: Well, yeah...

ERIC: And now...now...I mean, where have I been? Where have I been?!?!?!  
I've always wanted to travel...see things, see places...I mean, far away places...  
you know, little corners of the earth.  
And where have I been? HUH? WHERE?

(pause)

DON: (trying to lighten mood a bit, old joke between them) Well, you got to go to school in Iowa.

ERIC: Huh!

DON: For a whole semester.

ERIC: Thank God it was only that long! Iowa. Story of my life. What's left of it.

I...I...

DON: I know. I know.

ERIC: (shaking head, moans)

(pause)

DON: (putting hand on DON's shoulder) I just wanna say...I'm here for you, man. Whatever you need.

ERIC: (nods)

DON: You've been a friend. Hell, my best friend. So I'm there for you.

(pause)

DON: Say, I mean...I don't how you're feeling, or how long or...maybe, we could... Hell, yeah! Why not, I mean!  
How 'bout that Vegas trip? Huh? Huh? We've always talked about it. What'dya say we do it?  
Big weekend in Vegas. Blowout!  
Get a suite...high roller suite. Hit the tables...(laughs)...I mean, win or lose, you can't take it with you!

DON/ERIC: (together, share joke) And I'm not going to leave it lying around here! (Both laugh)

DON: Bet it all on Red!

ERIC: (small laugh) Yeah.

DON: See some shows! Like...Beatles, Cirque du Soleil! And, uh...I hear they got some of the best restaurants in the world out there now!

ERIC: Yeah. Yeah.

DON: How 'bout it? Sound good?

ERIC: Yeah, maybe.

DON: Yeah, for sure! Maybe, maybe find a couple ladies...Uh huh...I hear they got some of them out there now!

ERIC: (laughs)

DON: Use some of your winnings from blackjack, craps, and we'll just have ourselves a couple of high class...escorts...for the weekend!

ERIC: (laughing a bit more now)

DON: What we do there's going to stay there!

ERIC: Who cares about that now?

DON: Yes. Yes. And this is on me, man. All of it. Except gambling money. You bring your own gambling money. But other than that I'm buying! Hell, yeah! What'dya say?

ERIC: All right!

DON: All right is right! Right-O!!!

(pause)

DON: So, how ya feeling? Really, how you doing?  
Should we...could we...plan on this Vegas thing soon?

ERIC: Yeah. Why not?

DON: That's the spirit, my man! Maybe...hell...a couple weekends from now? First weekend next month?

ERIC: Yeah. OK. Sure.

DON: All right! Just GO, right? WE GO! I'll make all the reservations...planes, hotels.  
This is gonna be so cool, dude.

ERIC: Yeah. Yeah. Don...Thanks.

DON: Buddy. Least I can do.

(Kind of an awkward half-hug)

DON: So...Eric...So, Eric...how long you got? Do you know?

ERIC: I'm not sure.

DON: Doctor say anything?

ERIC: They're not sure.

DON: So, what is it? What's...?

ERIC: Different things. Could be...anything...in the end, I guess.

DON: But no estimate...on time...

ERIC: Aaaah, from what they said...I don't know...maybe...maybe...  
30...40 years. Maybe. If I'm lucky.

(kind of a long pause)

DON: What?

ERIC: That's all. That's it. And then...

(pause)

DON: Wait a minute...

ERIC: That's it! Finito. End of the line. End of the road.

DON: Wait wait wait wait. Wait a minute.  
Did you say...30...40 years?

ERIC: If I'm lucky.

DON: But that...So that's...

ERIC: Don...I'm not sure how I'm going to be able to handle it. I mean, facing death...I just...

DON: Wait wait. Wait a minute! You're not sick!

ERIC: Course, I'm sick...I feel sick! Sick to my stomach! I found out I'm going to die!

DON: In 40 years!

ERIC: Yeah.

DON: But that's...40 years is...Damn, man...I...you're not dying!

ERIC: I sure as hell am. Every day...day by day...dying...dying...then, dead..  
in just...just...

DON: In just 40 years!!! You...I mean, what did that doctor say? He wasn't even examining you, right, why did he tell you...

ERIC: We just ran into each other..

DON: Yeah, but what did he say...about you dying?

ERIC: He said I'm getting old enough to think about, y'know...PSA tests...uh...colonoscopy things, y'now...he said ya wanna start thinking about those...cause you want to live a long life, you don't wanna die early...

DON: Yeah?

ERIC: So he said I'm going to die...sooner or later. I'm going to die!

DON: But...

(long pause as he surveys Eric, hits him in the arm a couple times, then laughing)

DON: Damn you, Eric. Damn! You had me going. You had me, man. That's so funny. That is...

ERIC: What?

(Slight pause)

DON: You know. Dying! Forty years! C'mon!

ERIC: What?

(long look, DON still laughing, ERIC definitely not)

DON: Are you...you're serious?

ERIC: Yes, I'm serious. Serious as a heart attack! I'm dying.

DON: But...but...you're just like everybody! Everybody's going to die. In forty, fifty...hey if they live to seventy, eighty, they'll be happy.

ERIC: Happy??? About dying?

DON: Yes! I mean, no! I mean, they'll be happy to live that long. I'll be happy to live that long. Everybody's going to die. That's life!

ERIC: Sounds like, that's death! (pause) So everybody's going to die.

DON: Yes!

(pause)

ERIC: Do they know it?

DON: I...think so...most people.

ERIC: But...(long pause)...do they realize it?

DON: I don't know...maybe...I guess...y'know, depending...how old you are... or...

ERIC: Do you realize it?

DON: (pause) Well, I sure as hell do now!

ERIC: (laughs) I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I...knew I was going to die...someday...but I just never...REALIZED it! You know.

DON: Yeah. (laughing) I think so.

ERIC: Thirty, Forty years. Sounds like a long time. But, y'know...it's going to go...(snaps fingers) like that!

DON: I guess.

ERIC: One day, you're gonna be on your death bed, and you're gonna say, where did it go? How did it happen...so fast!

DON: Yeah.

ERIC: So what can you do? What does anybody do?

DON: Well, I guess...I guess, you have to live...live like...you're going to die someday!

ERIC: Live like...you're gonna...

DON: Yeah, y'know, live for today. Cause...who knows when there's not gonna be...a tomorrow.

ERIC: You know. You're right.

(Don shrugs)

(pause)

ERIC: So...so...let's go to Vegas...now!

DON: Now?

ERIC: Yeah. Now. Tonight. Let's go.

(ERIC stands.) Let's go right to the airport, get the next flight out, hit Vegas - full speed ahead! What'dya say?

DON: Tonight?

ERIC: Absolutely. What are we waiting for? Don't you want to live! Let's do it!

DON: (stands) All right! ALL RIGHT!

(they high five)

ERIC: Get us a suite!

DON: High roller suite!

ERIC: 120-inch TV!

DON: Heart shaped hottub...

BOTH: ...right in the middle of the room!

ERIC: Hit the tables!

DON: We're not gonna hit 'em. We're gonna own 'em!

ERIC: Destroy 'em!

DON: Swallow 'em whole!

ERIC: Speaking of swallowing, hit some of those restaurants.

DON: Eat like Kings!

ERIC: Like dying Kings!

DON: Only the finest meats and cheeses of the land for my liege!

ERIC: Don't forget wine...

DON: Vintage, man, only vintage for us!

ERIC: Maybe, maybe meet some, some...

DON: Some ladies?...Oh yeah, oh yeah.

ERIC: Find a couple with hearts of gold...

DON: Why not a couple...for you, and a couple for me...?

ERIC: Why not? Cause what we're gonna do there...

DON: ...is gonna stay there!

(pause)

BOTH: Who cares!

(ERIC, laughing roars!) (DON answers with a roar!)

(They start to leave)

ERIC: We gone, We gone - straight to the airport...

DON: Don't pass Go!

ERIC: DESTINATION...!

DON: ...LAS VEGAS...!

ERIC: ...NEVADA!

DON: VIVA...

(they sing)

BOTH:...LAS VEGAS VIVA LAS VEGAS

(leaving the stage...in a hurry)

(MUSIC)

END