

SPOTTING MAYA

Scene Analysis

REVISED 2019

Sideways: “Spotting Maya” Detective Work



COLLECT AND OBSERVE FACTS – DELAY JUDGEMENT – TRY OUT SCENARIOS
FIND A BEGINNING OF THE SCENE
FORM A COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE DIALOGUE RESULT OF THE SCENE

ALL FACTS ARE FRIENDLY

Immediate Circumstances

THE FACTS ABOUT RIGHT NOW
Where are we and what is happening?

STATE THE OBVIOUS

At a restaurant in wine country --
settling in for their first great meal

The clarity, brevity, obviousness of this category is aimed at helping you focus on the specifics of now....

WHAT ARE GIVENS? WHAT CAN YOU DECIDE? Maitre'D? waiter? water glasses? menus's, wine, napkins..being seated? already seated? walking in? tasting and approving the wine? nature age sex of others present...waitstaff, customers...positioning of Maya

Given Circumstances

THAT PERTAIN TO THIS SCENE

- long-time buddies
- miles is divorced
- jack is engaged
- wedding in a week
- miles is best man

BOTH MEN SINGLE

- on a bachelor week in wine country
- miles is into wine and food
- jack isn't
- miles made the itinerary - picked the restaurants - has plans

- miles is a middle school teacher
- miles is a novelist

- jack scoped out a waitress at breakfast
- jack said miles needs to get laid -
promised to make it happen
- miles said no

OCCASION

Launching a Marriage

- Two Best-Buddies out for a Send-off Dinner of Quality Cuisine
- To Toast the Success of the Momentous Step Jack is Taking

THIS IS NOT ONLY FACTUAL IT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE DIRECTION THE DIALOGUE WILL TAKE
THE WRITER HAS DETERMINED THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION - WE MUST DIRECT THE COUNTERVAILING ACTION (rather than micro-manage the words)

Governing Social Obligations

RULES, RITUALS, CEREMONIES or BEHAVIORS,
that the
OCCASION, SETTING or RELATIONSHIP REQUIRE?

- Restaurant Decorum
- High-end Restaurant Decorum
- Special Occasion (celebration) Behavior
- Best Friend Obligations
- Best Man/Groom Obligations

IMAGINARY FACTS

MUST BE USEFUL
MAY NOT CONTRADICT REAL FACTS

- Jack is picking up the tab for the food and wine
- Jack Has a Condom in his Wallet

Imagine the
MOMENT BEFORE

- They were shown to the table by a MALE MAITRE'D from whom Miles got a big greeting

the point is make SPECIFIC decisions – clearly something like this happened – it can be inferred...but you and the actors must KNOW

Central Character's Objective

MILES WANTS...

- TO EAT A TERRIFIC MEAL
- TO DRINK A LOT OF REALLY GREAT WINE

NOTICE THE SELFISH NATURE OF THIS CHOICE – SELFISH IS GOOD -- SELFISH IS DRAMATIC – SELFISH IS FUNNY –

OBSTACLES

WHAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF MILES ACHIEVING
HIS OBJECTIVES

- JACK'S DISINTEREST in the QUALITY of FOOD and WINE
- JACK'S ANTSY-NESS/RESTLESSNESS WITH PLANNED AGENDA

THINKING BEYOND THE FRAME:

HOPE

MILES' BLUE SKIES SCENARIO
FOR THE ENCOUNTER

- To be IN HIS OWN ELEMENT
- To be the STAR OF THE EVENING

Miles'
HIDDEN AGENDA

SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE SPOKEN

- GETTING HIS EPICURE ON - ON JACK'S DIME
- TO SHOW JACK A WORLD WHERE MILES IS KNOWN AND RESPECTED

Central Character's COVER

MILES' PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY

- HE CHOSE THE ITINERARY FOR JACK'S MAXIMUM PRE-NUPTIAL PLEASURE
- HE'S HERE FOR JACK...IT'S JACK'S TRIP...HE THOUGHT THIS IS WHAT JACK WANTS

EVENT

HYPOTHESIS

- A TINY (DANGEROUS) SPARK OF HOPE IS KINDLED IN MILES