

Scenes Technique #5 - Exercise

Scenes from the Plaintiff's Spin

Note that May and Audrey are already at the Wellmeadow Café (element #1).

2. To celebrate their time together, Audrey ordered two Scotsman's Floats, dishes of ice cream and bottles of ginger beer.

Here are scenes within that element.

- They travel from the train station to the Café.
 - Friends greet each other, restore their close friendship, starting to relax together.
 - Can't see a bad fact here.
- They enter the Café.
 - It's all good. Happy, peaceful, quiet evening out.
 - There is a brewing bad fact. Neither Audrey nor May inspected the bottle's contents. They were confident that they were safe. They trusted Mr. Minchella. Were they over-confident?
- Mr. Minchella greets Audrey as a known customer.
 - Comfort ramps up with a warm greeting from the proprietor, a trusted manager.
 - Note the emphasis that Stevenson puts on who the customer is. Given the state of the law, May is not a customer, so there is no contract.
- Audrey and Mr. Minchella make small talk.
 - Augments the previous scene, maybe merges with it. Puts May at ease. She's among friends.
 - Same as previous.

- He shows them to a table.
 - Keeps the happy, safe moment going.
 - Same as previous.
- They take seats at the table.
 - Maybe merges with the previous. Keeps the happy, safe moment going.
 - Same as previous.
- He presents them each with a menu.
 - Note that May is a customer. She gets a menu.
 - If the defence argues that Audrey is the only customer, here is a contradictory scene.
- Audrey and May chat with each other.
 - Irrelevant. Discard.
- Audrey discusses her choice with May.
 - No bad fact.
- Mr. Minchella returns to the table.
 - Irrelevant. Discard.
- Audrey places her order, which Mr. Mincella records on a notepad.
 - The bad fact is that Audrey orders and is the notional customer. Perhaps that was common courtesy, as Audrey played hostess. Downplay by asking, who cares who places the actual order? It does not determine who the customer is.

Overall, these scenes don't disclose much in the way of bad facts. This reflects the reality that this is more a law case than a fact one. The issues will be legal rather than factual.