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**INT. METROPOLITAN - (FLASHBACK) - LATER - NIGHT**

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This is a sparsely populated gay dive bar. Simon is sitting in a booth while Ben orders their drinks. A DRAG QUEEN is hosting karaoke that no one is willing to sign up for. The Drag Queen is SINGING her rendition of Celine Dion's "IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME NOW". Ben joins Simon at the booth with a pitcher of beer.

**START>>** BEN  
Wow, this is a song.

SIMON  
Yeah. It's got lyrics and everything.

Ben pours a beer for Simon and himself.

SIMON  
Thanks.

BEN  
Cheers.

SIMON  
To what?

BEN  
A cute date and very bad karaoke.  
They clink their glasses.

SIMON  
I didn't think you'd be into a place like this.

BEN  
Why?

SIMON  
I don't know. The blazer. The haircut. You seem more Soho House than Drag Queen Karaoke.

BEN  
Well, you don't really know me, do you?

SIMON  
Ok. Tell me things.

Ben contemplates his answer as he takes a sip of beer.

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BEN

Hmmm... I'm about to take the bar exam for the second time. I would've passed the first time, but that proctor was out to get me. She just kept *sitting* there.

They share a laugh. Simon's uncomfortable, but Ben finds it charming. In Simon's mind, Ben is out of his league.

BEN

What about you? What does Simon do?

SIMON

I... work at a record store. Down on Bedford. "Championship Vinyl".

BEN

That's cool. So is music your thing?

SIMON

(overcompensating)

I was in grad school for Communications Engineering. Satellites. Broadband. Stuff like that. Actually, it was so exciting that I took an indefinite hiatus a couple years ago.

BEN

Nothing wrong with a break.

SIMON

Yeah, nothing wrong with a break. <<STOP

A slow beat. Obvious sexual tension, then:

Ben leans in. Simon follows suit. Their lips meet for their first kiss. It's tender and sweet.

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**INT. BEDROOM - SIMON'S APARTMENT - BACK TO PRESENT - NIGHT**

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Simon is in his bedroom, a tiny room that is a perfect combination of punk rock meets gay elegance. There are several shelves of VINYL RECORDS and BAND POSTERS covering every other square inch. Simon talks TO CAMERA as he goes through his dresser drawers...

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