

"JOE'S PLACE" -- Writer: Peter-James Baker
PJBaker24@hotmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. STREETS OF HELL'S KITCHEN, NYC - DAY

A predominately Irish Catholic neighborhood, heatedly offset by the influx of yuppie commuters pushing into the exclusive downtown area.

The lunch rush is on -- VARIOUS PEOPLE ranging in age and race walkabout, fully unaware.

One man, JOE MCNARY (your typical middle-aged Irish NY'er), emerges from the crowded street, carrying a GROCERY BAG.

He ambles along, intently. A grave contemplating expression becomes him -- something he knows is eating at him, heartily.

INT. JOE'S PLACE PUB - UPSTAIRS APARTMENT - (THAT MOMENT)

BEDROOM

ALICE MCNARY (young and beautiful), lays in post coital bliss with her lover, BILLY FINNERTY (young wanna-be Irish Mobster); while the both of them SMOKE CIGARETTES.

ALICE

Wow... that's exactly what I needed. Forget that Irish curse shit I've been terrorized by lately. Holy fuck, I never knew.

BILLY

Oh yeah. Not here, babe. You know where to come for the goods.

ALICE

Where to come? More like how many times. Wow!

Billy looks to her, arrogantly.

BILLY

Oh yeah, how many?

ALICE

I lost track after four.

She reaches over to extinguish her cigarette.

ALICE

(continuing)

Or was it five? Who knows.

She then leans in tight against Billy.

ALICE
 (continuing)
 So, what are you doing later?

BILLY
 I don't know. How about you?

ALICE
 I'd like another poke at round two
 if you're feeling 'up' to it.

BILLY
 'Up' is my middle name, babe.

ALICE
 (amused)
 Billy 'up' Finnerty?

BILLY
 You know what the fuck I'm saying.

They both lean in to KISS one another.

ALICE
 Yes I do, Billy. Yes I do.

Alice incidentally looks over at the CLOCK which reads
 1:30 -- she's then quickly shocked.

ALICE
 (continuing)
 Fuck! You gotta get outta here!
 Joe's gonna be home any sec now.

BILLY
 What? Fuck him.

ALICE
 If I was, you wouldn't be here,
 now would you?

Billy shoots a confounded expression while extinguishing his
 cigarette.

Alice quickly darts out of bed, and frantically begins
 throwing on her clothes.

ALICE
 (continuing)
 If he catches us, he'll kill the
 both of us. Trust me.

Billy slowly gets out of bed.

BILLY
 Alice, that ol' bastard ain't
 gonna do squat, all right?

Alice THROWS a bundle of clothes at Billy.

ALICE
 You don't know Joe the way I do.
 Before we got married and bought
 this place, I heard he was a bag
 man for the IRA.

BILLY
 Bull shit! That ol' bag? Fuck
 that noise!

ALICE
 I'm not puttin' you on. A lot of
 people have told me that.

Alice leaves the room. Billy, half-dressed, follows right
 behind her into the...

HALLWAY

ALICE
 (continuing)
 Even my Mom told me that shit was
 true. And she told me to watch
 out when I married him. Besides,
 I'm not gonna wait around to
 fuckin' find out.

BILLY
 Those IRA dudes wouldn't have any
 business with a decrepit 'ol slug
 like him.

LIVING ROOM

BILLY
 (continuing)
 Now... I on the other hand, would
 be right up their alley. Young
 tough stud like myself, you know?

Alice grabs his COAT off the couch, and hands it to him.

ALICE
 Whatever. Here! We'll talk about
 this later. But for now, you
 gotta go.

Billy leans in to to KISS her, but she pulls back.

ALICE
 (continuing)
 No time for that! Out!

Alice shoots a determined look.

BILLY
 All right, but what time do you
 want me to come back then?

ALICE
 After ten, tonight. He'll be
 behind the bar then. He never
 leaves the night bar crowd.

She starts pushing Billy out the door, resolutely.

BILLY
 Can I just get a quick one? C'mon!

ALICE
 I'm not playing games here.

She then has him up against the door.

ALICE
 (continuing)
 You've gotta leave, now!

He turns to leave, but then looks back.

BILLY
 You gonna wear that pink teddy I
 like so much?

She SLAMS the door in his face. She then stands, relieved.

BILLY (O.C.)
 I'll see ya later then!

STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Billy looks at the door, confused. He then gathers his
 stuff, and heads down the stairs.

EXT. STREETS OF HELL'S KITCHEN - (THAT MOMENT)

Joe stands, decidedly. He then begins to gawk at something
 O.C., transfixed.

HIS POV

"JOE'S PLACE PUB" -- your everyday run of the mill
 neighborhood tavern.

With grocery bag in hand, he makes a move towards it, sharply.

INT. JOE'S PLACE PUB - (THAT MOMENT)

The place is a little more than run down -- the floor is still dirty from the night before.

There are a few undesirable looking occupants scattered about:

Closest to the door sits DANNY (young and really drunk).

A ways up from Danny sits an old passed out drunk by the name of SHAMUS.

Behind the bar is TRIXIE (late 20's, her name says it all), holding court with LAUREN (late 20's, well put together).

TRIXIE

...the guy is like standin' there with his teeny Irish pecker out already. So I tell the hot-headed mother-fucker to back off before I get pissed off, right? But being the stupid asshole that he is, he takes this as like another invite or somethin', you know?

LAUREN

So, what'd you do next?

TRIXIE

I grabbed on to his teeny little Irish pecker, and said that he if didn't go fuck himself right then and there and get the fuck outta my place, I was gonna cut that little toothpick he called a dick off, and shove it straight up his tight ass.

Lauren LAUGHS.

LAUREN

No way?

TRIXIE

Yeah way! Fuckin' putz!

Together, Lauren and Trixie both share a LAUGH.

DANNY (O.C.)

(calling out)

You fuckin' lyin' bitch, Trixie!

TRIXIE
 Fuck you, Danny! Keep it up, and
 you might just find your own prick
 shoved up your drunk ass.

Danny LAUGHS.

DANNY
 You don't have the balls.
 (points to glass)
 How about another one?

TRIXIE
 Sure, like you really need any
 more.

Trixie ambles over to pour Danny another drink.

TRIXIE
 (continuing)
 Besides, I've got more balls than
 you'd ever hope to have.

Joe ENTERS, and everyone greets him with the same rapport
 "Norm" was greeted with on "Cheers". "JOE!" "JOE!" "JOE!"

Contrary to the way he's greeted, Joe just nonchalantly waves
 with the hand that's free from the grocery bag.

He slowly makes his way towards the bar. He spots Shamus,
 passed out -- and as he walks by him, he pats him on the back.

JOE
 Atta boy, Shamus.

He makes his way over to Trixie behind the bar.

JOE
 (continuing)
 How'd it go today?

TRIXIE
 The usual, you know? Shamus
 passed out... Danny actin' like an
 ass. The usual.

JOE
 How much did you ring?

TRIXIE
 Probably about two hundred or so.

JOE

Not bad for lunch. All right, I'm gonna take these groceries upstairs to the love of my life, and then when I come back down, I'll take over, okay?

TRIXIE

Sure, no problem, Joe.

JOE

You're still gonna come back around eleven, right? I just haven't been able to spend quality time with Alice. It's very important that we spend some time together. You know what I mean?

TRIXIE

Absolutely, Joe. Don't worry about it, bud. Whatever I can do to help out.

JOE

Thanks, Trixie. I'll see ya in a few.

Joe walks away.

While walking out, Joe and Billy run into one another. Billy sizes him up, but Joe just proceeds on.

Billy walks over to the very end of the bar where no one else is and takes a seat.

BILLY

Guinness!

Before appeasing his request, Trixie shoots Lauren a look.

STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Joe intently walks up the stairs. He gets to the top, gets his KEYS out of his pocket, and opens the door.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joe enters. Right away, he's treated to a loving embrace from Alice.

ALICE

Honey pie. I missed you.

JOE
I missed you too.

ALICE
I missed you more. My honey
schnookum pie! Kisses for my baby!

She continues to shower him with affection, and then:

BILLY
(showing her the bag)
I got those groceries you asked
for.

ALICE
Thank you so much.
(then)
Joe, I don't know what I'd do
without you.

Joe affectionately smiles. They then gaze at one another for
a beat.

JOE
What would you do without me?

ALICE
I don't even wanna think it.

JOE
Really, what would you do?

She ponders for a short beat.

ALICE
I'd probably die. Joe McNary, I'd
probably die without you.

JOE
That's too bad. It would be a
shame. You're just so beautiful.

She examines him.

ALICE
Are you all right, Joe?

JOE
Yeah, I'm just tired of workin'
all the time. I wanna spend some
time with you is all.

ALICE
 Tomorrow is our day. Trixie said
 she'll cover for you tomorrow,
 right?

JOE
 Yeah.

ALICE
 We'll have tomorrow then. It's
 only one more day. Even I can
 handle one more day.

JOE
 Sure... one more day.

They KISS one another.

JOE
 (continuing)
 I've gotta get back to the bar.
 Trixie needs to get home soon.

He turns and starts walking away.

ALICE
 I love you, Joe.

He turns back to her.

JOE
 I love you too, Alice.

He turns and leaves -- shutting the door behind him.

ALICE
 Finally...

STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Joe walks down the stairs, undecidedly.

BACK IN THE BAR - (THAT MOMENT)

Trixie and Lauren are shooting glances towards Billy, but he
 doesn't notice.

TRIXIE
 Yeah him, right over there.

Billy is out of ear shot, so he can't hear what they're
 saying about him.

LAUREN
He's the one fuckin' Joe's Alice?

TRIXIE
Dumb luck, huh? His name's Billy Finnerty. His younger brother Chuckie was the guy I was telling you about earlier.

LAUREN
The guy with the little dick? Get outta town!

TRIXIE
Oh yeah. But the way I heard it, the curse skipped him over somethin' fierce, and that's why Alice--

Trixie quickly turns her attention to Joe walking in. She then abruptly shuts her mouth.

LAUREN
SSSSSHHHHH! Here he comes.

TRIXIE
We'll talk about this later.
(then)
Hey Joe!

JOE
How's it goin'?

Joe's spirits appear to be more elated -- he actually seems happy.

He walks past Danny, and gives him a supportive SLAP on the back.

JOE
(continuing)
Oh... Danny boy!

DANNY
How's it goin', Joe?

JOE
Just fine Danny boy, just fine.

He then pats Shamus, who's still passed out, on the back.

JOE
(continuing)
That's the Shamus we all love.

He then makes his way up to Trixie and Lauren.

JOE
 (continuing)
 So, did anything special happen
 while I was gone?

TRIXIE
 Nope, just the usual.
 (points to Billy)
 Down there, he's just had three
 Guinness is all.

JOE
 Great! Well... then I'll be
 takin' over.

TRIXIE
 Cool. I'm gonna have a few pops
 with Lauren here before I go home.
 You remember Lauren, right?

Joe looks to Lauren, then softly:

JOE
 Of course. How could I forget
 such eloquent beauty?

LAUREN
 Thank you so much, Joe.

TRIXIE
 Jesus Christ! What got into you?
 Did ya have a little quickie
 before the biggie, if you know
 what I mean?

JOE
 I'm just in a good mood.

LAUREN
 He's just being nice, Trixie.

JOE
 That's right, Trixie, I just feel
 like being nice.

LAUREN
 A little preemptive strike for
 tonight?

JOE
 You could call it that.

TRIXIE

Good for you, Joe. You're definitely one guy I know that deserves to get laid. The rest of those rat fucks can all rot in hell for all I fuckin' care.

Joe grabs a CLIPBOARD from under the bar.

JOE

Haven't lost your charm I see.

(then)

I'm gonna go back to the store room and do inventory while there's no one in here.

(hands trixie a beer)

That and the next one are on me if you keep on eye on the place while I do this.

TRIXIE

Only if you get one for my friend here.

Joe hands Lauren a beer.

JOE

Anything for the lovely lady.

LAUREN

You're such a sweetheart, Joe.

JOE

I'll be in the back if you need me.

Joe exits.

LAUREN

He's so nice.

TRIXIE

I don't think he'd be so nice if he found out that tramp Alice was fuckin' around on him with that scumbag down there.

LAUREN

I can't believe she'd do that to him. Joe's such a gentlemen. I'd love to be with 'em.

TRIXIE

Who wouldn't? That stupid slut doesn't know what she's got.

LAUREN

Amen!

The both CHEER with their beer bottles.

TRIXIE

Fuckin' a-right!

They then both take huge slugs of their beers.

TRIXIE

(continuing)

You know what the fucked up thing
is?

LAUREN

What?

TRIXIE

It's all about dick size. See,
Ram-bone down there has a cock
that's bigger than a baby's arm.
I heard Alice got tired of Joe's
Irish curse, and went lookin' for
the long one, if you know what I
mean.

LAUREN

No way. Just because of Dick
size? Whatta fuckin' skank.

TRIXIE

Tell me about it. When a man
can't satisfy me, it's time to
bring out mister eight inch plug
in. Just like that Energizer
monkey, or whatever the fuck it
is... it keeps going and going.

They CHEER one another again.

LAUREN

You go girl!

(then)

Has anyone thought to tell him?

TRIXIE

Sure, but why break his heart?
Besides, if Joe finds them,
they're both dead. I heard--

Joe comes walking back.

TRIXIE
(continuing)
Hey Joe! That was quick. Done
already?

JOE
Yeah, we haven't moved that much
liquor outta here this week.

TRIXIE
Tell me about it.

JOE
What's that supposed to mean?

TRIXIE
Nothing.

Joe just kind of brushes it off, and walks over to the register.

LATER - NIGHT

There are a few more PEOPLE in the bar than there was earlier. Danny, stumbling drunk, gets up and leaves.

DANNY
Thanks, Joe.

JOE
You want me to call you a cab?

Danny just walks out the door without acknowledging.

TRIXIE
We're gonna leave too... probably
gonna go grab a slice or dog or
something. I'm fuckin' starved.

JOE
All right, I'll see ya at eleven.

TRIXIE
Sure thing. Bye.

LAUREN
Bye, Joe. It was nice talking
with you.

JOE
You too, honey. You gals have a
good night.

They walk out. Joe ambles his way towards Billy.

LATER

There are even more PEOPLE occupying the place.

Joe is holding court with Billy.

BILLY
...I didn't know that. That's
pretty cool.

JOE
Yeah, there were just something
about growing up in this
neighborhood back then. There was
this level of respect, you know?
(then)
How about another one?

BILLY
Sure, one more wouldn't hurt.

JOE
That's the spirit.

Joe pours a GUINNESS, and then 4 SHOTS of WHISKEY.

He hands Billy the GUINNESS, and TWO SHOTS. Joe Toasts.

BILLY
Thanks.

JOE
Here's to good love.

BILLY
To good love.

They knock back the two shots, and then they quickly chase it
with their beers.

BILLY
(continuing)
Yee--haw!

JOE
Atta boy. Those are one me.
(then)
I've gotta get back to my other
customers here. I'll be seeing
you around.

BILLY
Thanks, Joe. You sure will.
You've gotta great place here.

JOE

Thanks.

Joe walks away.

LATER

Billy gets up to leave, stumbling drunk.

JOE

(continuing)

Leaving so soon? We're just getting started.

BILLY

I've gotta go, but I'll see ya around. Thanks a lot, Joe. You're a real cool dude.

Billy stumbles towards the door.

JOE

You betcha.

Joe goes back to tending to his bar crowd.

LATER

Trixie rushes back into the bar. She quickly makes a bee line for behind the bar. She puts on her APRON, and darts over to Joe.

TRIXIE

I'm so sorry, Joe. I couldn't get a cab with all those yuppie fucks running around here, you know?

JOE

It's all right, Trixie.

TRIXIE

I got it from here. Anybody got any tabs running?

JOE

(points)

Yeah, that guy has three cosmos goin'.

(points again)

And that lady there has six Guinness, and six Jameson.

TRIXIE
Cool. I've got it. Now... get
outta here! Go get laid with your
'ol lady for Christ's sake!

Joe then looks to Trixie, resolutely.

JOE
Trixie, if anything happened to
me, you'd look after the place,
right?

TRIXIE
Sure, Joe, whatever... quit
talkin' crazy. Now get the fuck
outta here and go have some fun.

Joe takes his APRON off, and heads towards the back of the
bar where there's an OFFICE.

Trixie watches him go, curiously.

OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

He grabs an undisclosed object from out of the top drawer of
the desk and puts it in his pocket.

OUTSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

Joe pauses to peer into thin air. After a beat, he takes a
deep breath, and searchingly walks towards the apartment
entrance.

BEDROOM - (THAT MOMENT)

Billy and Alice are going at like rabbits.

ALICE
Fuck me, Billy! Fuck me!

STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Joe intently walks up the stairs with a solemn expression.

BEDROOM - (THAT MOMENT)

Billy and Alice are still going at it.

BILLY
You know you love it!

STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Joe quietly opens the door.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joe quietly and carefully closes the door behind him.

Without making any noise, he slowly and determinedly makes his way towards the bedroom.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As he approaches closer, he begins to HEAR the sounds of Billy and Alice HAVING SEX -- his expression quickly begins to sink.

He gets to the bedroom door, which is half open. He peers in.

HIS POV: BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alice and Billy are going at it like animals. It appears as though both of them are going to climax. After a beat, they do climax, and they then both roll over.

They are then both promptly stunned by what they see:

Joe standing, observing them, expressionless.

ALICE
Joe! Joe! It's not what you
think. Baby, I swear.

Billy continues to remain arrogant, nonchalantly lighting up a cigarette.

ALICE
(continuing)
Honey, let me explain.

Joe reaches into his pocket, and pulls out a PISTOL. Without hesitation, he FIRES two rounds into BILLY'S HEAD. Billy's dead body swiftly falls onto the floor.

Alice SCREAMS!!!

Joe points the gun at her. She's stunned, in shock, she doesn't know what to do -- she begins to CRY and plead:

ALICE
(continuing)
Joe, I'm so sorry. I never wanted
this to happen. It's all his
fault. He tricked me, Joe. He
tricked me. I never wanted to do
this to you, Joe. I swear, Joe.
You're the one I love. Joe...

He FIRES a shot into her SHOULDER -- this puts her down.

ALICE
(continuing)
OH MY GOD! JOE!

Joe looks to her, searchingly.

JOE
You were so beautiful when you
were faithful to me.

He FIRES the fatal shot into her head. He then stares at her dead body, closely.

He drops the gun, and leaves the room.

He ambles his way down the...

HALLWAY

and then into the...

LIVING ROOM

He walks over to a CABINET, pulls out a BOTTLE OF WHISKEY, and pours himself a glass. He takes it all down in one gulp, and then he pours himself another one.

He takes his whiskey, and sits down in a chair, nonchalantly. He picks up the PHONE that's next to it, and begins dialing.

JOE
(continuing; into
phone)
I'd like to report a murder. Yeah
that's right... a murder. It's
Joe's Place Pub. Joe's Place Pub.
Upstairs apartment. It's on the
lower east side. Joe's Place...
uh huh. Thanks. Bye.

He hangs up the phone, and begins drinking his whiskey, nonchalantly.

He continues drinking and pondering imperturbably until...

FADE OUT: