

ICARUS REACHES

By

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First draft

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Act I

The set is a dive bar, it will be revealed, in Astoria, Queens where the hard working people of the world go to quietly drink themselves to death. From DOWN LEFT to UP CENTER runs the bar, skirted in scattered stools. A once festive strings of lights, now dangle sadly from the ceiling. Old clippings, decorations and photos are taped to the walls. The paneling is the color of hopelessness. Stage right, is an undersized, garishly lit pool table. On the UP CENTER wall is the front door, a small booth and table and one small window, with a neon beer sign. All the way UP LEFT behind the bar is a door to a back room. Along the STAGE RIGHT wall, is a doorway that leads to the rest rooms and another that leads to a back room. DOWN CENTER is a table with a few chairs around it. A tired old song that sounds like it's been played a million times and knows it, wails on. RILEY, (40) Irish as they make them, stands behind the bar looking like the song sounds. A young couple; drunk and in love, play a game of pool which is largely an excuse for them to grope each other. They are HOPE and TOMMY. (20s) NUNZIO, (50s) a drunk barfly - leans half asleep on a pool cue at the bar. He and RILEY watch the couple. This is all naughty and fun:

HOPE

Hey, you're cheating!

TOMMY

I've let you cheat all night.

HOPE

You have not.

TOMMY

I let you move my ball a minute ago.

HOPE

Fine! Then take it back.

TOMMY

We can't take it back now. But you got a freebie. So, so do I. That's fair, right?

HOPE

... Cheater.

TOMMY

We'll see who's a cheater...

NUNZIO

Riley - Lemme get one more.

RILEY

Nunz, I called last call half an hour ago.

NUNZIO

Oh come on, it's a blizzard out there. Two feet of snow and it's still coming down!

RILEY

Annie'll have my head.

NUNZIO

'Less she already has your balls.

RILEY

That's the first thing they take. It ain't like you don't live across the street.

NUNZIO

(As they laugh.)

I could fall in a snowbank and freeze to death. You want that on your conscience? It happens. We got no place to be anyways. Have a drink will ya? You're married to her. You deserve it.

RILEY

If you're gonna talk about Annie like that -

NUNZIO

Do a shot with me Riley! What the fuck?

RILEY

Fucken-a brother! You're right, why not? Lets have one quick one since we're closin' up.

RILEY pours them both a drink.

NUNZIO

I ain't goin' anywhere as long's this little thing keeps bending over that pool table. Snow or no snow.

(to HOPE and TOMMY)

HEY! I play the winner, right? That's what we said.

HOPE and TOMMY are too busy making out to hear him.

RILEY

I think they've picked the winner.

RILEY and NUNZIO toast their shots of whiskey and RILEY hastily dispatches with the glasses.

RILEY

Slainte'.

HOPE

We're sorry, we're taking too long. You want to play? Tommy, you two play. I'll watch.

NUNZIO

I'd a taken that one home already pal. But since you're not in a hurry, I'll take the winner.

TOMMY

Someone winning this game could take all night.

RILEY

All night has come and gone my friends.

HOPE

So it has.

RILEY

He's a hustler this one, watch yerselves!

HOPE

Oh... We can handle him.

NUNZIO

Oh really?

(to Tommy:)

She's a handful, isn't she? She's *TWO* handfuls!

RILEY

Come on now.

TOMMY

Easy buddy, come on.

HOPE

I'm not very good at this game.

NUNZIO

You're doing fine honey. Don't you let him make you nervous.

HOPE

Oh, he don't make me nervous.

(mock whisper)

He's just trying to fuck me.

NUNZIO

Ohhhh!

TOMMY

Don't listen to her buddy. She's tryin' to fuck me.

HOPE

(giggling, can't believe what
she just said.)

Oh, my when did I get drunk?

TOMMY

About five minutes ago. You feel okay baby? You want to sit down?

HOPE

I'm fine. You're cute.

NUNZIO

We playin pool or what?

HOPE

Who's turn is it?

TOMMY

You.

HOPE

I don't have a shot.

NUNZIO

You can get the seven in this corner right here.

HOPE

I'll never make that. Where's my drink? I lost my drink.

TOMMY

You drank your drink.

HOPE

Can't say "Drink, Drank or Drunk!"

TOMMY

What?

HOPE

You can't say "Drink Drank or Drunk." You never played that game?

TOMMY

I guess not.

HOPE

Can I get another one?

TOMMY

What time is it?

RILEY

Four fifteen AM. It is after hours brothers and sisters.

TOMMY crosses to bar.

NUNZIO

You know I used to play professionally. Made a good living too.

NUNZIO engages HOPE and tries to coach her in shooting - a pathetic come on that she endures good naturedly.

TOMMY

Do you think we could get one more round?

RILEY

Considering the extenuating circumstance of this more than noteworthy act of nature I suppose we could have another round.

TOMMY

Thank you sir!

RILEY

It'll have to be on the house as I have closed the drawer.

TOMMY

(To Riley)

If you insist. Two shots of Jameson's and two beers?

RILEY

(Already getting the drinks.)

Ain't you people got anyplace to go?

HOPE

NO!

TOMMY

The trucks are snowed in. We have no place in the world to go.

HOPE

No place but here in darkest Astoria.

TOMMY

What's your name again?

RILEY

Riley. Johnny Ray. But everybody calls me Riley.

TOMMY

Tommy... (They shake.)

HOPE

Thanks Mister Riley...
(shoots)

Fuck!

(She lost. To NUNZIO:)

Your turn!

NUNZIO

What? I gotta play him? I want to play you sweetheart.

TOMMY

(bringing the drinks over)

You can play her if you want, I'll watch. Or we can tag team.

HOPE

He likes to watch.

They do their shot and drink and only
see each other for a moment:

TOMMY

Oh...

NUNZIO

He likes to tag team.

TOMMY

You are one dirty old man you know that?

NUNZIO

Last thing my wife said to me before she left.

HOPE

You want me all to your self baby?

TOMMY

Yeah.

HOPE

What you gonna do about that?

NUNZIO and RILEY exchange looks.

ANNIE (late 30s) enters. She looks worn
out and a little older than RILEY,
though she is younger.

She drinks all night, every night and this night has been no exception. Her former youth and grace are occasionally evident despite her weary scowl.

She carries a milk crate full of liquor bottles. Only RILEY pays her any mind as the rest start up a game of pool.

ANNIE

Liquor room's a disaster area. You were supposed to straighten up that fucking mess. There are so many boxes in there Riley - Really! I couldn't even walk through the goddamn... Then I hit my head on that fucking pipe -
(she slams the milk crate down on the bar.)

Heavy as shit. There's another crate down there. You're getting it. You let your wife do the manual labor -

RILEY

Well, we had customers and you don't much like people -

ANNIE

Well, you can get the next one then you're so fucking smart. I don't know if there's any more Johnny Walker red or black I don't know where a fucken thing is down there and I still can't find that bottle of Patron Silver. You want to tell me how the fuck we go through so much Patron silver in this shit hole neighborhood? The dead beat old fucken old men come in here don't order that shit. Probably Alejandro. Probably shoves it in that big bag he's always leaving here with.

RILEY

Alejandro ain't stealin' our feckin tequila, love.

ANNIE

Who then? You ever search him? You ever say "Hey *amigo*, watcha got in that back pack anyway? Fucken library books?" He can't help it, it's tequila. It'd be like an Irish boy turnin' down a hand job from a Catholic Priest.

This finally makes her smile.

RILEY

Aren't you something this evenin'? My lovely bride.

ANNIE

You've got two kegs to change too, stud.

RILEY

I'll get right on it.

ANNIE

I thought we were closed.

RILEY

We are.

ANNIE

Then what are they doing here?

RILEY

What's the harm while we're closin' up? They ain't botherin' me.

ANNIE

Nothing bothers you. Is it still snowing? Where's my drink?

RILEY

Right here where it always is my dear.

She pours herself a fresh drink from the cheapest looking bottle of white wine as he unpacks the bottles from the crate.

NUNZIO and TOMMY are playing pool. HOPE sinks into one of the chairs at the down stage table.

ANNIE

You'd stand here til tomorrow noon if they asked you to. Sneakin' shots of Jameson's when you think I'm not looking.

RILEY

You want to talk about drinking the profits my sweet?

ANNIE

Don't fucking start with me!

RILEY

Who's starting?

ANNIE

It's late, I'm tired.

RILEY

Fine, then. Jesus.

She ignores him with a scoff and drinks her drink.

He exits out the way she came. ANNIE notices HOPE and saunters over to her.

ANNIE

(trying to startle her.)

Don't fall asleep!

HOPE

Oh! Okay...

ANNIE

Don't want to get roofied do ya?

HOPE

No.

ANNIE

My granddad used to say that's how you could tell who the whores were. Cheap hookers fall asleep at the bar.

HOPE

High priced hookers can all afford good coke.

ANNIE

He used to send my mother to the bar with a quart container and a nickel and she would go and buy him beer and carry it home. They could do that back then. Tap beer you could bring it right back to your house. Send the kid to the bar for a coffee can full of beer! Can you imagine a ten year old girl walking down the street with a quart of beer today?

(laughs.)

My mother would always tell hat story. She would tell that story every time she was in the presence of my grandfather. It was just a matter of time.

HOPE

You're from here originally?

ANNIE

Born and raised.

HOPE

That's so cool.

ANNIE

Yeah. Real cool. What about you?

HOPE

Florida.

ANNIE

Christ...

HOPE

It wasn't so bad. We were near the beach.

ANNIE

It's a cultural vortex.

HOPE

Yeah. I had to get out of there.

ANNIE

Like Astoria is the fuckin shomps-e-lease-ays.

HOPE

(laughing right in her face)

Yeah! Well. I don't know.

ANNIE

What?

HOPE

Nothing.

ANNIE

What? What don't you know?

HOPE

Oh, nothing.

ANNIE

Right. You shouldn't be so quick to judge people.

HOPE

I wasn't judging you.

ANNIE

You think you're better than me?

HOPE

Why would I think that?

ANNIE

My husband's been lookin' at your ass all night, you think that gives you the right -

HOPE

I'm so sorry if -

ANNIE

I'm just saying I know you.

HOPE

How do you know me?

ANNIE

I'm just sayin' is all.

HOPE

No, I'd like to know. I seem to be pissing people off all over the place tonight, and I'd really like to know what I'm doing wrong.

ANNIE

Take it easy. You just got that look about ya I guess. Some people have it.

HOPE

Great.

ANNIE

Well, lemme ask ya this. Where's daddy?

HOPE

What?

ANNIE

How do you get along with your father?

HOPE

My father? I don't.

ANNIE

Ah-ha! I knew it.

HOPE

What?

ANNIE

You don't have a good father - you're missing a father figure in your life. And when that happens, girls like you think every man you see might love you like your daddy didn't. They attempt to fill that void by stuffing as many cocks in as many orifices as they can until they are so full of cock that they no longer feel the one hole that's still empty.

(Mimes all sorts of sex acts.)

"Love me Daddy! Love me Daddy! Love me Daddy!" It's very common in Florida.

For a moment HOPE is too shocked to speak.

HOPE

That's disgusting. I'm not a "Love me Daddy!"

ANNIE

No, of course you're not.

HOPE

God. What about you? What about your father?

ANNIE
Never met him.

HOPE
Ha.

RILEY enters with another crate of bottles.

ANNIE
(toward TOMMY:)
Who's Mister Right back there?

HOPE
It's a little complicated right now.

ANNIE
How so?
(pause)
You-don't-mind-my-asking.

HOPE
Well, it's kind of a "show-mance?" We're - You noticed the film crew around the block?

ANNIE
I don't even notice them half the time. Law and Order was here once. Shot right outside. It was raining really hard and their trailers were all the way down the block. Someone comes in and asks if Mr. Orbach could stay in here til they were ready to shoot. We said sure. Jerry Orbach was standing right there all day that day. Very nice man. Right Honey?

RILEY
(busily putting away bottles.)
What?

ANNIE
Jerry Orbach...

RILEY
Perfect gentleman. Stood right over there all day one day. It was raining...

ANNIE
I TOLD THE GODDAMN STORY ALREADY!
(back to HOPE:)
Anyway, he was very complimentary.

HOPE
Yeah?

ANNIE

Show went to shit when he died.

HOPE

Well, we both work on the shoot. The one over there. They were supposed to wrap early because of the storm but-

ANNIE

The show must go on! What do you do? You an actress?

HOPE

Make up.

ANNIE

Right. So a show-mance huh?

HOPE

Show-mance. When you meet on a gig. You're with the same people day and night for weeks and -

ANNIE

And when the show's over -

HOPE

Yeah. But maybe not this time.

ANNIE

Oh no?

HOPE

I don't know.

ANNIE

Aw! You love him!

HOPE

We barely know each other. I'm kind of in a relationship right now.

ANNIE

What kind of relationship?

HOPE

I have a boyfriend. We actually live together.

ANNIE

I can really call 'em.

HOPE

I don't know what it is about Tommy. Ever since we met, it's been like, "Wow!"

ANNIE

Yeah. Wow. I know all about wow.

HOPE

I know what I'm doing. I'm twenty two years old. I've been around. Well, not like that. Well, like that too! But I'm my own woman and Brett and I - Brett's y boyfriend - we've been having a lot of trouble lately and frankly I don't see it lasting for much longer.

(Looks at TOMMY)

Waddaya think? Isn't he just delicious?

ANNIE

Yummy.

HOPE

What the hell right? You only live once.

ANNIE

"But if you do it right, once is enough."

HOPE

I think I'm gonna sleep with him.

ANNIE

You know you remind me of myself at that age.

HOPE

Really?

Pause.

ANNIE

I do hair.

HOPE

Really?

ANNIE

I went to hairdressing school. Haven't done it for years now.

HOPE

I don't do hair.

ANNIE

How would I get a job on one of those film shoots?

HOPE

Oh, you work your way up. Work for free a lot at first.

ANNIE

Fuck that. I had a "show-mance" of my own once.

HOPE

Oh yeah?

ANNIE

Want to hear a story? I was dating a boy named Manny - crazy fucken Puerto Rican, well - Two years we were just crazy in love, just running around the city doin all kinds of crazy shit. Drugs. Fuckin all day and drinking all night. 'Manny.' He played the trumpet in this club I was a waitress in. You should have seen him up there in those tight leather pants. I think I could have married him. It was very hot and passionate. I had never acted like that. Maybe it was just that Latin thing, maybe you catch it like an STD. Well, the motherfucker broke my heart. Cheated on me. He was fucking an old girlfriend.

HOPE

Oh, my god.

ANNIE

Yeah.

HOPE

Men, right?

ANNIE

He tried to charm his way out of it.

HOPE

What did you do?

ANNIE

I went crazy. I almost killed him. I almost went to jail for murder.

HOPE

What!?

ANNIE

When I found out I lost my shit. I was crying and trying to stab him in the dick with this big old butcher knife that ended up in my hand. He was naked. He was always naked. He was hiding behind the futon and shit. We're both drunk of course. Well, I hit his femoral artery. You know where that is? It's right here on the inside of your thigh. Suddenly, there's this geyser of blood! He tried to plug it up with his hand which made it worse. His leg was like a lawn sprinkler - everything was soaked in blood. It was like a horror movie. Fucken disgusting.

HOPE

Holy shit.

ANNIE

By the time the paramedics got there he was unconscious. I could have killed him. Let me tell you something, you think you want to stab somebody in the dick? You don't.

HOPE

Oh my god. Did you -

ANNIE

He didn't press charges. He still loved me. That was right before I met Riley.

(Ponders.)

Different sort of man.

HOPE

Don't fuck with you!

ANNIE

Just don't break my heart.

HOPE

Does Riley know that story?

ANNIE

You bet yer ass he does. He knows I can hit a vein whenever I want to!

ANNIE cracks herself up and wanders off leaving HOPE to herself.

ANNIE

I'm going to have a cigarette.

She exits out the front door. HOPE checks a cell phone, and reads and sends texts.

TOMMY and NUNZIO continue a half hearted game of pool.

NUNZIO, shoots, misses and deflates. He shows TOMMY a thumb and forefinger 'this far' apart.

NUNZIO

Missed it by a pussy hair.

TOMMY

That you did.

(as he shoots)

You live in the neighborhood?

NUNZIO

Thirty years.

TOMMY

Yeah? You one of those lucky guys you always hear about, pays ten bucks a month rent?

NUNZIO

No one's ever called me lucky before. But I've lived there for thirty years. Raise both my kids in that apartment.

TOMMY

You married?

NUNZIO

She passed. We were divorced.

TOMMY

Sorry.

NUNZIO

Yeah. Me too.

TOMMY

What about your kids?

NUNZIO

My son George lives up in Boston and Sara is married lives in Brooklyn. I don't hear too much from them.

TOMMY

Oh...

NUNZIO

They're both so fucken busy. You know. Got a new grandson I been meaning to go see.

(pause)

It's hard to get out there. Fucken G train.

TOMMY

Yeah.

NUNZIO

What are you doing in a shit hole like this with a beautiful thing like that may I ask?

TOMMY

We're playin' hookey.

NUNZIO

Hookey from what?

Work.

TOMMY

Now?

NUNZIO

We met on that film shoot around the block...

TOMMY

Oh yeah?

NUNZIO

RILEY exits with the empty crate.

TOMMY

Yeah.

NUNZIO

You the reason I can't park in my own neighborhood all week?

TOMMY

Not me. I'm just a grip.

NUNZIO

A what?

TOMMY

A grip. They're shooting in that warehouse over there. She got in a fight with the star of the movie and maybe sorta quit. I came out after her and saw there was a blizzard and said, I'm taking a few hours off. They ain't gonna miss me.

NUNZIO

Fuck it man! I'm still on an extended break from Consolidated Edison you might say. I can't work anyway now on account of my leg. Got a bad leg.

(off HOPE)

You gonna fuck her or what?

TOMMY

Yeah.

NUNZIO

Yeah, I would'a too. God, I used to get a lot of pussy when I was your age. Back before I was in the army. After too. I betcha those movie sets - I bet everybody's fucken everybody.

TOMMY

That's about right.

NUNZIO

Listen - listen - listen to some advice. Don't go gettin all tied down with one woman you hear me? As long as that thing works, use it!

TOMMY

Oh, I won't. I mean I will. Use it. I do use it.

NUNZIO

You make sure she knows it.

TOMMY

She doesn't have to know anything. Please.

NUNZIO

Damn right.

TOMMY

She's kind of a cool chick though.

NUNZIO

You're a poet, you are.

HOPE

(off her phone to TOMMY)

They finally wrapped. Carrie's having a fit. Maybe I should go back.

NUNZIO

Who's Carrie?

HOPE

She's the star.

NUNZIO

Carrie who?

TOMMY

Carrie Cruz. The star of the movie. Whoop-de-fucken-do.

NUNZIO

She famous?

TOMMY

You don't know who Carrie Cruz is?

NUNZIO

Should I?

TOMMY

She had that hit song forever ago. Now she acts.

HOPE

No she did Broadway, remember, then "Saturday Night" came out ... Now she mostly does movies.

NUNZIO

Never heard of her.

HOPE

(sings)

"You ain't my boyfriend, you ain't my boyfriend, you ain't my boyfriend..."

TOMMY

He's not gonna know that song, Hope.

HOPE

What about, she was on, like, Critical Mass for like four years.

NUNZIO

Is that a TV show? I don't watch TV.

TOMMY

Anyway, she's a fucken bitch and the reason these nights are taking forever and she tried to get Hope fired.

HOPE

Souraya just texted me to come back tomorrow and act like everything is fine.

TOMMY

You gonna?

HOPE

I have never quit a job. I've never walked off set like that.

NUNZIO

(to HOPE)

Oh yeah?

HOPE

She thought I was laughing at her. I was eavesdropping on her conversation.

NUNZIO

Were you?

HOPE

She's sitting in my chair yelling at her boyfriend on the phone. How am I not supposed to hear?

TOMMY

What were you supposed to do?

NUNZIO

So she fired you?

HOPE

She screamed at me and I started to cry because I'm a stupid cry baby when I get embarrassed and I left.

TOMMY

You didn't run away. Bitch went crazy.

NUNZIO

Fuck her!

HOPE

Right?

NUNZIO

I wouldn't put up with her shit.

TOMMY

So, we walked around in this blizzard and found this place.

NUNZIO

Lets drink to quitting!

HOPE

Yeah!

TOMMY

Really? You sure? You want another?

HOPE

Let's do it!

NUNZIO

Do it right!

TOMMY

Hey! I'm in!

Then notice that they are alone.

NUNZIO rushes behind the bar, grabs a bottle and has a swig from it.

TOMMY

Where'd everybody go?

HOPE

SHE'S outside smoking. What's her name?

NUNZIO

Who Annie? Riley's wife.

HOPE

She's quite a character. Should you be back there?

NUNZIO

Woman is a harpie. They both own this shit hole.

HOPE

That's kind of cute.

NUNZIO

You're kind of cute.

(Comes out from behind bar.)

TOMMY

Why don't you give it a rest, pal?

NUNZIO

Oh, give it a fucken rest will ya? Relax.

TOMMY

You relax!

NUNZIO

You worried about an old man?

TOMMY

Don't fucken tell me to relax.

NUNZIO

Hope. That your name, Hope? Why don't you come have a dance with me hope? While your boyfriend watches.

He takes her in his arms.

HOPE

He's not even my boyfriend. My boyfriend's not here!

(sings again)

"He's not my boyfriend, he's not my boyfriend!"

TOMMY

Alright...

(NUNZIO ignores him and TOMMY tries to be a good sport. NUNZIO dances her around a few time singing something like *Paper Moon* for a bit.)

Okay dude, why don't you let her go?

NUNZIO

You hear something?

HOPE just laughs.

TOMMY finally grabs his arm.

TOMMY

Alright there buddy...

NUNZIO

Get your fucking hands off me! You don't come around here grabbin' at me mister. You hear me?

TOMMY

Alright, be cool.

NUNZIO

Hands off! You ask around, you ask who I am! You fucken grab me!

TOMMY

I just touched your arm.

NUNZIO

You just touched my arm. I'll touch your fucken head.

HOPE

He didn't do anything.

RILEY rushes in.

TOMMY

You want to try it pal?

HOPE

Tommy, be careful!

NUNZIO

BOY, I will take you to school.

RILEY

Alright fellas, break it up.

NUNZIO

You tell this prick who I am Riley!

RILEY

Is this the thanks I get for lettin' ya stay?

NUNZIO

Tell him who I am!

RILEY

(to Tommy)

Did you touch him?

NUNZIO

Guy took a swing at me.

HOPE

No he didn't.

TOMMY

He wouldn't let go of her.

RILEY

Nunz, it's time for you to go.

NUNZIO

I spilled plenty of blood in nicer dives than this one.

RILEY

We'll remember that.

TOMMY

What is this guy's problem, man?

RILEY

He don't like to be touched.

HOPE

I'm sorry honey I didn't know he was a crazy asshole.

RILEY

Who do you think's still in a place like this at this hour?

NUNZIO

The fuck did you just say?

RILEY

I said you're drunk and it's time to go home.

NUNZIO

I'm not good enough for your place now you got some fancy Manhattan pussy in here.

TOMMY

Dude, I swear to god...

HOPE

I live in Brooklyn!

RILEY

I'll call the cops Nunz you don't leave right now. You know I'll do it. I done it before.

ANNIE enters.

NUNZIO

(focusing on TOMMY)

I killed ten gooks in two tours in Nam, five up close with my knife. You ever kill anyone? You ever serve your country, Son?

RILEY is holding back NUNZIO.

ANNIE reaches behind the bar and pulls out a length of iron pipe.

ANNIE

Get your drunk fucken ass out of my bar or I will have you arrested you piece of shit!

NUNZIO

Whoa!

ANNIE

(smashing it on the bar)

OUT!

RILEY

Gimme that Annie, now.

TOMMY and HOPE back toward the wall.

ANNIE

Shut up Riley. OUT!

RILEY

I'll handle it Annie, there's no need to go swinging that thing around you're gonna hurt someone.

ANNIE

(swinging at NUNZIO)

Get out of here you hear me? You're done!

NUNZIO grabs at the pipe and TOMMY grabs that hand by the wrist.

HOPE

Tommy!

ANNIE

I will get a cop in here! You fuck with me!

NUNZIO

fuck you.

RILEY jumps into the fray, gets him in a headlock.

The three of them curse and struggle and as one push the howling NUNZIO out the upstage door.

In the silence that remains they recover. First thing, RILEY grabs the pipe from ANNIE. HOPE rushes to TOMMY.

RILEY

Gimme this! That was stupid! This thing is dangerous!

ANNIE

What were you gonna do? Somebody had to grow some balls in the situation.

RILEY

You almost handed him a lead pipe!

ANNIE

You're the one who keeps serving him night after night! You create these situations! Every night we go through something with that guy!

RILEY

Damn near got it away from ya didn't he? What would you've done then?

ANNIE

I can handle things, no thanks to you.

(To TOMMY and HOPE)

You guys alright?

TOMMY

I think so, you okay honey?

HOPE

That was all my fault.

TOMMY

No it wasn't, guy was an asshole.

(to RILEY)

Does he come in here a lot?

RILEY

Most days. Not anymore. I can promise you that.

ANNIE

Shoulda kicked his ass out of here long time ago.

RILEY

Well now you got your wish. Real sorry folks. No damage done then?

TOMMY

None here.

HOPE

We're fine really. It's New York, ya know.

TOMMY

Yeah right...

ANNIE

Let's all have a drink then! On the house!

HOPE

Woo hoo!

TOMMY

Sounds good.

RILEY

That it does me brother. Let us raise a pint to old Nunzio and may the fucker never darken our door with his ugly face again!

RILEY gets behind the bar. ANNIE clears the few remaining glasses from off the pool table etc.

HOPE begins to laugh.

TOMMY

What's so funny?

HOPE

(still cracking up)

Did he say "gooks?"

TOMMY laughs, eventually they all do.

TOMMY

Yeah he did!

HOPE

"Gook?" What is he Rambo? "Charlie! Charlie's in the bush!"

TOMMY

Roger, Charlie!

HOPE

(impersonating a radio)

Delta, Roger, Whiskey, Tango.

TOMMY

Fiver-Delta-Niner!

RILEY

I think Nunz is still in the bush.

TOMMY

So that guy was really a crazy Vietnam vet or what?

RILEY

So he says.

HOPE

Well, if that's real that's pretty scary. He could have killed us all.

ANNIE

Pffft.

RILEY

Not with my lovely Annie around to protect us.

ANNIE

That guys head is so fucked up from all the booze and drugs he did - and the clap he couldn't hurt a flea.

HOPE

Roger Clap, Tango-Whiskey.

They are all snuggles.

TOMMY

It's so cute when she does that.

ANNIE

Barf.

RILEY

He's just an old drunk gets mean from time to time let's leave it at that.

RILEY has gotten them each a drink and they raise a toast.

RILEY

Health!

They all echo the sentiment and have a drink, and finish them throughout the following.

ANNIE

Riley's got a soft spot for old drunks don't ya hon? Might say it runs in the family.

RILEY

"Work is the curse of the drinkin class."

HOPE

HA!

ANNIE

You never heard that one honey?

HOPE

No, never heard it.

ANNIE

I got it embroidered on a pillow, I'll give it to ya.

ANNIE

Yeah runs in Riley's family. Johnny Ray's daddy left us this place - the family business if you please. After he drank himself to death.

RILEY

Christ woman...

ANNIE

Forgive me that was rude, speaking ill of the dead.

RILEY

Christ, the things I could say about that anti-christ of a mother of yours - and I ought to too. My father never raised a hand to us kids and he loved you like a daughter! Can't you keep that mouth of yours shut for just a minute!?

Pause.

HOPE

(to TOMMY)

Annie was telling me she does hair.

TOMMY

Oh yeah? So this is just a side thing for you?

ANNIE

Well, no I said I did hair. As in I used to do. I do not anymore.

TOMMY

Oh...

ANNIE

I had a friend - well, a partner of mine, we were going to start our own thing. Start a little beauty shop. A nice place in the neighborhood. We had worked together for a while and we got along fine and we started looking at properties.

ANNIE(cont'd)

She had some money from a death in the family. It was gonna be great! One thing led to another and she got caught up in some of the work place politics of the shop we were at the time. You know how that goes. Politics. Something about this or that and who said what at work one day and the bitch stabbed me in the back first chance she got. I was done with that whole thing after that.

HOPE

That sucks.

ANNIE

Yeah well.

HOPE

You should still do it anyway.

ANNIE

We'll see.

HOPE

I think you should.

ANNIE

These kids here are on that film shoot Riley!

RILEY

The one up the block??

TOMMY

Yeah?

RILEY

What is it they're shooting?

ANNIE

A movie they said. Riley here was an actor when I met him.

RILEY

Long time ago.

TOMMY

You? Really?

RILEY

Is that so hard to believe? Handsome guy like me?

HOPE

Were you in anything?

RILEY

Sure, lots of things.

TOMMY

Like what?

RILEY

Oh, I was on my way as an actor back in Ireland. I played Trigoren at the Druid Theatre didn't I? And what do you think the papers said about me? That I was "An actor..."

ANNIE

"With rare fire and passionate sexuality. John Riley bleeds on stage every night!"

RILEY

And bleed I did. Let's see, there was The Focus Theatre company - Maybe you heard of Gabriel Byrne - he founded that company and I had the pleasure of his acquaintance as a matter of fact. And Shakespeare, Beckett, sure I done 'em all. I played the Abbey.

TOMMY

Then what happened?

RILEY

Well, I was the last one of my family hadn't come to America and Mum said Dad took ill, and she needed help with a lot of things so I figured it was my time to give it a shot, ya know. Get my feet wet in old New York, maybe Hollywood.

HOPE

What happened?

RILEY

Life happened! I did a few small things, but it was a different game here let me tell ya. I got some small film roles, and did some theatre. Then Da died not long after and I met Annie here and we decided to settle down, took over this place a short while after.

HOPE

Don't you miss it?

RILEY

Nah.

TOMMY

What was so different about making it big over here?

RILEY

Back home I had made a name for myself. I come over here and let me tell ya, these people only want to make a buck off ya! It's all who ya know as the saying goes.

TOMMY

That's fer sure.

RILEY

I mean a man's life - these things - a career - they take time. It can take time. But you got to get good and famous in a hurry or else it's fuck you pal and thanks anyway. Do you know what I am saying? A man's prime, and if you spend it fuckin around, well, you're left overs. Fuck that unfeeling fucken business I say.

TOMMY

Amen brother.

ANNIE

When push came to shove, Riley chose family over his own career and he gets no credit for it.

RILEY

What do you mean..? Oh that? Oh they don't want to hear about that.

HOPE

What?

TOMMY

Yeah man, come on.

ANNIE

Yeah, come on Man.

(Riley looking wounded turns around and busies himself at the bar.)

Fine, I'll tell 'em. Bout ten years ago - is it ten years already Riley?

RILEY

I guess it must be about that.

ANNIE

About ten years ago, Riley got himself cast in this play - The... "The Something of Blarney," or Kilarney. "The Irish guy from Someplace." I don't remember. I was so proud of him. He'd been working and struggling, got an agent and went on about a thousand auditions and waddaya know, he got the role! The role of a life time! What a big deal it was. His chest was all puffed up like he was gonna be this big star. Off Broadway right honey? Real Off Broadway. Lots of buzz. There was lots of buzz. I saw him in previews and I have to tell you two the truth - I didn't even recognize my own Riley up there. He was so powerful and manly. You were a talented guy. Brought tears to my eyes. I was so proud.

HOPE

Awww.

TOMMY

What happened?

Pause.

RILEY

The day the show opened, my father died of a stroke. I got a call from my mum around six o'clock, she's cryin' hysterical - she's at the hospital she's says da's had a stroke and he only has a few hours probably to live and the old man is askin' where I am. He was askin' for me! Now what was I supposed to do?

ANNIE

You didn't go on.

RILEY

What would you have done?

TOMMY

You did the right thing man. Family.

HOPE

Family.

RILEY

Old son of a bitch couldn't a waited til after eight to croak?

HOPE

So what happened?

ANNIE

The understudy went on.

RILEY

Got MY reviews. He gave my performance they all said. Sure, I went on the next night - played the rest of the run, but he got the reviews for that one performance and the pictures in the paper and the whole bit.

HOPE

Where is he now?

ANNIE

Ever hear of Jimmy Kelly?

TOMMY

JIMMY KELLY was your understudy..!?

(HOPE nudges him)

Sorry, I just mean, wow man...

HOPE

Wow, yeah.

RILEY

Sticks in your craw don't it?

ANNIE

At least you went for it. You were this close. You could almost have touched it. Jimmy Kelly is a damn good actor. He probably have gone on to be a big star regardless.

HOPE

Everything happens for a reason, you know.

RILEY

That's what I say. That all seems like a different life to me now. I got my life here now and my family. I never could'a forgiven myself if I missed that chance with my father. And Ma needed me then to be sure. I can look at myself in the mirror and that counts for a lot to me anyway.

Beat.

ANNIE

You should have gone on.

RILEY

Well, that's not the kind of man you married.

ANNIE

He wasn't even conscious when you got there Riley! He never woke back up! You went for nothing!

RILEY

Christ why do you have to do that!? Can't I have a little peace? If it was meant to be it would have happened some other way wouldn't it?

HOPE

That's right.

(pause.)

Do you guys have any kids?

ANNIE

No.

HOPE

Oh.

ANNIE

Sometimes you only get one shot at something and if it gets fucked up then, sorry pal. Some things are not meant to be.

Pause.

Tommy walks over to the window and peers out.

TOMMY

It's still comin down.

HOPE

Still? How are we ever going to get home?

TOMMY

It looks like it's letting up a little.

RILEY

So what's this movie you're working on?

ANNIE skulks upstage and pours herself another cheap white wine.

TOMMY

It's an indie. Carrie Cruz is in it...

RILEY

No fucken way man!

ANNIE

Oh Jesus.

HOPE

What? You've heard of her?

RILEY

Heard of her? We were in the same acting class once.

ANNIE

He's in loooove with her!

RILEY

Hush woman.

HOPE

No way.

RILEY

This was about a hundred feckin years ago now, but sure. It was one of these week long intensive things. Sure.

HOPE

Small world I guess.

RILEY

She's quite a young lady isn't she? And you all work with her on this film? That's something! What's it about?

TOMMY

Who knows?

HOPE

Like a relationship drama.

RILEY

You don't say.

RILEY

She's magic, just magic, isn't she?

TOMMY

Well, that'd be one way to describe it.

RILEY

Why?

HOPE

She's a little difficult.

RILEY

No, not Carrie, impossible.

HOPE and TOMMY exchange a look.

RILEY

She was making a stir even then, had that song out... "You ain't my boyfriend..." Remember that one? She wasn't my scene partner or anything. She did, I think it was something from Night of the Iguana with some kid, what was his name now? I've been following her career ever since and let me tell you something. The day I laid eyes on her I said there she goes! That one is goin all the way!

ANNIE crosses back down to them.

ANNIE

He said that about everybody.

RILEY

Oh you better believe it. Don't you know star quality when you see it?

TOMMY

It usually means they're in the way.

RILEY

What's she like, she's beautiful in person isn't she? Even more than on the TV.

HOPE

She does have beautiful skin.

RILEY

Good old Carrie. Yep.

TOMMY

You're gonna get the missus jealous now.

RILEY

(Puts arms around ANNIE)

Oh, she knows better. You see this beautiful woman right here? Why she stood by me through thick and thin didn't you dear?

ANNIE

I certainly did.

RILEY

Why the moment I laid eyes on Miss Annie Cummings I said, "That woman is a pistol. She's gonna be my wife."

HOPE

Did you really?

RILEY

Yes I did, didn't I?

ANNIE

Yes he did.

HOPE

How did you know?

RILEY

You just know.

HOPE

(to ANNIE)

Did you just know like that?

ANNIE

No not at first. Not even later. I took a little convincing. But he was a charmer, and persistent.

RILEY

Do you remember what I said to ya - when I first met ya?

ANNIE

No. I forgot.

RILEY

She's kidding around. Of course she remembers. She was standin outside the beauty shop on Thirtieth Ave, smokin' and I passed by and I said "Them things'll kill ya."

TOMMY

Smooth.

RILEY

And she goes, "Well something's gonna."

ANNIE

That's right baby.

RILEY

What a pistol!

HOPE

Did he ever get after ya to quit.

ANNIE

I quit every so often. I quit once for six months.
(pause.)

RILEY

That she did.

ANNIE

Shit, I'm goin to have a cigarette.

HOPE

Hey, do you mind if I bum one off you?

TOMMY

(to HOPE)

You smoke?

HOPE

No...

ANNIE

Sure come on. Bring your drink. Get your coat, we'll stand under the awning.

She does.

They exit.

RILEY

Hey!

(skipping over to bar)

Lets have a shot of Jameson's before the girls get back.
Liven things up a bit.

Riley pours them each a shot. TOMMY
joins him near the bar.

Hey toast.

RILEY

We'll make the girls one more as well, right? Maybe get lucky
later you know what I mean?

TOMMY

I think I do.

RILEY

She's a lovely girl - Hope is it?

TOMMY

Yeah.

RILEY

Beautiful girl... Have you been together long?

TOMMY

Who? Well, no. Oh, dude, I'm practically engaged to someone
else.

RILEY

What? Don't tell me that.

TOMMY

Oh, she knows. She fucken knows.

RILEY

Who? The fiance?

TOMMY

No! Hope! Hope knows.

RILEY

Hope knows?

TOMMY

Hope lives with her boyfriend.
(RILEY shakes his head.)

What?

RILEY

Quite a little arrangement you've got for yourselves there.

TOMMY

It's a recent development.

RILEY

What are you going to tell the other one?

TOMMY

My girlfriend? Nothing, you crazy?

RILEY

Be careful.

TOMMY

It's not like we're married or anything.

RILEY

So she knows that you occasionally fool around with the odd little hussy in a bar at all hours?

TOMMY

No. Hussy?

RILEY

Well what then?

TOMMY

Hopes not a - hussy.

RILEY

She's foolin' around with a practically married man -

TOMMY

I am not practically married.

RILEY

And she lives with her boyfriend? You know him?

TOMMY

Never met him.

RILEY

You'll know him when he comes lookin' for ya.

TOMMY

Dude, don't worry about it.

RILEY

Oh, I ain't. I got my own troubles.

TOMMY

That you do.

RILEY

What do you mean by that?

TOMMY

I just meant...

RILEY

What do you mean? Something about Annie?

TOMMY

Just - no.

RILEY

She's had it hard the past few years. Real hard. She wasn't always like this ya know. Well, okay maybe she was always a bit rough around the edges, but she wasn't always so -

TOMMY

What happened?

RILEY

Well, Jesus don't go shootin' off your mouth but if you want to know, she can't have babies. We lost a baby few years back. And something inside her just shut off. She's been a long time bouncin' back from that. It's been almost too long if ya think about it. Never went back to hair dressing either. Doctor says no more, so. Some folks, something like that breaks them, ya know and they never go back together quite the same way. I keep hoping one day she'll snap out of it because, between you and me buddy, there's days I don't know how much more of her I can take.

TOMMY

I'm sorry man.

RILEY

She got a bum deal.

TOMMY

She got you.

RILEY

That's my point!

(Laughs. TOMMY laughs too)

RILEY

But she would never screw around behind my back.

TOMMY

That you know of.

RILEY

WHAT?

TOMMY

No, I'm just saying, you never know.

RILEY

Excuse me fella but I know that much.

TOMMY

You've never cheated on your wife?

RILEY

No! That's one thing I can still say.

TOMMY

I didn't mean anything by that. I'm drunk. Man, fuck. I mean I've had something on the side once or twice. I'm fucken young right? I'm just havin' a little fun before I end up married with kids and all that shit. I know how it looks, but this is different. I've never felt this way about anybody, I swear it. I know that sounds gay or whatever. Not with Angie - that's my girlfriend - I never - And now I can't be getting engaged when this is going on. But if she's going to stay with her boyfriend, what's the point of breaking up with Angie?

RILEY

(Laughs)

Oh my boy, Angie is history either way, no?!

TOMMY

I'm fucked.

Pause.

RILEY

Carrie Cruz... Small world you folks all workin' together just around the block from here. Tell me the truth, isn't she something? You see her everyday?

The door bursts open and ANNIE and HOPE stumble in laughing.

ANNIE

Bartender! Another round!

HOPE

And make is a double!

ANNIE

Crack is whack boys and girls!

HOPE

Crack is mad whack!

TOMMY

What happened out there?

HOPE

(puts her arms around Tommy.)

Did ya miss me?

RILEY

We talked of little else.

ANNIE pours herself another. Riley
pours a shot of Jameson's.

RILEY

Here ya go little lady.

HOPE

Another shot? I can't do another shot can I?

TOMMY

I'll do one with ya.

RILEY

There's a good man.

ANNIE

Hope's been telling me all sorts of nice things about you!

TOMMY

They're all true.

HOPE

(to Tommy)

Never be one of those guys who show their ass crack when they
bend over.

TOMMY

Okay.

ANNIE

Why can't men feel when their asses are hangin' out? What's
wrong with you guys?

TOMMY

What happened out there?

HOPE

Snow plow guy - bends over to shovel out the mail box on the
corner - major ass exposure. So she yells...

ANNIE

Plumber crack!

The laugh some more.

HOPE

I cracked up..!

(realizing what she said, she
laughs some more.)

RILEY

That's entertainment for ya.

TOMMY

I can see that.

ANNIE

My Riley's never been one to flash the world his ass, though,
I can give him that.

HOPE

Good boy.

HOPE and TOMMY sort of stay in each
other's arms/lean on each other
throughout:

HOPE is having the worst time holding
her liquor of all of them.

ANNIE

At least you never did that. At least you never showed the
world your skinny white ass.

RILEY

Oh don't be too sure about that. I can think of a few
occasions.

ANNIE

Maybe you should have. You never know.

RILEY

Should have what? What are you talking about?

ANNIE

All I am saying is, Who Knows.

RILEY

Who knows what?

ANNIE

Maybe you should have bared your ass or your soul or
something.

RILEY

God damn you.

ANNIE

You give up too easy, you always did...

RILEY

I give up too easy?

HOPE

Aw, don't pick on Riley . . .

ANNIE

The fuck do you know?

RILEY

Annie!

HOPE

What did I do?

ANNIE

(sings)

"If they could see me now! That little gang of mine! Eatin
crappy food and drinkin' crappy wine. Cause I'm stuck in this
shit hole with this husband of mine!"

HOPE

Shirley McClaine!

ANNIE

Surely.

HOPE

Why are you so angry..?

ANNIE

Do I seem angry?

RILEY

You're just mean when you drink, Ann - which is every day,
so.

ANNIE

You mind your goddamn business, I take care of you don't I? I
run this place for you, I clean the house. I pay the bills,
cause this guy couldn't add two and two and get four. I suck
your cock when you come begging for it -

RILEY

No need to live in the past dear.

ANNIE turns on HOPE.

ANNIE

Look at you two.

HOPE
 What?

ANNIE
 "What?"

TOMMY laughs.

HOPE
 So?

ANNIE
 So what?

HOPE
 So, why are you so angry? And mean to your husband?

TOMMY
 Hope, maybe -

ANNIE
 He's not my husband. What ever gave you that idea? Any more than he's your boyfriend.
 (awkward)
 Ah-ha! Showmance! Look at you two, you make me sick, you're giving me cavities. We're all gonna get cavities from all the sugar in here. That'll wear off fast enough, believe me and you won't believe what you're left with.

HOPE
 Riley seems like a very nice man.

RILEY
 Thank you my dear.

ANNIE
 Riley is a very nice man!

TOMMY
 It's getting late. Maybe we should try to make it to the train.

HOPE
 Fuck the train, We have to be back here tomorrow anyway.

ANNIE
 Oh, no don't let me scare you off. It's already tomorrow. Hope-ey Shmopey. Don't go. I'm sorry I yelled at you. I just like to - See if I can get my husband to - react. Be alive. For a minute.

TOMMY
 He looks alive to me.

ANNIE

He does, doesn't he?

RILEY

You're all talkin about me like I'm not even here.

ANNIE

And observant. But there seems to be a limit to what Riley will allow himself to observe.

RILEY

That isn't true dear, and you know it.

TOMMY

Maybe we should go.

ANNIE

They haven't even cleared the sidewalks. You're stuck here, just like me.

TOMMY

It's up to you, but I think we could make it.

ANNIE

Never let a man tell you what to do.

TOMMY

I wasn't telling her what to do. Jeez lady, you want to beat on this guy go ahead, he looks like he's used to it, but don't drag us into ... You guys have your own personal -

ANNIE

What?

TOMMY

Nothing. It's not my business.

ANNIE

What? You know what makes me tick "dude?"

ANNIE stalks over to him almost like she can smell the knowledge on TOMMY.

ANNIE

What's none of your business?

She turns to RILEY.

ANNIE

You motherfucker.

RILEY

Hon, what are ya...

ANNIE
You told him.

RILEY
No I never...

ANNIE
DON'T LIE TO ME!

RILEY
Christ.

ANNIE
You tell everybody! Why do you have to tell every single person you meet? The first thing you say as soon as you can work it into a conversation. You point the finger - "Oh me wifey lost the baby ya know."

HOPE
Oh...

ANNIE
Don't "Oh..." Don't "Oh."

TOMMY
I didn't say that.

ANNIE
"Poor thing, such a terrible tragedy - scared out of our minds right there on the subway and now she can't have any more babies. No wee leprechauns for the Rileys."

RILEY
I never said nothin about any of that. It came up.

ANNIE
It's personal! *SOME THINGS ARE PERSONAL!*

She starts to leave and stops and looks at HOPE like she might say something. Hope looks scared.

ANNIE exits through to the kitchen area.

RILEY looks at TOMMY, a different RILEY than we have seen before.

TOMMY
Sorry man.

RILEY exits after her.

HOPE and TOMMY in silence. She roams around the pool table, slides a ball into another one.

TOMMY

Man. Buzz kill.

HOPE

No that's fucked up, Tommy, it is. So scary. My god she can't have kids and they're here and they've fallen out of love and - god.

TOMMY

I know.

HOPE

What happens to people? What's gonna happen to me?

He gets behind her and slides his arms around her waist.

TOMMY

What's gonna happen to anybody? Nobody knows anything baby. And you're not gonna end up in a place like this.

HOPE

You never know. I could quit the business and open a fruit stand on the side of a country road and sell watermelons.

TOMMY

As long as you're happy.

She is moved by this, looks right at him.

HOPE

You mean that?

TOMMY

Whatever makes you happy...

They stand in each other's arms looking at each other.

HOPE

What are you thinking right now?

TOMMY

(pause)

I don't know.

HOPE

Yes you do.

TOMMY
That I want run away and sell watermelons with you.

HOPE
You have to carry them.

TOMMY
Figures.

HOPE
How is this possible?

TOMMY
I feel like I've known you my whole life.

HOPE
Like I could tell you anything -

They kiss.

HOPE
I'm falling in love with you.

(pause)

And I'm not just drunk.

(pause)

Say something.

TOMMY
I'm falling in love with you too.

HOPE
What are we supposed to do?

TOMMY
Well, I have one idea.

They kiss and it becomes an all out
make out session on the pool table.

HOPE
Tommy, I don't care what happens.

TOMMY
I don't either.

TOMMY looks around and sees the door to
the back room.

TOMMY
Hey.

HOPE
What's back there?

TOMMY

Let's go find out.

They rush off.

After a moment, RILEY enters.

RILEY

Hey - Hello? Just left? Can't say as I blame 'em. Other peoples dirty fucken laundry blowin' in the breeze.

(He goes behind the bar,
straightens up, covers bottles
with plastic wrap.)

We should sell this dump go someplace far away. I keep tellin ya we need a complete change of scenery. Some place where there's sun. We need some sun. Fresh perspective's all she needs. Maybe then, who knows? I tell her lets go. Fuck do I care about this place anyway?

(Looks around, toward where
HOPE and TOMMY should be.)

Can't believe they just up and left. Scared em off.

(Beat)

It was my baby too. I held ya for just a wee splinter of a second. Is it a blessing or a curse to remember a thing like that? She couldn't bear it. Some days I can't bear it either.

(Pause)

That's it ya know we're gettin out of here. Gettin out of Queens. Shoulda done that a long, long time ago. New lease on life. Start over the two of us. No more shovelin' snow off the sidewalk or feckin' liquor deliveries.

The door to the outside opens and a man sticks his head in. SAGE is forty; a big chested bodyguard type in a nice suit. *(This could be the same actor who played Nunzio.)*

SAGE

'Scuse me. You still open?

RILEY

We are most definitely closed, mate.

SAGE

We just had an accident.

RILEY

Everyone okay?

SAGE

Yeah, yeah. Plow just cut me off. I had to swerve, and the car started sliding and now I'm stuck in a snow bank right outside.

SAGE(cont'd)

I'm a driver for a car service and I got a passenger out there. I saw the light on. There's no one at dispatch can come get us. I got to walk all the way back to get in the four wheel drive to get us out of here and her back to Manhattan before she has a god damn aneurism.

RILEY

We ain't gonna be much longer.

SAGE

You'd be doin' me a huge favor. What a night.

RILEY

Whatever you need my friend, come on in.

SAGE

Could she wait in here? I'll be back in less than an hour if I shag ass.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hello! Let me in it's freezing out here.

SAGE

All set, miss. You can wait in here til I get back. Shouldn't be too long...

A young woman bursts in, ignoring SAGE. She is beautiful - a star with all the trimmings; not glamorous, but glamor on it's day off. The bag, phone, water bottle designer sweats, big warm looking coat. She is over thirty and hiding it well.

She could be any contemporary pop music or film or tv star of this age, but she is no less than CARRIE CRUZ.

RILEY watches, speechless

CARRIE

How long am I supposed to stand out here freezing to death in butt fucking Queens and - What a dump! Oh my god are you kidding me?

SAGE

Now miss, this gentleman - you can wait here til I -

CARRIE

Did you call the car service?

SAGE

I am the car service and I have to walk back to get -

CARRIE

God really! There's no one who can come get us?

SAGE

There's a blizzard.

CARRIE

I know that.

SAGE

I'll be back in no time. I apologize for these extenuating circumstances. I'll be back as fast as I can.

CARRIE

It's funny, you people have a way of being so polite and so rude at the same time.

SAGE

What people?

CARRIE

The 'service industry.' Bell men, chauffeurs, bartenders.
(She gestures to RILEY but
doesn't even really look at
him.)

Whatever. I don't blame you. I was a waitress in high school, I know all about it. GOD I don't even want to put my bag down in here. Listen, nothing personal but I'm calling production.

SAGE

I already did.

CARRIE

Fine. I'm calling them anyway.

SAGE

At this hour?

CARRIE

Fuck this hour...
(dials.)
You can go. I'll be fine.

SAGE

Alright well,
(to RILEY)
thanks again.

CARRIE

Fine. Be careful!
(SAGE exits)
(into phone.)
KEVIN! Why aren't you picking up?

CARRIE(cont'd)

The town car ended up in a snowbank, thank you very much and I am standing in a dive bar waiting to get picked up and taken back to the hotel. It's five o'clock in the morning, and I want you to know my call time just got pushed back, indefinitely. Why do these things keep happening on this shoot? I know it's not your fault, but it concerns me. We have had a BITCH of a couple days and people can start waiting for me now. I don't like to be this person Kevin, but what the fuck, seriously. I'm going to go to sleep as soon as I get back to the hotel. I'll leave the laundry outside for Marie.

She hangs up - feels Riley's eyes on her, turns.

CARRIE

Oh, hi.

RILEY

Hi.

CARRIE

I hope I'm not in the way.

RILEY

Carrie right? Carrie Cruz?

CARRIE

Right, that's me.

(pause)

Any chance I might...

(wiggles a finger at the bottles.)

RILEY

Oh..! Sure. What'll ya have?

CARRIE

I don't suppose you have a glass of white wine?

RILEY

It ain't very good.

CARRIE

No. How about a tequila then?

RILEY

That I can do for ya.

He quickly pours a shot of tequila - and one for himself. He looks her right in the face, waiting to be recognized.

RILEY

We were in the same class once.

CARRIE

I'm sorry?

RILEY

I was in your class at the scene study - at a summer intensive at -

CARRIE

God, no! Night of the Iguana?

RILEY

That's the one.

Hands her a drink and drinks his own.

CARRIE

Oh, good, now I won't have to drink alone. I would hate to see that scene today.

RILEY shoots his.

CARRIE

I better sip this.

Pause. Deer in the headlights, RILEY stares at her. She, used to it, smiles.

CARRIE

(honestly searching)

Okay... I kind of recognize you - could be your accent -

RILEY

What accent?

Pause and they both laugh a big spontaneous ice breaking laugh. CARRIE shoots her tequila and RILEY reflexively refills it.

CARRIE

Yeah, yeah, okay. I remember you now. You were really good. You had a scene from... Was it View from the Bridge?

RILEY

Bingo! Johnny Ray Riley.

CARRIE

Good to meet you - again. Wow, I forgot all about that.

RILEY

Oh, I remember. Everyone was all in a lather cause you were this pop singer -

CARRIE

Yeah... that was the first time I have laughed in days. What a night. What a night. Made my make up girl cry. A light caught on fire. This guy - they keep changing lines on me, you know? I'm supposed to cry on cue for four hours so forgive me if I get a little - snippy.

RILEY

We all have our moments.

CARRIE

Right? Can't I have a moment?

RILEY

Take all the moments you want. This is already the night without end. Lucky you weren't hurt out there.

CARRIE

Oh god, I was such a bitch to that driver.

RILEY

He'll be fine.

Pause.

CARRIE

So are you still an actor?

TOMMY and HOPE stumble guiltily out of the back room, clothes askew.

TOMMY

OH.

HOPE

What...

CARRIE turns and RILEY looks up.

HOPE

Oh my god, Carrie...

CARRIE

(to RILEY)

Look who it is. I think I'll have another one, Johnny.

END OF ACT ONE

Act II

The stage is exactly the same as before, maybe fifteen minutes have passed.

RILEY stands behind the bar, right across from where CARRIE sits, now drinking a fresh drink.

HOPE sits ON the bar, just down stage from CARRIE.

TOMMY sits at the table, CENTER, his feet up on a neighboring chair.

HOPE, TOMMY and RILEY all have fresh drinks.

HOPE

I worked with him once!

CARRIE

You did?

HOPE

I was filling in for a friend on a talk show - which shall remain nameless -

CARRIE

I'm not going to say anything.

HOPE

At first I was kind of nervous - but when I get like that I just try to be invisible and do my job -

CARRIE

You are very good at it.

HOPE

(shy, flattered)

Thank you!

CARRIE

(to RILEY)

She is, she just disappears. There's nothing worse than a chatty make up person. Look sweetie, about before. I'm under a lot of - I've got a lot of SHIT going on and -

HOPE

Oh, it's okay. Thanks though. That's nice you don't have to apologize.

CARRIE

Well, I am. I am apologizing.
 (half joking?)
 Did you all hear that? I apologized!

TOMMY

Copy that!

HOPE

So, he asks me where my friend is and I tell him and like, whatever and I think he's falling asleep which is fine with me, when all of a sudden, his eyes pop open right? And I'm like "What the fuck did I do?" And he sits up and digs around in his pocket and he pulls out a lemon!

RILEY

A lemon? Like a whole lemon?

TOMMY

(knows this story)

No! It's a half a lemon, just been sitting there in his pocket...

HOPE

And he sticks it in his mouth and
 (demonstrating-)
 Sucks on it!

TOMMY

Guy just sucks on lemons.

HOPE

And all I could think was like all the lint and stuff from his pocket must be on that thing.

CARRIE

There's cocaine in the lemon.

TOMMY

What?

CARRIE

Yeah, that's how a lot of stars get high. They just suck it right out of a lemon.

TOMMY

Cocaine in the lemon, like they dunk it in?

CARRIE

I have no idea.

HOPE

But he's like half asleep all the time.

CARRIE

That's the scary part.

RILEY

You must have lots of stories about your co-stars. Is everyone in Hollywood completely fucken nuts or what?

CARRIE

Yes they completely fucken are.

(to Hope and Tommy)

So what happened to you two, anyway?

TOMMY

We wrapped ourselves.

HOPE

I had my cell.

CARRIE

I don't blame you.

(to RILEY)

What did they say about me Johnny Ray? Did they gossip about me and say I was difficult?

RILEY

I would never have stood for it.

TOMMY

I said it!

CARRIE

Of course you did! You're a grip, right? All grips are grumps!

TOMMY

That's right.

CARRIE

Grumpy grips!

TOMMY

You don't even really know us.

CARRIE

I try!

TOMMY

Did you even know who I was?

RILEY

Hey take it easy.

CARRIE

I've seen you every day for three weeks. I am sorry I didn't have a chance to introduce myself yet, we kind of have different jobs on set.

HOPE

Yeah Tommy...

TOMMY

I'm sorry. I'm a grump.

CARRIE walks over to TOMMY, extends her hand.

CARRIE

Hi. I'm Carrie.

TOMMY

Tommy.

CARRIE

It's been a pleasure to work with you.

TOMMY

Huge fan.

RILEY

Amen.

CARRIE begins to wander around.

Behind her back eye contact and gesturing.

CARRIE

So who owns this place?

RILEY

I do, who do you think?

CARRIE

I'm sorry about what I said when I first came in, I was still freaked out from the accident.

HOPE

What did she say?

RILEY

She called the place a dump, which in all fairness it is.

CARRIE

It's not a dump. It's perfect. It's classic. It's the place you go in a blackout or a snowstorm or when there's nothing else to do but just sit around and get smashed.

RILEY

It is all them things. Been thinking about sellin' it, you interested?

CARRIE

Buy this bar?

RILEY

Yeah.

CARRIE

Oh my god I would love to own a bar!

RILEY

Make me an offer.

CARRIE

Lets trade lives. I'll run this place and you can finish this movie and do all the press. I go right into another one in a week and I haven't even seen my house in three months or had time to break up with my boyfriend in person.

TOMMY

Poor kid.

HOPE

Tommy!

CARRIE

Poor little rich girl, right?

(still looking around)

Yeah . . . Maybe I'll open a bar. And just drop off the face of the Earth.

RILEY

We do alright.

CARRIE

We?

RILEY

My wife Annie.

CARRIE

Show me how to make a martini...

(she starts to go behind the bar)

Can I come back there?

RILEY
It would be an honor.

CARRIE
Oh! This is so cool!

RILEY
Gin or vodka?

CARRIE
Vodka.

They fall into pantomime as HOPE and
TOMMY:

TOMMY
As if tonight couldn't get any stranger, Carrie Cruz is back
there with the bartender...

HOPE
What is she doing?

TOMMY
I don't know.

HOPE
I thought she was going to get us fired.

TOMMY
Yeah me too.

HOPE
What do you mean couldn't get any stranger?

TOMMY
I didn't mean us. That wasn't strange except for -

HOPE
It's okay, really. We're both drunk and...

TOMMY
And a little nervous.

HOPE
I'm glad our first time wasn't in the girls room.

TOMMY
Me too.

HOPE
Are you sure that's why? If, if, if -

TOMMY

Believe me.

HOPE

Because I understand. I don't want you to think I go around -

TOMMY

What?! I know.

HOPE

Maybe it was for the best right now.

TOMMY

Yeah, maybe.

CARRIE

Come try my first martini you guys!

They go to the bar where CARRIE stands proudly behind a martini glass. They ad lib.

HOPE

Bravo... *(etc.)*

TOMMY

Good that you have a career to fall back on...

CARRIE goes to shake the martini vigorously and the top half of the shaker flies off and vodka and ice fly all over the place. RILEY gets a fair share of it on himself.

They all laugh and CARRIE starts drying him off with a rag.

TOMMY

What a waste of vodka...

CARRIE

What did I do? I am so sorry.

ANNIE enters and silently watches.

CARRIE

This guy at The W the other night - he was shaking it and flipping it around and everything! Let me clean this up.

RILEY

Leave it for the porter. Now get back over there where you belong.

CARRIE

I think I better.

RILEY

May I say what a pleasure it was to have you behind my bar if ever so briefly.

ANNIE steps downstage toward the action.

ANNIE

Is that...? Oh my GOD! HI!

(She runs over to her seemingly star struck.)

Carrie Cr - I can't believe this! Do you know we were just talking about you. Well of course we were, the whole neighborhood probably is right? It is so good to meet you! Welcome, welcome.

RILEY

Carrie, this is my wife Annie.

CARRIE

Nice to meet you.

ANNIE

My husband loves you! I mean I love you too, but he is always telling the story about when you saw him in that play. Isn't that right honey? Did he tell you that?

RILEY

Yes, we went over all of that.

CARRIE

Yes, I remember it now. The play -

ANNIE

What are you doing here? My god - oh wait, you must all know each other from the shoot. She's your make up girl - or person, right? So what were you doing back there?

CARRIE

Your husband was showing me how to make a martini and I proceeded to throw it all over him.

ANNIE

Well, wouldn't be the first time!

RILEY

I was shaken - but not stirred.

Pause.

ANNIE

Oh, God was that supposed to be a joke?

CARRIE, finally gets it and bursts out laughing.

ANNIE

(She laughs.)

Don't encourage him. Can we get you anything? Right? Riley..! It's after hours. A little after hours drink with our special guest.

CARRIE

Well, I won't be much longer, we're stuck in the snow. My driver's gone to get a dog sled.

ANNIE

"My driver!" Can you stand how fancy? It's a blinding snowstorm out there and that's all the more reason to have one more in here, right? Let me do the honors.

CARRIE

(withdrawing)

No really I'm fine. I've caused enough of a stir.
(points at Riley)

Ahhhh!

He acknowledges it with a laugh and a wink as well. CARRIE sits down and attempts to go about minding her own business.

Maybe she takes out a cell and starts texting. All eyes are on her even if no one is looking at her.

ANNIE

Well, I'm having one.

HOPE

Me too! And then we'll go out for breakfast. We'll get a big diner breakfast.

ANNIE

Diner should be open.

TOMMY

Riley, there a decent diner around here?

RILEY

Two blocks that way. The Mythos Diner. Crispiest home fries I ever ate.

HOPE
 Home fries! I just got hungry.
 (She kisses Tommy hungrily.)

TOMMY
 Mmmm. Me too.

ANNIE playing hostess starts a fresh
 round of drinks.

CARRIE is texting.

ANNIE
 Hope, me - same. Carrie - I insist, What'll you have?

CARRIE
 I'll have another Patron if you insist.

HOPE
 Make that one for me too.

TOMMY and HOPE's conversations are
 asides.

TOMMY
 You're really going to mix tequila with everything else?

HOPE
 Got your period?

TOMMY
 Patron for me too then.

RILEY
 (to ANNIE)
 What'd I tell ya about the Patron? Very popular these days.

ANNIE
 Alejandro is exonerated!

HOPE
 Lets spend the day together.

TOMMY
 That might be difficult.

HOPE
 I don't want this stupid night in this stupid bar to ever
 end.

ANNIE distributing the drinks:

ANNIE

Here you go love birds.

(to Carrie - whispers like she
on the phone even though she's
texting)

Here you go. Excuse me!

RILEY comes round the front of the bar
his glass raised.

RILEY

Slainte'!

HOPE
To new friends.

CARRIE
Cheers!

ANNIE

TO THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE!

Silence.

A cell phone rings.

HOPE watches TOMMY dig it out and
answer it. He almost changes
personality.

TOMMY

(on phone;)

HI!

(Crosses away from them.)

Good morning! What are you doing up? Oh...? Go back to sleep,
you still have a couple hours. Oh, we wrapped super fucken
late and we found this place that's open after hours and
we're poundin' a few. Yeah, I will. We don't know. We won't
know. I have no idea. Go back to sleep honey. I'll wake you
up when I get home. Love you too.

They all stare at him.

CARRIE

Well.

HOPE wordlessly rushes off.

TOMMY

It's - She...

He exits after her.

ANNIE

I think those two are getting off to a precarious start.

RILEY

Cheatin' and runnin' around behind peoples backs never leads to no good.

CARRIE

(to ANNIE)

You married a good man here.

ANNIE

That's what I keep telling myself.

PAUSE.

ANNIE

I love your hair. You have such beautiful hair.

CARRIE

Thanks.

ANNIE

I'm a hair stylist... May I?

She crosses behind CARRIE.

CARRIE

It's a rats nest.

ANNIE fusses with CARRIES hair.

RILEY

Who was that you were texting with? Your agent?

CARRIE

No my boyfriend. He's still up. In LA.

RILEY

Oh. The one you're breakin up with?

CARRIE

No, the new one.

RILEY

Oh. Right.

ANNIE

Let me get something.

ANNIE runs into the back room.

CARRIE

Hey Johnny Ray, you been working much?

RILEY

Every night.

CARRIE

No, acting work.

RILEY

Oh, no. That life wasn't for me to have. As these things turn out.

CARRIE

That's too bad. Miss it?

RILEY

Tell the truth, I do. More than I let on. I never told anyone that before.

CARRIE

Know what I miss? Things like class - when it was - newer.

RILEY

Being on the outside looking in?

CARRIE

When things were a little simpler.

ANNIE returns with a small bag from which she pulls combs and bobby pins and whatever else and proceeds to do something to CARRIE'S hair.

CARRIE

Do you remember any of that scene you did?

RILEY

What? No.

CARRIE

Come on do some of it.

ANNIE

Don't give him any ideas.

RILEY

I can't remember. Tell me, what's it like? That life?

ANNIE

Oh, Riley, why don't you ask her to sign your tits.

RILEY

Hush woman. I'm just having a conversation here amongst adults and fellow actors here. Do you have to go fucken embarassin' me for?

CARRIE

(To ANNIE regarding the
hairdressing)

You don't have to worry about me, really, thank you.

ANNIE

(hurt)

Oh, okay, fine I'm sorry.

CARRIE

I just mean - People have been doing that to me all day.

ANNIE

No, I understand.

CARRIE

I'm sorry.

ANNIE off to the side, dejected puts
away her hair stuff.

RILEY

Can I ask you a stupid question?

CARRIE

Shoot.

RILEY

What's it like to be famous?

CARRIE

I don't know. I don't feel famous. I mean, what does that even mean?

RILEY

Oh, you're a celebrity, no sense pretending you're not. But you are! "Saturday Night" was a huge hit!

CARRIE

(remembering)

I was in line at the Duane Reade - the one near Union Square. I had had the photo shoot, I mean I knew it was coming, I knew I was gonna be on the cover of US weekly. But I had totally forgot - You don't think, *I'm a famous person here I come*. To be totally cliché', I'm still the same on the inside. And I'm standing in line at the register and there I am! I'm on the cover of this magazine! "Holy Shit!" I suddenly felt all nervous and weird.

CARRIE(cont'd)

Like there was a spotlight on me or I was on a hidden camera show. I started to freak out. Then it's like, "Well do I buy it?" Right? I mean shit, right? I mean there I am on the cover of a magazine. It was the most surreal moment of my life. People overuse that word, "surreal," but *that* was surreal.

RILEY

Did you buy it? I would have bought every copy in the place.

CARRIE

Yeah, you would I bet. Well, I did buy it. One copy. And I get to the register and the girl goes to check me out - she looks at me - looks at the cover - back to me, back to the cover, and then she goes, "Don't even look like you." And that's it, rings me up.

They both laugh.

RILEY

Only in New York!

CARRIE

Right? Right back down to Earth.

RILEY

(pours them more tequila)

It must be exciting picking projects - reading scripts...

CARRIE

It's pretty cool.

RILEY

What are you doing next? Can you talk about it?

CARRIE

Oh, it's a great script! I play a World War One Nurse - its a big epic period piece - I'm kind of nervous about it. Best part - I get to make out with ____.

RILEY

He's gonna be in it is he?

CARRIE

If everything works out.

RILEY

Jesus. You're gonna be nominated for an Oscar ain't ya?

CARRIE

Oh no way! Don't even say that! At least met me shoot it first.

RILEY

Man - you're making me miss it, ya are.

CARRIE

You're making me miss it! Well - you know, I -

RILEY

What?

CARRIE

I don't want to get your hopes up - but I could always ask -
There might be a small role.

RILEY

Oh Lord in heaven!

CARRIE

I mean all I could do would be to get you an audition -

RILEY

Oh Jesus no! I could never -

CARRIE

All I have to do is ask.

RILEY

I don't know, it's been so long.

CARRIE

Well, think about it. You got a great look. And that
accent...

RILEY blushes to his heels and laughs
nervously for what seems like forever.

RILEY

Oh why the hell not of course I'd love to!! Do ya hear that
Annie?

ANNIE

That's great honey. Hey Ms. Cruz I got a question for ya.

CARRIE

What?

ANNIE

You got any stalkers?

RILEY

Annie, what kind of -

CARRIE

I've been lucky. Only one restraining order so far.

RILEY

Really?

ANNIE

What does he say? Does he threaten to kill you or want to fuck you or what?

CARRIE

Mine sends me pictures of his cock.

ANNIE

Riley! I thought those pictures were just for me!

RILEY

Annie I swear.

Pause.

CARRIE

Anyway, I've probably overstayed my welcome. I'll go wait for my ride.

(to Riley;)

If you want I'll send my assistant by to get your info about that audition.

ANNIE

He doesn't want.

CARRIE

Excuse me?

RILEY

Annie! Carrie - Of course I - !

ANNIE

Thank you!

CARRIE

Hey! I'm not getting in the middle of - whatever this is.

RILEY

No! It's fine!

ANNIE

No, listen, Miss fucken Movie Star. You really gonna come in here and drop all this hope in his lap and then just walk out? That man is going to think of nothing else til he hears back from you and that's never going to happen is it? He's going to look up at that door every time it opens thinking "Today is the day - she's come back for me." He has had his heart fractured enough times and we don't need the likes of you - or your assistant - please - coming in here with your promises and magazine covers!

RILEY

Oh God please, don't listen to her!

ANNIE

Are you that STUPID?

CARRIE

I'm leaving.

RILEY

Wait no! You'll freeze! I want to do it! I swear I do. And I know you'll come back I never said you wouldn't.

CARRIE

All I said was I would ask. I mean it could be weeks.

RILEY

Right, right, no big deal. Just see what happens that's all. I don't expect anything. Please my wife is -

ANNIE

You're wife is what?

RILEY

MY WIFE IS A MEAN DRUNK!

CARRIE starts to leave.

RILEY

Wait!

CARRIE holds up a cigarette, grabs her coat and walks out the front door.

ANNIE

You'll thank me one day, you'll see.

RILEY

Why do you hate me?

ANNIE

I don't hate you. You're all I've got. And that's bad luck for me, and it's bad luck for you.

RILEY

Would it kill ya if I was happy for a minute? If something good actually happened to one of us? If I had a reason to get up in the morning other than to listen your insults and come in here and watch the same people drink themselves to death day after day?

ANNIE

We came here to die, Riley! Don't you remember?

RILEY

Jesus I'm sorry for whatever I done to ya. I know it's never been the same between us since -

ANNIE

Stop! Stop it! God how you live in the past! You keep bringing that up, like it's the only thing that's ever happened to us!

RILEY

It is the only thing ever happened to us.

RILEY heads out the front door where CARRIE just exited.

He is gone with a slam.

ANNIE stumbles around the set for a moment.

ANNIE

Asshole. Hope makes fools of us all. Believe me. Sooner or later you got to acknowledge who you are and fucken ... play the hand you are dealt, man.

(As if RILEY is still there.)

You had your chance buddy and it's gone, it's over. Poor bastard. Not everybody gets to be a movie star. There are some dreams ordinary people should not dream. Like that guy flew too close to the sun. Burned his ass up. Movie stars and shit. Don't get too close. They burn you - those people.

HOPE enters, looking upset.

ANNIE

Well, well, well. Hope springs eternal.

HOPE

Yep.

HOPE finds her half finished drink.

ANNIE

I have arrived at the point in the evening when I cant get any drunker. Or maybe I'm so drunk I no longer know I'm drunk. That's probably it. When you're too drunk to feel how drunk you are getting. I pee a lot.

HOPE

Yeah, me too. I think I'm gonna go.

ANNIE

Oh, don't leave me alone with The Movie Star. There may be an accident. Something fatal.

HOPE

Happens.

ANNIE

Where's what's his face?

HOPE

Back there.

ANNIE

You can't leave yet, you're too drunk. You're gonna fall in a snowbank or get hit by a plow and everybody's comin after me about "Who served her all that alcohol and let her leave like that." Before you know it I'll have New York One out here. Dean Memminger out there... Reporting live.

HOPE

Could I get a water?

ANNIE

How's loverboy?

HOPE

I don't know. I don't know what I'm doing.

ANNIE

What about the other guy?

HOPE

Brett? My boyfriend?

ANNIE

Yeah. Poor fucken Brett. What about him? Where's his advocate?

HOPE

Brett doesn't have an advocate.

ANNIE

I can see that.

HOPE

I don't love him anymore.

ANNIE

So?

HOPE

So he's still my boyfriend.

ANNIE

Right. Lets go smoke.

Can I bum? HOPE

Lets go out the back. ANNIE

Why? HOPE

They exit out the back door.

TOMMY enters.

TOMMY

Hello..?

He slumps down in the back booth.

After a moment his eyes begin to close.

RILEY and CARRIE enter.

He holds the door open for her.

After you. RILEY

Thank you. CARRIE

RILEY seems to be beaming. He smiles and shakes his head and looks back at her.

RILEY

Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. Jesus Carrie I can't thank you enough for this. For talking to me like that out there.

Oh, stop it. CARRIE

RILEY

No, this is for real. This is for real. I feel like you just woke me up from a long slumber. Thank you.

CARRIE

For an old classmate? It's the least I can do. Remember, no promises.

RILEY

No, no, sure, sure.

CARRIE

I'll try to get you in the room, you have to take it from there.

RILEY

Oh, believe me I will. Why are you being so nice to me anyway?

CARRIE

You seem like a nice guy.

(pause)

Don't lose that card, that's the number, but let me get back in touch with you about it first.

RILEY

Will do. Well, I'll be sorry to see you go.

CARRIE

I'm kind of awake now too - it's really beautiful out.

RILEY

Listen thanks again for bein' so understandin' about the missus. I never could have stayed with her all these years if she didn't have some good in her ya know.

CARRIE

So sad about the baby. I can't even imagine.

RILEY

That don't mean I'm not gonna go put my foot in her ass right about now either. Help yourself to whatever and don't you leave without saying good bye.

CARRIE

Never!

RILEY exits.

CARRIE - a little mischievously - pour herself a good shot of tequila and has a big swallow.

She looks around and raises her eyebrows to herself at her own thought.

TOMMY sits up.

CARRIE

Oh! Hi.

Morning.

TOMMY

Yeah, right?

CARRIE

You're ride's not here yet?

TOMMY

Nope.

CARRIE

Damn.

(he stumbles over to the table -
toward the tequila;)

Think I could get a little of that?

He pours her one as well.

CARRIE

So what are you waiting around here for?

TOMMY

Her.

CARRIE

Oh?

TOMMY

Yeah, she's all freaked out - I mean I'm freaked out too, you know? I mean something is going on here and you can't just ignore it. And she gets all upset when my fiance calls. Come on man! Right? Maybe we're just bored. Maybe this will pass tomorrow, but I don't think so. We're both here in this bar trying to decide if we are going say I love you to a stranger practically. Sometimes you just know these things - Know what I mean?

CARRIE

Slow down there cowboy.

TOMMY

Sorry. Never mind.

(pause)

Didn't mean to bother you with our troubles.

Pause.

CARRIE

Stop being stupid.

TOMMY

What do you mean?

CARRIE

Do you hate all actresses or just me?

TOMMY

Pretty much all of them...

CARRIE

Why do they all think I'm a bitch? What do I do?

TOMMY

What do you care what we think?

CARRIE

I don't.

TOMMY

You're not so bad. Hanging out around here with the rest of us.

CARRIE

"The rest of us." What rest of us?

CARRIE starts rolling her head around to stretch her neck, rubs it.

TOMMY

You're a movie star Carrie.

CARRIE

What if I don't wanna be?

TOMMY

Why?

CARRIE

I don't know.

TOMMY

You want to be able to walk down the street, sit on a park bench -

CARRIE

It would be nice to know who your friends are.

TOMMY

Poor thing.

CARRIE

Fuck you.

TOMMY

Maybe guys like me are jealous because they think that they could never - you know - you would never like, go for a guy like me.

CARRIE

Oh, my god, are you kidding me? That is so not true.

TOMMY

Really?

CARRIE

I hate dating actors. My boyfriend spends - ex-boyfriend - spends more time on his hair than I do.

TOMMY

What's wrong with your neck?

CARRIE

Nothing.

He goes around the back of her chair.

TOMMY

May I?

CARRIE

Sure.

He starts to massage her neck and shoulders.

TOMMY

I'm not doing this because I like you.

CARRIE

I hope not.

They each grow quiet. She closes her eyes and enjoys her little massage. He contemplates her.

CARRIE

You should see all the product he has in his shower. It looks like three girls love there.

TOMMY

You're tight.

CARRIE

Long day.

TOMMY

You're so tiny.

CARRIE

What do you mean?

TOMMY

Your neck, your shoulders. Like a quail.

CARRIE

Excuse me?

TOMMY

We used to hunt quail with my grandpa. They have a lot of plumage but when you pick them up and hold them they're small and fragile.

CARRIE

Plumage huh?

TOMMY

Yep you're all plumage. I could barely make a meal of you.

That was steamy. She lets it hang there.

CARRIE

You wore a blue shirt yesterday.

TOMMY

What?

CARRIE

Yesterday you were wearing a blue tee shirt. It was ripped in the back. After you took off that flannel thing. See? I see you. Flannel is out by the way.

TOMMY

I love that shirt.

CARRIE

... What is it with boys and ratty old shirts?

TOMMY

That was a good scene yesterday. In the kitchen.

CARRIE

Yeah?

TOMMY

Yeah I was watching the monitor. You nailed it on your close up.

Did I ?

CARRIE

Seriously, all bullshit aside.

TOMMY

She tips her head up to him, he looks down at her.

CARRIE

Thank you.

HOPE enters.

TOMMY

You're welcome.

CARRIE purses her lips as if to say "Give me a kiss" and TOMMY to his own surprise leans down and pecks her on the lips the way old friends might.

They kiss again. It is tentative. She twists around in her chair and faces him.

CARRIE

Well, hello.

He lays one on her. He seems to come to his senses and stops.

CARRIE

You're a busy guy.

TOMMY

Wait a minute, what are you doing? That did not just happen.

HOPE

Oh, yes it did.

TOMMY

Fuck!

HOPE

Goddammit! I am so stupid!

CARRIE

Hope -

HOPE

Shut up! Carrie!
(to Tommy:)

HOPE(cont'd)

How could you let her... Don't you see ?

(to CARRIE)

You stay away from him. He may not know who you are but I do
Carrie fucking Cruz.

(to Tommy:)

God, Tommy! Fuck!

RILEY enters.

CARRIE

Grow up Hope! Look what he's here doing with you! How are you
supposed to trust someone you're cheating *with* in the first
place?

TOMMY walks away and slumps into a
chair.

HOPE

Why? Why did you have to kiss him? Why do you hate me?

CARRIE

It's not like he's your boyfriend.

HOPE

Fuck you! You hate me! You *hate* me!

CARRIE

Are we really doing this? Is this happening?

HOPE

Are you trying to tell me you're actually attracted to him?

RILEY

What's going on?

HOPE

Nothing.

(to CARRIE)

Are you attracted to him? Do you suddenly find him
attractive? Do you want to start dating him? Screwing the
crew now?

RILEY

Hey now! Come on!

CARRIE

Maybe I do.

RILEY

Carrie?

CARRIE

Stay out of this!

HOPE

Or maybe you just have to know that you can have any man - any *thing* you want. You couldn't stand it otherwise. And me! Oh, me especially! For what I know about you! For all the nasty shit I hear you talking about on your phone. I know who you really are. That's why you are trying to get me fired.

CARRIE

It's not my fault he kissed me. People just want to kiss me.

TOMMY

I don't know why I -

HOPE

Holy shit! Are you hearing this?

CARRIE

Your boyfriend wants to fuck me. And you're as close as he could get.

TOMMY

... That's not true...

HOPE

You conceited fucking bitch! My boyfriend is at home! You're a whore.

CARRIE

Fuck you! You are fired!

HOPE

Whore.

RILEY

Excuse me, but that is enough!

TOMMY

Don't fire her!

HOPE

Shut up.

CARRIE

Why don't you just take a breath.

HOPE

You know she's a home wrecker? She's fucking a married man - with kids maybe you've heard of him he's directed -

CARRIE

Don't you dare!

HOPE

Well, you'd know him. And the little TV stud she's shackled up with is blackmailing her to not take his broken heart to the media. Not to tell the world what she's doing. That her and Americas favorite family man get freaky night after night as recently as yesterday -

CARRIE

You shut your little fucken mouth!

RILEY

That's enough! Both of you.

(To HOPE about CARRIE)

And I will not stand by and let you talk about this woman like that! Carrie..?

She turns away from them. Hope seems to have run out of steam.

The rumble of a plow scraping by outside.

TOMMY crosses to the window and looks out.

TOMMY

Sand trucks are out.

RILEY begins to clear up glasses from the table. Brings them behind the bar.

CARRIE

Don't come to close, I may bite.

RILEY

Was all that true?

CARRIE

You don't know me.

Pause.

ANNIE enters. Looks around at everyone moping.

ANNIE

Awww. What'd I miss?

(pause)

It stopped snowing ya know. So at least the world isn't coming to an end. Lets get the hell outta here.

(to anyone)

Waddaya say?

ANNIE(cont'd)

(to Tommy then to Hope)
 Trouble in paradise? The show-mance must go on!

RILEY
 Yep, we're just about done here.

ANNIE
 I'm tired. Is anybody else tired?

CARRIE tips a finger.

ANNIE
 Carrie Cruz is tired. Carrie Cruz, I owe you an apology for before. I don't know what's gotten into me.

RILEY
 (aside)
 People act like fools around you don't they?

CARRIE
 I guess so.

RILEY
 Strange.

CARRIE
 Irksome is more like it.

ANNIE
 What? What are they whispering about? You two! Always whispering. Really I'm starting to wonder.

HOPE
 She's in heat. I'd keep an eye on her.

ANNIE
 Who this one? Miss America over here? Oh I've got her number. Isn't that right sweetheart?

RILEY
 God, could you girls just leave the poor woman alone for a half a second?

CARRIE
 I'm fine really.

ANNIE
 She's fine, really.

CARRIE
 You are some piece of work aren't you?

ANNIE
 What? Me?

CARRIE
Yeah.

ANNIE
Well, thank you.

CARRIE
You're quite welcome.

ANNIE
Got your number remember that.

RILEY
Annie!

CARRIE
Well between you and my make up girl over there I had better be careful.

HOPE
Former make up girl.

ANNIE
Former?

HOPE
Yeah she fired me.

ANNIE
You did?

CARRIE
She quit.

HOPE
Whatever!

ANNIE
Well did ya quit or did she fire ya?
(to TOMMY)
You're quiet. What happened in here? Is everybody's panties in a bunch over you is that it? Enjoy it.
(to HOPE)
She was after my man too. Tried to take him away fillin' his poor little head with promises about of all things - acting in the movies. What about me Carrie Cruz? Do yo think I coulda been an actress? Tell it to me straight, I can take it.

CARRIE
... Sure.

RILEY
Annie, can I talk to ya for a second?

ANNIE
What?

RILEY
Alone. Please?

HE guides her to a downstage chair.

ANNIE
Jesus Riley, relax.
(off his look)
What?

RILEY
Annie, I think I have a real opportunity here.

ANNIE
What opportunity?

RILEY
With - with Carrie over there. She says she's gonna help me -

ANNIE
Oh, God, Riley -

RILEY
No, hear me out, here -

ANNIE
Please! No! I can't listen to it. I can't be married to that
big of a fool -

RILEY
Annie! Listen! What could it hurt to explore this avenue for
a bit? Here's an opportunity - a person who says let me help
you. Do you think I should just tell her to fuck off?

ANNIE
Riley, yes. Frankly. She's just being polite. She is going to
forget about you by tomorrow and whatever she told you!

RILEY
How do you know? How do you know anything?

ANNIE
You really think she's your ticket out of here don't you!

RILEY
Maybe I do! Had dreams of my own once didn't I?

ANNIE

So you do want to get out of here.

RILEY

I don't know what I'm sayin'.

ANNIE

You gave up on yourself, remember.

RILEY

My father was dying in hospital! It wasn't my fault!

(beat)

I want to do this Annie. What if I'm getting a second chance here? Please.

ANNIE

You can do it without me then.

Pause.

RILEY

Then so be it.

ANNIE

It's all just an illusion!

They have been having a semi-private conversation up to now, but give up on any pretense.

RILEY

Maybe it is! So what? I HATE IT HERE! I hate every minute of it! And do you know what I do? I swallow it all. I swallow it and wash it down with booze and try to get drunker than you so I can stand to be around ya day after day! Well, a snow storm blew Carrie Cruz in here looking like my old life - like what I forgot I am. And you're asking me to turn my back on an opportunity like this? Fuck you! GOD!

(He's pacing around.)

Would you look at this place? I have stuffed so much regret down inside of me! I can't even talk to my own wife about the moment we stopped livin' - the moment we stopped looking at each other. You're dead inside. You're a vampire and you have sucked the life out of me!

ANNIE

(to CARRIE)

Did he tell ya? He told ya didn't he?

CARRIE

I'm sorry. I'm very sorry.

(ANNIE turns on RILEY.)

But you have to stop taking it out on each -

ANNIE

Are you fucken kidding me!? How long is it now before you tell EVERY LAST PERSON YOU MEET? And her? You tell her?

RILEY

Well if I didn't have to apologize for you maybe it wouldn't come up so often.

ANNIE

Why? So she'll come back with her casting director and give you a part? "Oh me poor old wife ya know - geez she lost the baby there."

(turns on Carrie)

Don't be sorry for me. I'm fine, really. Why don't you just go back to your town car and your parties and leave us simple people alone because you put crazy ideas into peoples heads - dreams that take too long to get out of there. And now look what you've done.

RILEY

Leave her alone!

ANNIE

You want to talk about the baby Riley? We can do that. We were on the Seven train, do you remember? I was seven months. It was a boy. Do you remember what we named him? And I started hemorrhaging all over the fucking place and having contractions. We got out at the next stop and you managed to get an ambulance, but by the time it got there I knew we had lost him. The guys in the ambulance knew we had lost him. I could tell you were trying to be brave but I could see you shaking. When we got to the hospital - never mind about the hospital.

(pause. She hones in on him.)

The doctor never said I couldn't have any more babies Riley. *I said it.* I DECIDED I wasn't going to have your baby, because we can't even do that right. You're a loser and a quitter and that baby boy was trying jump on the subway tracks just to get away from both of us! I could have all the kids I want Riley. I can have babies! I just don't want to have them with you.

(Stunned silence.)

You never made it happen for yourself and now you drool all over her like it was just a matter of time now that you think you're going to get some kind of - God, how can a person be so passive?

RILEY, in a rage grabs ANNIE and begins to smash her against the table or the bar or whatever is handy. As she fights back they become a tussling, cursing dervish, destroying chairs, glasses - everything in their path.

After the initial shock, everyone springs to break them up, TOMMY leading the way; he wrestles RILEY away from ANNIE and holds him back by the arms.

ANNIE

You fucking asshole!

RILEY

Out! OUT! Get out of here or I swear I will kill you woman! I should have put a pillow over your head years ago!

HOPE

You're bleeding...

ANNIE

DON'T TOUCH ME!

RILEY

I wish I never met you, you evil fucking -

TOMMY

(Against RILEY writhing)

Don't, don't. Be cool. Be cool. She's not worth it. She's not worth it.

ANNIE

Yes I am!

HOPE

Listen! Stop! Just stop!

(to ANNIE:)

You have to get out of here. You two need to separate and sober up and calm down. Do you have someplace you can go?

ANNIE

No. Yeah, I guess.

HOPE

(to RILEY)

Can he let go of you?

RILEY

Yes, he can let the fuck go of me.

TOMMY lets go of him.

TOMMY

Sorry Riley.

For a moment they all watch nervously the silent combatants.

SAGE enters from outside, stomping the snow off his boots.

SAGE

PHEW! What a night huh! Sheesh! Well, good news! I got a car, Ms. Cruz. They're starting to plow, the avenues are looking pretty good. You guys been having a nice time? What a walk. It was actually kind of nice, you know? Peaceful. Well, Ms. Cruz, if you're ready I think we can get you back to Manhattan now.

They all stand in strange silence.

CARRIE

Thank you Sage. I'll be right out. I just want to thank these people for - such a nice evening.

SAGE

Okay then. Thanks again folks, have a good one.

He exits.

CARRIE silently collects her coat and things as they all watch.

CARRIE

Well, good night, or good morning or whatever it is.

(she approaches Hope)

I better see you tomorrow. Don't be a fool. A job is a job.

(to TOMMY)

Sorry.

(she walks over to RILEY)

RILEY

You're coming back, right?

CARRIE

I'll try.

She kisses RILEY on the cheek and exits.

RILEY

That's it, everybody out! We're closed. We're closed for good I think. What do you say to that Annie?

ANNIE gets her coat.

ANNIE

This shit hole is all yours. I'm staying at my mothers.

RILEY

Feel free to tell the old cooz what I always thought of her.

Oh, I will.

ANNIE

She stops on her way out and looks around as if for one last time.

What a dump.

ANNIE

ANNIE exits.

RILEY

I mean it. "For Sale" sign going right on the front door first thing. Place is in my name. You wait and see...
(Riley trails off all adrenaline and emotion.)

Riley - are you okay?

HOPE

RILEY

Oh, sure I'll be fine. Long time comin'...

He exits.

TOMMY slumps into a downstage chair. She stands near him.

Wow.

HOPE

HOPE
(ponders ANNIE and RILEY)

Do you think they were ever in love?

TOMMY

Probably.

HOPE

Then why did you kiss her?

TOMMY

I don't know.

HOPE

Are you serious about this thing that happened here between us?

TOMMY

Yes!

HOPE

Tommy, you're asking a lot of me here.

TOMMY

It's not like... We didn't "kiss." We were just, suddenly kissing. It wasn't - and can I just say, she kind of did most of it - she kind of came on to me.

HOPE

Oh, come on.

TOMMY

I stopped it, you saw me.

HOPE

You have to stop it sooner when that happens.

TOMMY

And may I just say for the record, we are all really drunk. No excuse. God please, let's not start on that foot. I'm not that guy. She's a movie star. Movie stars get to do whatever they want.

HOPE

Do I get to kiss the next movie star who makes a pass at me?

TOMMY

Yes! Yes you do. I'm so sorry. That was so stupid.

HOPE

Don't ever lie to me. And I'll never lie to you.

TOMMY

Okay.

HOPE

We have to tell Angie and Brett.

TOMMY

This feels different doesn't it? Different than with anyone else.

HOPE

Yes, it does. It really does.

THE END