

Counter Talk
A Play in One Act
By
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At a small restaurant in the city, worlds collide and paths cross like ships in the night. Everyone has a story and each patron is really only interested in their own. The breakfast crowd is in full swing.

Rosie, the owner is at the register.

Table 1 - Jerry, a regular visitor to the place is eating with his friend, Bill. He points out some of the regulars to Bill. He also wants to date the waitress, Barbsy. Barbsy has two small children. She might be interested in him – they have flirted in the past; he comes in for breakfast a lot, usually to see Barbsy.

As she travels from table to table we hear bits of conversations

Table 2 - A mother and daughter discuss the daughter's relationship with her "older" boyfriend. The daughter is taken with him. The mother cautions that he is only after one thing.

Table 3 - A young couple plans a crime. They are desperate to make some quick money and get out of town. The woman is worried that a dealer that she owes money to will hurt them both.

Table 4 - A couple in their 70's is in the city celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They seem happy, but miss their children and grandchildren that are always too busy for them. Barbsy makes a fuss over them. She wishes her parents were like them. She thinks to herself how lucky those absent children are to have these people in their lives.

Table 5 - a couple that have just spent the night together try to figure out what to tell their spouses. They are both embarrassed and ashamed at their behavior, but talk as if it wasn't the first time that this has happened between them, and probably won't be the last.

Table 6 - At another table, two men are involved in a job interview. One man wants the other to come and work with him. The other finds the offer attractive, but isn't comfortable double-crossing his present partner and co-workers.

Table 7 - A family of four. The wife is complaining about working two shifts while her drinker husband is out of work. The kids seem to be victims here.

Table 8 – Two women, lovers, deal with a life-changing situation. One breaks the news to the other that she has breast cancer.

CURTAIN RISES

Table 1

Jerry – There she is, don't look right away.

Bill – (LOOKING RIGHT AWAY) – Yeah, she is cute – great smile.

Jerry - Idiot, I told you not to look right away. Here she comes.

Barbsy – Hey darlin'. Not flying solo today, huh?

Jerry – No . . . this is my friend, Bill.

Barbsy – Charmed. Coffee, Bill?

Bill – Sure, with lots of sugar.

Barbsy – (POURS. WALKING AWAY) – I'll get your order in a sec.

Bill – So that is why you come here everyday.

Jerry – Well, it is convenient and the food is pretty good . . .

Bill – Yeah, but I know the way you work. Like a tiger stalking its prey.

Jerry – Oh, now I'm a stalker!

Bill – Stalker, gawker, what's the difference!

Rosie – I see your buddy is back again today.

Barbsy – Stop, he is sweet! (SHE GOES TO THE NEXT TABLE)

Table 2

(BARBSY POURS COFFEE)

Mom – (TO BARBSY) Thanks.

(TO HER DAUGHTER, JOY) I don't care. He is too old for you.

Joy - 12 years doesn't seem like such a difference.

Mom – It does when you are only 19!

Joy – But we are so good together.

Mom – You think that now. You have your whole life in front of you. He is only planning for the weekend!

Joy – Mom, I'm not that naive. You think I can't handle a man! Admit it!

Mom – If your father was around he would tell you the same thing.

Joy – Yeah, well he is an expert isn't he?

Mom – Didn't his adventures teach you anything? Remember that he walked out on us to be with his "sweet young thing" and you know what happened there!

Joy – I'm not his "sweet young thing!" And he isn't married anymore, so don't compare him to dad!

Table 3

Couple rushes in

Rosie– Two?

Pete – Can we sit in the back?

Barbsy – (AS SHE PASSES, GRABS TWO MENUS) I got 'em, Follow me.

(THEY ARE SEATED, BARBSY MOVES ON)

Jill – If I don't pay him he will kill me. I just know it.

Pete – Yeah, you're right. He won't find us in here.

Jill – He'll kill me just to make a name for himself. Keep an eye out the window, would ya!

Pete – I am. How could you let this happen?

Jill – I don't know – it all seemed so easy. Get the stuff from Mario, bring it to JJ. Get the money, pay Mario, make a bundle!

Pete – Yeah, sounds easy, but trusting JJ was your mistake. Now it's your ass.

Jill – Don't I know it.

Pete – JJ is probably 100 miles from here by now.

Jill – Maybe Maria knows where to find him.

Pete – She will, but not until he is broke and strung out again. That'll take days.

Jill – I'm scared, Pete.

Pete – We gotta get some quick cash. A couple hundred will put him off for a while.

Jill – I know, but how?

Pete – Can't you hit up you dad, tell him you are in trouble or something?

Jill – No way, the last time was the last time for him. He made that clear.

Pete – What about you brother? He's loaded!

Jill – It won't work. I can never get a hold of him anyway, and that shrew of a wife of his won't even give him a message.

Pete – Maybe we can rob the liquor store on the corner.

Jill – Too risky. These shop owners are smart. They have their own guns. If we had more time maybe we could hit a house or two, but we don't have time.

Pete – I'll think of something!

Table 4

Barbsy – Are you two lovebirds ready to order?

Martha – You are so dear, isn't she Rick?

Rick – Yes, dear.

Martha – Doesn't she remind you of Kristen? (TO BARBSY) Kristen is our daughter.

Rick – Yeah, I guess. (TO BARBSY) We're going to split the special.

Martha – Our kids and grandchildren gave us this weekend in the city for our 50th anniversary!

Barbsy – Congratulations!

Martha – We went to dinner at this fancy place last night, then we went to a real play starring . . . Rick, what is that fella's name?

Rick – Quit boring her! She's busy!

Barbsy – No, that is so sweet!

(BARBSY LEAVES)

Martha – Elliot Gould . . .

Rick – No! It was Robert Goulet!

Barbsy – That cute couple is in town celebrating their 50th Anniversary!

Rosie – Poor bastard!

Barbsy – Oh stop it or I'll tell Dee the next time she is in! I'm gonna put a candle in a cupcake and make a fuss . . .

Rosie – Who needs profits! Sure, have fun! And hey, listen, Patty won't be in today, something with her mother.

Barbsy – Damn, I thought she was just late again! This place is buzzing, I can't do it all by myself! I'm afraid she is going to have to get some help with her mom; I wish I could help her!

Rosie – I know, but you have enough to do here, and with you kids. Patty will get it together.

(BARBSY HEADS OVER TO A TABLE)

Table 5

Barbsy – More coffee?

Tom – Yes, more coffee please. Lots of coffee . . .

(BARBSY POURS, EXITS)

Nancy – If he finds out it will kill him.

Tom – I know . . . I know . . . same for Sally.

Nancy – I can't believe we did it again. He won't buy the "working late and stayed in town" line again. Last month he was pissed. When I called last night I could tell he was hurt.

Tom – Yeah, I know, but I can't help it – You, you just drive me wild.

Nancy – I could tell, you were like an animal last night.

Tom – Must've been that full Moon.

Nancy – And the wine . . .

Tom – And that black teddy on you! Just thinking about it gets me excited again.

Nancy – I knew you would like that!

Tom – Maybe we could just get something to go . . . and . . .

Nancy – Forget it! I'm already in trouble because of you!

Tom – You wear *that* perfume and then blame *me*!

Table 6

Barbsy – (BRINGING FOOD) Here ya go, guys.

Brian – Looks yummy! The food too!

(DAN ROLLS HIS EYES, EMBARRASSED AT HIS FRIEND'S BOORISH REMARK)

(BARBSY IGNORES HIM, EXITS)

Dan – I don't know, Brian.

Brian – Come on, man! It'll be great! We will rule this town!

Dan – Brian, a lot of people depend on me to bring in work.

Brian – Listen, bud, ya gotta stop chasing ambulances and suing for small potatoes sometime!

Dan – Why? It pays the bills and people get what’s comin’ to them. My clients and the firm make money, and the people that pay deserve it for allowing unsafe conditions or not acting responsibly.

Brian – Don’t you ever dream about doing something big? *Really big?*

Dan – Sure, someday . . .

Brian - Think Enron, Tyco, OJ, Martha Stewart! You think the firms that represented those people are suing Marv’s grocery store because someone slipped on a banana peel?

Dan – Well, no, I guess not.

Brian – Look Dan. You know just about everyone in this town, and I know the rest. Judges, cops, prosecutors – everyone! Tell me that you will leave that two-bit firm and join up with me. It was meant to be!

Table 7

(BARBSY BRINGS MORE FRIES TO THE LITTLE BOY, FUSSES TO THE LITTLE GIRL)

Barbsy – Here are your fries big boy, and isn’t she just the cutest little thing!

(THE LITTLE GIRL SMILES AT BARBSY)

Pam – Thank you. These kids are what I live for!

(BARBSY EXITS)

Pam – That is it Jack. It is over.

Jack – Come, on Pam. It won’t happen again.

Pam – Yes it will. (TO SMALL SON) LJ, please don’t play with your fries. Yes it will Jack. I’ve had enough. I work two jobs. I’m tired.

Jack - I know, I’m looking for a job . . .

Pam – Yeah, in the bottom of a beer bottle! These kids need a father, not a drunk!

ROSIE SEATS TWO WOMEN

Barbsy – Doesn't look good for those little tykes!

Rosie – Stay out of it - Just worry about doing your job.

Barbsy – I know, but that couple looks beat. I've seen it so many times.

Rosie - You can't save everyone that wanders in here.

Barbsy – I know, but those kids . . .(GRABS A COFFEE POT, GOES TO THE TABLE)

Table 8

Barbsy – (POURING) Hey gals – How's the book store?

Donna – Great – Your kiddie books are in. I'll bring them by tomorrow.

Barbsy – Thanks!

(SHE EXITS)

Donna – *The Misfits* was great, and the last one for her and Gable, but I loved her in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Some Like it Hot!*

Lori (STARING INTO SPACE, DISTRACTED)

Donna – Lori – Earth to Lori!

Lori – I'm sorry. Listen. I gotta tell you something. A problem. I was trying to think of how to tell you . . .

Donna – Hey, what ever it is we will handle it! You know us, nothing can stop us!

Lori – Not this time, honey. I . . . I have breast cancer.

Donna – God, no! When? How?

Lori – I found a lump last week, so I went to Dr. Jen. The test results came back today. She wants to do more tests . . .

Donna – What? Last week! Why didn't you tell me right away . . . remember, no secrets!

Lori – I know. I’m sorry. I didn’t want to upset you.

Donna – Oh, sweetheart. Always thinking of me!

Table 1

Bill – So you gonna ask her out or what?

Jerry – I don’t know. . .

Bill – What a pussy!

Jerry – Can’t we just go with *cautious*?

Bill – Whatever.

Jerry - She probably gets hit on from customers all day.

Bill – Yeah probably. But how many of them see her *every* day, like clockwork?

Jerry – Am I that obvious?

Bill – No, she probably figgers you just like the cheap coffee.

Jerry – Come on, she doesn’t know I’m alive.

Bill – Probably not, “*Darlin*’

Jerry –Anyway, she has two kids.

Table 2

Mom - (TO BARBSY) Tell me dear, do you think she has any future with a guy old enough to be her father that is separated from his wife, and has a little girl already?

Barbsy – I don’t think I am the right person to ask . . .

Joy –He is not that old! It’s my life!

Mom – You are ruining you life, you are supposed to be doing homework. College is important, and expensive!

Joy – You are just jealous that no man wants you to go away for the weekend!

Mom – I have responsibilities and common sense! Whatever happened to Blake, that nice guy from school?

Joy – Yeah, he was great -- Blake was only interested in three things – playing video games, drinking beer and having sex. And the only time he ever really talked to me was when he wanted sex, or when we were *having* sex!

Mom – (TAKEN ABACK) He didn't seem that way to me!

Joy – Welcome to my world, mother!

Table 3

Barbsy – Sorry for the delay, its crazy here today. Are you ready to order?

Pete – Just coffee right now.

Jill – Just coffee, thanks.

Barbsy – (POURING) Okay, I'll check back in a minute.

(BARBSY EXITS)

Pete – (LOOKS AROUND THE PLACE) I know how to get the money.

Jill – How?

Pete – look at this place, it's crowded and these people have money. Plus the register is right there!

Jill – I get it. Yeah! We can do this!

Rosie – You okay?

Barbsy – I'll be alright, but Patty really needs to get back here tomorrow. I can't handle all this by myself.

Rosie – I know, I'm talking to another girl later today, so we will have more help.

Barbsy – Good idea! I know that Patty has her hands full with her mother, so more help would be welcome!

Table 4

Martha – What do you think the kids are doing now?

Rick – How should I know?

Martha – Do you think they miss us?

Rick – Hell no – why do you think they sent us out of town in the first place!

Martha – Oh stop. You are such a pig head!

Rick – Are you having fun?

Marth – You know I am. We are so lucky. Remember when we were first married, living with your parents, and your brothers and sisters.

Rick – Yeah, and I was working in the hotel operating the elevator.

Martha – And your dad worked so hard in his butcher shop.

Rick – Things were simpler than. I can't remember the last time I even saw a butcher shop.

Martha – Then we had Joshua and got our own place.

Rick – That tiny little house . . .

Martha – And we were so excited! Were did the years go?

Rick – They leaked out a second at a time when we weren't looking!

Martha – I know but when I see the grandkids . . it all seems so perfect!

Rick – Okay, enough, before the waterworks start again!

Table 5

Tom - I never met anyone like you! Maybe we should just tell them.

Nancy – Yeah right. Sally would cut your balls off, then divorce you. You would be broke AND ball-less. No use to me at all.

Tom – Gee thanks – so all I am to you is dinner and a roll in the hay!

Nancy – Now that you mention it . . .

Tom – So, really, that has to be the last time.

Nancy – I know. It is just too complicated, and I feel really guilty . . .

Tom – You didn't seem too guilty last night . . .

Nancy – Now stop it!

Table 6

Dan – You're right. We know'em all. But I have responsibilities and personal debts. Ralph gave me my start, hell, he even staked part of my law school. Prepped me for the boards. It'll kill him.

Brian - This isn't personal, like they say on that gangster show – its business! We are a future dream team. Just do it. You owe it to your kids.

Table 7

Jack – I'm not a drunk!

Pam – That is part of your problem – you won't even admit it to yourself. The sooner that you realize that you have a problem, the sooner that you will be able to see these kids again.

Jack – Pam, we can work this out. I'll get help, and I have a few lines on some jobs. Good ones!

Pam – (TO DAUGHTER) Here sweetie, you can hold your own bottle. Jack, I'm tired. I can't take care of two little babies and one big one.

Jack – Hey, I can take care of myself!

Pam – I hope so. Please do not come home today. It is my day off and I need to talk to some people.

Table 8

Barbsy – More coffee. Hey why the tears?

The girls look at each other, Lori nods.

Donna – It's Lori. She . . . she has breast cancer.

Barbsy – Oh honey, I'm so sorry. If there is anything I can do . . .

Lori – Thanks, dear, nothing now . . .

Barbsy – Well, breakfast is on the house today . . .

Donna – Thank you.

Table 1

Barbsy - Wattleitbe gents?

Jerry – Scrambled Eggs . . . bacon . . . rye toast.

Barbsy - Great – I love variety. Yesterday wasn't it Bacon, eggs and WHEAT toast?
(SHE NODS TO BILL)

Bill - Begal with jelly.

Barbsy – 'k

Bill – So she has kids. Maybe she would love a night out that doesn't involve pizza and a PG movie.

Jerry – I don't know.

Bill – Kids can be fun!

Rosie – Why the tears?

Barbsy – It's Lori – she has breast cancer.

Rosie – Oh no, I thought the girls looked a little down.

Barbsy – I told them that breakfast was on the house today . . .

Rosie – You what!

Barbsy – Gimme a break, Rosie, how many old Military, hunting and Sports Illustrated magazines have they brought to you over the years.

Rosie – Yeah, yeah, okay. How is Donna taking it?

Barbsy – You know her, she is always the strong one.

Table 2

(CELL PHONE RINGS)

Joy – Hey *you!* I'm just finishing breakfast . . . with my mom . . . (TO MOM) Roger says hi.
(MOM ROLLS HER EYES) . . . well, how much later . . . oh, I hope she feels better . . . call me after you see the pediatrician . . . no, I understand. (SHE HANGS UP)

Mom – Everything OK?

Joy – (HOLDING BACK HER DISAPPOINTMENT) We are just leaving a little later. Kira hurt her wrist or something. They are going to the doctor.

Mom – A kid your age shouldn't be stood up for reasons like that.

Joy – Mom, believe me, you are not helping.

Table 3

Pete – So here's the gig. The next time the bird comes over here, I'll pull out the gun and grab her. I'll knock her tray full of dishes to the ground. That'll get everyone's attention!

Jill – Don't you shoot her!

Pete – Hey it's us or them! I'll tell everyone what's going on, and while I hold the gun on her you go around and collect wallets, watches and whatever shit they got. Use this bag. Then make the dope at the register empty it in here too.

Jill – What if he has a gun?

Pete – Look at the dude? You think he knows how to use a gun?

Jill – Then you go to the register!

Pete – Listen, I'm already puttin' my neck on the line for you. Just stick to the plan. He won't do anything while I have this gun in the bird's ribs! Maybe I'll shoot off a shot to get everyone's attention. Show'em we mean business!

Jill – Don't you dare! You might hit somebody! You are still stoned!

Pete – I'm not as stoned as you!

Jill – Don't you shoot anybody!

Table 4

Martha – Lets call the kids. I'll bet little Jenny wonders where her Grammy is.

Rick – Lets not. We'll be home tomorrow. Plus I can never figger out how to use this damn cell phone anyway!

Martha – Watch your mouth.

Rick – I don't know why they keep buying us all of that new-fangled crap anyway. A computer! What a waste! My calculator still works fine.

Martha – They said that you could do e-mail.

Rick – I don't write letters, so why would I do e-mail. If I want to tell somebody something I'll go bang on their door and tell'em! Or I'll call'em on the phone, a REAL phone! Then we get a DVD player! How many times have we used that, twice?

Martha – The kids use it when they come over.

Rick – So it was a gift for them!

Martha – No, it was thoughtful.

Rick – And cable TV, I only watch baseball and the news!

Martha – and Oprah and my stories . . .

Rick – Right – can't miss your soaps! And that camera that doesn't use film.

Martha – They gave us this trip!

Rick - At least this time they gave us something we could use!

Martha – Yes, this trip was so thoughtful! Let's call them!

Rick – This damn phone probably won't work in here anyway . . .

Table 5

Nancy – We won't do it again.

Tom – Then you'll wear that skirt again . . .

Nancy – I guess we are doomed.

(CELL PHONE RINGS)

Tom – Hi honey! Yeah, another boring meeting. What a night. Those guys can really put it away. I'm just grabbing some coffee then I'll be on the road. Are the kids okay? Oh really, a new tooth! I can't wait to see it! Sure, I'll stop . . . skim milk . . . diapers . . . okay, probably in a hour or so.
(HANGS UP)

Table 6

Dan – There is more than money and power involved here . . .

Brian – Wrong! Money and power is all that matters in this business.

Dan – Remember law school? We planned to make a difference. Change the system. Help people!

Brian – That ideological college bullshit! Nobody believes that crap! (SINGS) I'd love to change the world, but I don't know what to do . . .

Table 7

Jack – You need to talk to what people?

Pam – Jack, I'm serious. I need to make some changes. I don't know what I'm going to do. Move to Mom's, sell the house, I don't know!

Jack – Sell the house! My house!

Pam – When is the last time you made a payment? Besides, the house is in MY name. Remember – Mr. *Bad Credit*? I should have known then . . .

Jack – We will fix this . . .

Pam – Again Jack? Again? We have been “fixing” this for the past five years! The only thing that you are fixing in the stock price of Miller Brewing Company. You can’t drink this away.

Jack – I’m not . . .

Pam – I need a husband, not another mouth to feed. I need help, not more work. I need money, not piles of beer cans!

Table 1

(BARBSY BRINGS THE FOOD, FULL OF SMILES)

Barbsy – Here ya go, darlin’!

Jerry – Thanks!

Bill – Looks great!

(BARBSY EXITS)

Jerry – I know. I will. But . . . kids! What if they don’t like me? What if I don’t like them?

Bill – What if they like you? What if they are as adorable as her? What if! What if! You sound like an old lady!

Jerry – I guess you are right.

Bill – Your problem is that you are chicken. Every time you have had a girlfriend you took a lifetime to get up the stones to ask her out.

Jerry – Except for Cindy.

Bill – Right . . . Cindy. She chased you like a hound after a rabbit. What if she spent months asking herself “what if?” every day. She moved right in, came after what she wanted, and things were great!

Jerry – Yeah. Cindy was great . . .

Bill - You blew that one, now this might be your chance for something good again!

Jerry – I know . . .

Bill – Look, if you ask her out, three things can happen. She says yes, you go out and have a great time, fall in love and off you go. You go out have an okay time, the magic isn't there and you go your separate ways.

Jerry – Or, she says no . . .

Bill – Right, and you are no worse off than you are now. If she says no, the upside is for her, because she won't have to look at your puppy dog eyes every morning.

Table 5

Tom – I gotta go. I'll see you later at the office.

Nancy – (LOOKING DOWN, SILENT)

Tom – (TOUCHING HER CHEEK) You know what you mean to me. Our time together, it, it is what I live for.

Nancy – (NOT LOOKING AT HIM, SPEAKS UNDER HER BREATH) Just go.

(TOM EXITS)

Table 8

Lori – I'm scared.

Donna – We will handle this. *Together.*

Lori – I know the story. First my breast, then chemo, my hair, radiation . . .

Donna – This story ain't written yet. We will beat this. I promise. You found it early, that is *good.*

Lori – As usual, you are my rock.

Donna – It *is* early. Let's take this one step at a time.

Lori – I know . . . but the store, all of our customers, I won't be able to face them.

Donna – Face THEM! They love you, all of them! They will only wish the best for you!

Lori – I will be letting you and the store down!

Donna – Forget that! The store will be fine. I will get more help so I can take care of you.

Lori – I know you will be there for me . . .

Donna – What did you expect! We are a team!

Table 3

Pete – Get ready. This'll be like taking candy from a baby.

Jill – Don't shoot her!

Pete – When I say so you just do what I told you.

Jill – Maybe we *can* call my Dad, or my brother!

Pete – That is not gonna happen. Don't you go soft on me now. You got us into this. You gotta be tough now, if you look like a wimp somebody might get hurt!

Jill – Don't you shoot her!

Table 2

Joy - (TAKES A SIP OF COFFEE AS SHE GETS UP) I gotta go

Mom – But . . .

Joy – Bye Mom – I just can't deal with this, with you right now. I'll call you when we get to Atlantic City . . .

Mom – Joy, don't . . .

(JOY EXITS, MOM LOOKS LONELY)

(BARBSY FILLS HER CUP AS SHE PASSES WITH A TRAY OF FOOD)

Barbsy – she seem like a smart kid. She'll be fine. Don't give up on her.

Mom – (REMAINS SILENT)

Table 4

Barbsy – (SERVING THEM THEIR FOOD) 50 years, that is so righteous! My parents weren't even together 50 months!

Martha – Really, dear, that is sad, what happened?

Rick – Stop being such a busybody!

Barbsy – No, its okay. My dad passed away when I was three. He was a fireman and he went into a building to save a baby, and, he died. Smoke.

Martha – Oh, dear! I'm so sorry!

Barbsy – But he saved the baby!

Martha – So he was a hero!

Barbsy – He really was. And that *baby* is now studying to be a surgeon. He still keeps in touch with my mom.

Rick – You should be proud of your dad!

Barbsy – I am!

Martha – Are you close to your mother?

Barbsy – Oh yeah, she is my best friend in the world! Without her . . . I don't know what I would do!

Martha – How sweet!

Barbsy - But your kids must be so proud of you!

Rick – Yeah, they couldn't wait for the chatterbox over here to get in the car!

Martha – Oh stop! Be nice to her! She is so sweet!

(BARBSY SMILES A LONELY SMILE)

Table 6

Dan – Bullshit for you maybe. But not me. I AM making things better! I AM helping people!

Brian – Great – lets help ourselves, and make some money!

Dan – There is so much more to it than that. I’m glad we were able to talk this through. My answer is no. We can never be partners. For a while there I was actually thinking that throwing in with you was a good idea. What a mistake that would have been.

Brian – Your loss, buddy!

Dan - And you know what, this meeting is over.

Brian – Fine, but you don’t have to get nasty about it.

Dan – Well you don’t have to insult the reason that I practice law!

Brian – Whatever. Just know that if we are ever on opposing sides of the aisle, I will push to the limit.

Dan – Push away. Remember this – I will always be the better lawyer. It is possible to be the best *AND* have a conscious. Thanks for breakfast, *Counselor*.

(DAN EXISTS)

Table 7

Jack – Okay, I am getting it together. I swear, please just wait a week or two. You’ll see!

Pam – Too late, Jack.

Jack – I’ll prove it to you!

Pam – I’ve heard that song before.

Jack – I mean it!

Pam – I’m tired Jack. (SHE SCOOPS UP THE KIDS, DROPS SOME MONEY ON THE TABLE)

Kids- (CRYING AS THEY EXIT) – Daddy! Daddy!

Jack – (ALONE AT THE TABLE) Oh my God.

Table 3

Pete – Get up. Now is our chance.

(BARBSY COMING CLOSER WITH A TRAY OF FOOD)

Pete – (MOVING TOWARD BARBSY, LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW, PANICS)
Shit – there is Mario outside. He is looking in the joint across the street.

Jill – Damn it – he is heading this way. Let’s haul ass outta here!

(THEY SCRAM OUT THE BACK DOOR)

Barbsy – (AT THEIR TABLE) – Hey – you owe me two bucks!

Table 8

(BARBSY BRINGS THE FOOD TO THE TABLE)

Barbsy – Assholes like that (SHE SEES THE PAIN ON LORI’S FACE) Here ya go, honey. You gotta keep your strength up.

Lori – I know.

Table 1

BARBSY CLEANS THE TABLE, BRINGS THE CHECK. AS SHE IS WALKING AWAY WITH A TRAY OF DIRTY DISHES . . .

Jerry – Barbsy, hey, if you aren’t busy Friday night perhaps we could get dinner!?

Barbsy – That’s sweet darlin’ but Billy has a little league game . . .

Jerry – See, she must get hit on all the time. I feel like such an ass . . .

Bill – She likes you, I saw her face lit up some. I’m sure of it!

Table 5

Barbsy (POURS COFFEE) – Warm you up some?

Nancy - They’re all bastards.

Barbsy – Most, not all.

Nancy – You married?

Barbsy – Not anymore. The SOB decided that some slut at the office was better for him. Three months after he left me she moved onto another sucker, he came whimpering back. Too late. Can't say I'm sorry . . .

Nancy – (SOFTLY) the bastard.

Barbsy moves to the next table

Nancy just stares forward.

Table 1

(BARBSY COMES BACK TO JERRY)

Barbsy (SHYLY) I gotta see Billy's game Friday night, but, my mom can probably watch the kids on *Saturday* night?!

(SHE SMILES COYLY)

Jerry – Saturday is great for me!

BILL SHOOTS A SMILE TO JERRY AND BARBSY

BARBSY BRINGS A CHECK TO ROSIE

Rosie – Everything okay?

Barbsy – Just another day in paradise, darlin'!

CURTAIN

