

ERIN GO BRAGH-less
(*an Irish-American odyssey in two acts.*)

CHARACTERS

(4-M, 5-F)

BARRY - in his late-twenties, BARRY proclaims both his age and his love of beer on his puffy, ruddy face. BARRY is one of the lucky few among us, for he is content with his lot in life. Harboring no great expectations, BARRY sees no reason to upset the status quo, despite the changes around him. He selfishly pursues his own alcoholic and cocaine filled pleasures regardless of the wife and children he neglects in doing so. Things are as they are, and BARRY is more than willing to accept them, good or bad.

BILL- also in his late-twenties, BILL sports a rapidly expanding paunch and stooped shoulders. BILL, unlike BARRY, would like to question the aspects of his life that he finds unfulfilling, but doesn't know where to turn for answers. Using the cloistered neighborhood of his childhood as shelter from the unknown, BILL is beginning to feel the constraints of living in BARRY'S shadow, of just going along, taking no action to guide the course of his own life. Deep down, BILL believes that just maybe, there is more for the taking, somewhere.

KELLY- BARRY'S wife, who knows no other way of living. Her subservience to her husband has rendered her helpless, and her dreams of finding a life outside of her home will never be realized. KELLY is fast becoming bitter and depressed, feelings she hides through sarcasm and gossip, pointing the finger at what she considers the faults of others, trying desperately to paint a rosy picture of domestic bliss to cover the dependence on drugs and alcohol that masks the banality and finality of her current position. In her desire to maintain what she considers a fine and youthful figure, KELLY will not give into overeating and has replaced food with cigarettes and lite beer. Her skin is coarse and her emaciated physique speaks volumes about her misplaced notions of good health and also hints at the depression she won't admit.

LISA- KELLY'S best friend and confidante. Throughout her life, LISA has always been "the fat girl," the description used by those trying to describe who LISA is when talking about her. LISA'S weight has forced her to withdraw, allowing the overbearing nature of her friend to dominate all her decisions. LISA'S unhappiness stems from loneliness, her strength from an underlying, growing contempt for her browbeating, malicious best friend. LISA'S quiet temperament is in direct contrast to KELLY'S overbearing nature.

STEVE- in a word, STEVE is a coke-head. Cocaine is his passion. STEVE is handsome, without the worn look of BARRY or BILL, though he is the same age. To go along with his looks, STEVE possesses the swagger and boast of a man who is used to getting what he wants. STEVE'S recent estrangement from his wife has wounded his vanity. This wounded, misplaced pride forces him to seek a reconciliation with his wife before he becomes the subject of his friends' gossip

and ridicule. His supposed devotion to his wife plays itself out through physical and verbal abuse, which he hopes will force her into coming back to him.

LINDA- in her late-forties, though she claims no more than forty-?, LINDA could pass for younger at first glance. But under further scrutiny, it is obvious that time has not been as kind as first perceived. Hardship and years of too many cigarettes and too much booze have dried out her skin. She maintains a trim body and dresses in tight clothing that show off physical attributes that can still attract a roving eye. Uneducated, not seeing any option other than public assistance for survival, LINDA has resigned herself to a life of limited pleasures and fewer opportunities. LINDA counts it as a blessing that she has survived a bad marriage and is alive and well and living in poverty.

SANDRA- LINDA'S daughter, is nineteen and tough. Her hair is dyed blonde, but the roots are showing. SANDRA talks in a halting manner, not allowing anyone to get the best of her. Having grown up watching her sister MAURA and her friends give in to the ease of escaping through drugs and alcohol, SANDRA has blinded herself to life outside her enclave. Her outlook has always been one of being defeated before she began, convinced that her existence is destined to follow the path that has been cleared before her.

RYAN- BARRY'S younger brother, is twenty-one and a heroin addict. He is mindful of only one thing, getting high. RYAN'S addiction dominates all else in his life. Willing to go to any degrading and humiliating lengths to score a hit, RYAN'S life is on a downward spiral with little hope of redemption. The lack of support from those around him, lends credence to his desire to live up to their underwhelming expectations. At twenty-one, RYAN is thin and disheveled. His speech is full of mirth, a constant giggle punctuating his words, as if to say he is above what anyone thinks of him or his lifestyle. Life is seemingly nothing more to RYAN than a joke and he believes he is the only one who truly gets the punch line.

MAURA- late-twenties. She is nervous and wears a scowl of anger. The years have been unkind to her and her haggard look will very soon find its way to middle age before the actual passing of time does. The pretty schoolgirl she was is gone forever, and unlike KELLY, MAURA no longer tries to keep up with the image. With her break-up from STEVE, MAURA knows that living back at home with her mother and sister is not the answer for her. Surrounded by the empty lives of her family and friends, MAURA wants out before she too succumbs to the ennui of loneliness, depression and addiction.

MAN- a john, looking for relief and willing to pay (can be played by any actor not on stage at the time.)

SETTING

Magoun Square, Somerville Massachusetts. 2004, the long ago days when you could still smoke in bars, texting hadn't yet replaced conversation and food stamps hadn't gone electronic. The action of the play takes place simultaneously at various locations during the Saturday night before St. Patrick's Day and the following Sunday afternoon.

The set should feel cramped, crowded (though each locale should be clearly marked.) There is no stopping of the action for scene breaks. Each scene blends seamlessly into the next, with most of the characters on stage at all times. Though lights may dim on particular scenes, there are no black outs, as scenes and dialogue overlap.

ACT ONE

(Light rises on a bar up center. Behind the bar are green lights. Paper shamrocks are taped to the mirror and liquor shelves. A large, metallic “Erin-Go-Bragh” sign hangs over the bar, suspended from the ceiling.

Slightly down from the bar are one or two small cocktail tables and some worn wooden chairs. There are green streamers and bunting haphazardly placed, hanging from the bar, taped along the edges of the tables. A feeble attempt at decorating. It is the Saturday night before St. Patrick’s Day. BARRY is seated, drinking. BILL stands behind the bar, and though he is the bartender, BILL drinks also. Both are smoking a seemingly endless chain of cigarettes. Each wears an old, faded, sweat shirt with “Irish” logos.

There is a long stretch of silence as BILL absently wipes the bar with a rag and BARRY intently scratches a pile of lottery tickets. BILL stops, looks up for a moment and speaks.)

BILL

Did you ever notice in movies about the Chinese, it’s always how the old and young people can’t agree on nothin’?

BARRY

Yeah, and the Chinks are always eatin’ egg rolls and shit.

BILL

And like in all the black movies, they’re always complainin’ how white people get in their way so they can’t do nothin’.

BARRY

Yeah, and there’s always one nigger tryin’ to get off crack.

BILL

And movies about Italians always have loud, stupid people yellin’ at each other.

BARRY

Yeah, and showin’ how the guineas are always stabbin’ each other in the back.

BILL

And then the Irish movies. Always makin' us look lazy, like we're a bunch of drunks.

BARRY

Yeah, what's with that shit? That ain't right.

(BARRY tosses the lottery tickets across the bar.)

Fuckin' nothin'. Can't win for losin'.

BILL

What can you do?

BARRY

Well, until I win a million...

(BARRY lifts his beer.)

What do you think?

(he winks and drinks.)

Erin Go Bragh.

(light dims on bar, as it rises on MAURA in LINDA'S housing project apartment, right. MAURA is seated at the small kitchen table. On the table is a television remote, an ashtray, a cell phone and a bouquet of shamrock balloons inside a ceramic leprechaun. MAURA is going through the newspaper. LINDA enters, carrying a rocks glass which she sips from. She stands, reading over MAURA'S shoulder. After a moment, LINDA speaks.)

LINDA

What are you doin'?

MAURA

Nothin'. Just goin' through the want ads.

LINDA

You already got a job.

MAURA

I know, I'm just lookin'.

LINDA

Dave's good to you over there, Maura, don't go messin' that up.

MAURA

(aggravated, folding the newspaper and standing.)

I'm not messin' it up. Besides, who said I was lookin' for a job?

LINDA

Then what? An apartment? You gonna start that foolishness again? You already got a perfectly good apartment.

MAURA

Oh yeah, livin' the high life.

(MAURA begins to exit. LINDA sits and calls after her.)

LINDA

Where's Sandra?

MAURA

I don't know, I haven't seen her.

(MAURA exits, LINDA picks up the remote, points and clicks as she speaks.)

LINDA

I hope she's not with that Ryan, Dotty thinks he's back on the drugs again. Probly is, he never learns.

(as she is saying this, SANDRA runs across downstage followed by RYAN. SANDRA stops center and turns to him. She is crying.)

SANDRA

Fuck you Ryan, okay?

RYAN

(exploding.)

Fuck me? Fuck me you little bitch...Fuck you.

SANDRA

Why you bein' like this? I should have known this was gonna happen. I wish I never told you.

(SANDRA runs off. RYAN calls after her.)

RYAN

I'm sorry, okay...Sandra, come on, talk to me.

(RYAN follows SANDRA off. Light dims on street and LINDA'S apartment as it comes up on KELLY and LISA in the living room of KELLY'S apartment, left. They are seated on the floor at a coffee table. The table is littered with beer cans, an ashtray, Kelly's cell phone, nail polish, cosmetics and beauty magazines. KELLY is BARRY'S wife. She is seated on the floor by the table finishing her nails with green-glitter nail polish. LISA is leafing through a magazine, smoking, a full ashtray on the coffee table. Both women wear an overabundance of green clothing and accessories, including green eye-shadow.)

LISA

(holding out the magazine for KELLY to see.)

That's nice, huh, Kell?

KELLY

(unimpressed.)

It's okay.

LISA

Wonder how I'd look in somethin' like that.

KELLY

You gotta be skinny to wear somethin' like that. Even I'd have a hard time with it.

LISA

Maybe if I got a matchin' belt.

KELLY

Belt only makes things worse, shows off your hips.

(both women go back to their activities. After a moment, LISA speaks, putting the magazine on the table. She picks up her beer.)

LISA

So what's really goin' on with Maura and Steve?

KELLY

Nothin'. She dumped him.

(light comes up on bar as the scenes overlap.)

BILL

I hear Steve's stalkin' her.

LISA

Well, she moved out, must be serious this time.

BARRY

Bullshit. He only went by her work to see what was up

KELLY

I heard she already sent him papers and everything.

BARRY

What a bitch, I mean, she didn't even tell him she was leavin'.

LISA

And he acted like it was some big surprise.

BARRY

How was he supposed to know she meant it this time?

KELLY

Well, a restranin' order's not gonna stop him.

BARRY

It's not like she hasn't moved out before.

KELLY

I know for a fact that he went to her work and tried to force her to leave with him, right in front of her boss and everyone.

BILL

I heard he threatened to kill her.

LISA

He always said he'd kill her if she left him.

(as the gossip becomes more salacious, the voices become more venomous.)

BARRY

Drunk talk.

KELLY

Well, I hope for her sake he didn't mean it.

BARRY

He was doin' coke.

KELLY

And I'll tell you somethin' else, he's been callin' Marty lately.

BILL

You know what that means.

LISA

Must be on one of his binges.

BILL

There's no dealin' with him when he's on that shit.

KELLY

He gets crazy.

BARRY

Maura should know better than to piss him off when he's doin' coke.

LISA

I never understood why she stayed with him anyway.

BILL

Remember the parkin' lot?

LISA

After he tried to strangle her that time.

BARRY

Yeah, but he woke up the next day and apologized.

LISA

If Karen and David hadn't of left the bar just when they did.

BILL

He still didn't have to go that far.

LISA

She'd probly be dead.

BARRY

God, a little argument and everyone made a big deal out of it.

LISA

A big thing like that and everyone forgot about it the next day.

BARRY

I mean, it wasn't like she was sober.

KELLY

Yeah but, don't forget, after that Steve didn't do coke for months.

BARRY

Believe me, Maura's no saint, and the mouth on her.

KELLY

Still, no wonder she drinks. He can be a real asshole sometimes.

BILL

If I was her, I'd be mouthin' off to him too.

LISA

What are you talkin' about, asshole?

BARRY

If my wife ever talked to me the way I heard her talk to him.

KELLY

I don't know why she married him. The way he treats her.

BARRY

I'd kick her ass.

LISA

What about Barry? He hit you before.

BARRY

Bitches. Sometimes they can really piss you off.

KELLY

Only that one time.

BILL

Yeah but, you can't be hittin' 'em.

LISA

No way I'd let a guy hit me and stay with him. I mean, what kind of life is she gonna have?

BARRY

I only hit Kelly once, but it was okay, we were both drunk.

KELLY

And he did it in private. Steve does it in front of people.

BARRY

I swear to God, Bill, Steve and Maura do it just to get attention.

KELLY

You can't stay with a guy like that.

BILL

Hey, wasn't Kelly after Steve for a while?

LISA

What are you talkin' about? You were after Steve yourself.

BARRY

He thought he had a chance after we broke up that time, but I put an end to that shit. You think I'm gonna let him take her away from me?

KELLY

Me and Barry were broken up, remember? Besides, Steve wasn't really a druggie then.

BILL

What is it about guys like that, that women go for?

LISA

Admit it, you'd still sleep with him if you had the chance.

BARRY

I don't know. Who can tell with women?

KELLY

I'm not admittin' nothin'.

BARRY

You never know what they're thinkin'.

LISA

You're not denyin' it either. Where is Barry anyway?

BILL

What time Kelly comin'?

KELLY

Where do you think? Up the bar with Bill.

BARRY

Knowin' Kelly, she should be here any minute.

KELLY

He started celebratin' early.

BARRY

You know she won't miss a St. Patrick's Day.

BILL

All the amateurs will be out tonight.

BARRY

She's bringin' her friend, Lisa. The more the meat...

LISA

How's Bill doin' these days?

BILL

Lisa Sullivan?

LISA

He seein' anyone?

BILL

I haven't seen her in a long time.

KELLY

He broke up with his girlfriend a while ago.

BILL

She still seein' Mark Joyce?

KELLY

She was a bitch anyway.

BARRY

Nah. He was a jerk.

KELLY

Never let him go out.

BARRY

Kept her away from Kelly and all her friends.

KELLY

He's better off without her.

(light dims on KELLY and LISA.)

BARRY

She's better off without him. It's a goddamned shame too. Good lookin' girl like that. I don't care if she is fat, I'd do her.

(BARRY reaches for a Keno slip and begins filling it out.)

BILL

What are you doin'?

BARRY

What?

BILL

What? Keno? Wastin' your fuckin' money.

BARRY

But if I hit, I'll get it all back.

BILL

You're not gonna hit.

BARRY

Listen to you.

BILL

What?

BARRY

What? How much you drop at the dogs?

BILL

That's different, racin' is a sport.

(light dims on bar as it rises on a dumpster down left. Spray-painted across the dumpster in neon letters, are the initials "I.R.A." STEVE enters. Though he is the same age as BARRY and BILL, STEVE is more put together than either of them, and dresses extremely well. Good trousers, dress shoes, a perfectly fitted Irish-knit sweater, black overcoat. He likes to think of himself as a man about town, above the Townie attitudes and styles.)

STEVE takes out his phone and scrolls through his contacts, as light comes up on LINDA'S apartment. LINDA'S telephone rings. She picks up the remote and clicks off the set as she answers the phone by her side.)

LINDA

Hello.

STEVE

(trying to sound sheepish, polite.)

Hey Linda. Just wonderin' if Maura's home?

LINDA

Steve what are you doin'?' You know you can't call here.

STEVE

I just want to talk to her, make sure she's all right.

LINDA

You know you can get in trouble callin' her. Just leave her alone.

STEVE

I'm not gonna start nothin'. I'm just a little worried, that's all.

LINDA

She's not here.

STEVE

(the demure act beginning to crumble.)

Don't lie to me Linda. I know she is. Let me talk to her.

(MAURA enters and stands, watching LINDA, who holds up a finger to hush MAURA.)

LINDA

Steve, I'm not lyin', she's not here.

STEVE

I'll come over there if you don't put her on the phone.

LINDA

If you come anywhere near this place, I'm gonna have to call the cops. You don't want to spend the weekend in jail do you? I told you, she's not here.

STEVE

Where is she?

LINDA

I don't know.

STEVE

(exploding.)

Don't fuckin' lie to me, because I'll find her.

(LINDA hangs up as STEVE shuts off his phone and angrily crosses downstage. As the scene progresses, STEVE changes his mind, stops and pulls his phone out again.)

LINDA

You better be careful.

MAURA

You don't have to lie for me.

LINDA

Until things settle down.

MAURA

Until things settle down? What, you think this will all be over in a few days, everything back to normal?

LINDA

Please, Maura, just don't make any more decisions until he calms down and you can talk to him.

MAURA

I don't want to talk to him. What, are you takin' sides?

LINDA

No, of course not, but you are his wife.

MAURA

And your daughter.

(light dims on LINDA'S apartment, but remains on STEVE as he scrolls through his contacts. Light comes up on KELLY and LISA, as STEVE hits dial and waits.)

LISA

You really think Sandra's pregnant?

KELLY

That's what I hear. I mean, just look at her. Her ass has gotten huge, her tits are gettin' bigger, she's wearin' all those baggy clothes. You tell me.

LISA

Think she'll keep it?

KELLY

She better fuckin' keep it.

LISA

But she's only nineteen.

KELLY

So. She's wants to play, she's gotta pay. Just like me.

(quickly adding as an afterthought.)

But, I would have married Barry anyway.

LISA

Not if Steve was around.

(phone rings, KELLY picks up her phone on the coffee table.)

KELLY

Hello.

STEVE

Kelly, Maura there?

KELLY

(KELLY waves excitedly to get LISA'S attention, like a schoolgirl realizing the person on the other end of the phone is her dream date for the prom. Her casual tone belies none of this.)

No, she hasn't been here at all Steve.

STEVE

You lyin'?

KELLY

Of course I'm not lyin'. I wouldn't lie to you Steve.

STEVE

What are you doin'?

KELLY

St. Patty's, baby. Meetin' Barry up the bar.

STEVE

What, he's not home?

KELLY

No, he's not.

STEVE

I got a couple lines. Want me come over?

KELLY

Lisa's here.

STEVE

That's all right. I got enough for all of us.

KELLY

It's all right with me.

STEVE

I'll be right over. Bye.

KELLY

Bye.

(they hang up. KELLY continues as STEVE exits.)

Steve's comin' by.

LISA

What?

KELLY

He's got a couple lines. I wouldn't mind doin' some.

LISA

Oh God, I haven't done coke in so long. What if Barry comes home?

KELLY

He won't be home. He thinks of this as his own personal weekend. Like he's the only fuckin' Irishman in Somerville. He won't stop drinkin' until the bar closes. And if he did come home, I'd just say Steve was comin' here for you.

LISA

I hope you're right. Barry'd kill him if he knew.

(light remains on KELLY and LISA as it rises on LINDA'S apartment. SANDRA enters the apartment, as RYAN enters downstage, looking through his cell phone. He scrolls and dials.)

LINDA

Sandra, I want to talk to you.

SANDRA

Why, I didn't do nothin'?

LINDA

If gettin' pregnant is nothin'. Are you?

(KELLY'S answers her ringing phone.)

KELLY

Hello.

SANDRA

No...I'm not. Why?

LISA

Is it Steve again?

(KELLY shakes her head, as RYAN talks into the phone.)

RYAN

Hey, Kell.

LINDA

That's what I hear from everyone.

KELLY

What do you want Ryan?

SANDRA

Stop listenin' to people, they're all fuckin' liars

RYAN

Just callin' to wish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

SANDRA

Nothin' else to do but talk about everyone else.

KELLY

Cut the shit. What do you want?

(light comes up on BARRY and BILL at the bar.)

BARRY

I hear she's pregnant.

LINDA

Tell me the truth Sandra.

RYAN

I got fifty bucks worth of food stamps.

BILL

Little Sandra O'Neill? What a shame.

SANDRA

How could you ask me somethin' like that, I'm not pregnant.

RYAN

Twenty bucks, they're yours.

BARRY

I know who she's been seein'. I can put two and two together.

LINDA

Then why is everyone sayin' that?

KELLY

Who'd you steal them from?

BILL

She always seemed like such a nice kid.

SANDRA

To start trouble. They have nothin' else to do.

LISA

What's he sellin'? Stupid prick.

BARRY

She's been goin' out with my brother Ryan.

LINDA

I didn't bring you up like this.

RYAN

I got them from my mother.

BILL

But he's already got a kid.

SANDRA

Ma, please, lay off.

KELLY

You better not have taken them from your ex, that's the same as stealin' them from your son.

BARRY

That's nothin' to him, just one more kid to ignore.

(light dims on bar.)

LINDA

Is it Ryan's?

RYAN

Honest, I got them from my mother. You want 'em or not?

SANDRA

Just let it go okay.

KELLY

Okay, but if I hear you stole them from someone else...

LINDA

How's he gonna support another baby?

RYAN

Thanks Kell, I knew I could count on you.

LINDA

If he supports his first one at all.

KELLY

Just don't let Barry know.

SANDRA

You don't know him like I do.

RYAN

What do I look, stupid?

SANDRA

He's not like that.

(RYAN and KELLY hang up. MAURA enters as SANDRA runs off.)

MAURA

What's the matter with her?

KELLY

Ryan's comin' over.

LINDA

I don't know. She won't talk to me.

LISA

You better hide your jewelry.

MAURA

She's nineteen, she doesn't have to tell her mother everything anymore.

KELLY

Don't you just love the holidays?

LINDA

I hear she's pregnant.

KELLY

Not a care in the world.

(light dims on KELLY'S apartment.)

MAURA

So what if she is?

LINDA

Then I want her to do what's right, go see a doctor.

MAURA

What, abortion?

LINDA

Don't even joke about that, not in my house. She's not havin' any abortion while she's livin' here.

MAURA

You'd rather she have a kid that you'll probly end up takin' care of?

LINDA

She's not havin' an abortion. It's a sin.

MAURA

Oh, I see. It's all right to let her live with this problem for the rest of her life rather than take care of it now?

LINDA

Other people do. I did.

MAURA

And look where you are, in the projects, divorced.

LINDA

At least I have a place to live, that's more than some. Besides Maura, you've got your own problems to worry about.

MAURA

What, Steve?

(light rises on bar, BARRY looks off, up at the Keno screen, switching his gaze between the screen and the slip in his hand as he speaks.)

BARRY

He just wants to talk to her. She is his wife.

MAURA

I'm not goin' back.

BARRY

She'll be back and he knows it.

LINDA

You can't afford to live on your own, you can't stay here forever.

BARRY

She'll start missin' the coke and the sex.

MAURA

I'll figure it out...I'll work two jobs.

BILL

I don't know, this is the longest she's stayed away.

MAURA

Maybe get a certificate, medical, legal secretary. Somethin'. Other people do.

(light fades on LINDA'S apartment but remains on bar.)

BARRY

Mark my words. She'll be back. Women can't stay away from a dick for too long you know what I mean. Cunts and whores, that's all they are. We're in control. Whatever we say goes. I mean if Kelly even thought about leavin', I'd see to it that she changed her mind. I'd make her life hell until she came to her senses.

BILL

How you gonna do that, hit her?

BARRY

No, you don't have to hit them to stay in control. I'd threaten her, threaten her family maybe. Hound her until she thought I was capable of doin' anything. She'd come around quick enough. Then when she did, I'd never let her forget that I call the shots.

(BARRY crumples the Keno slip and tosses it across the bar.)

Fuckin' nothin'.

(he starts filling out another slip.)

She came crawlin' back to me before and she would again. I have her wrapped around my finger. All I have to do is keep the kids away from her, just like last time.

(a door bell is heard ringing as light comes up on KELLY'S apartment. STEVE enters behind KELLY.)

STEVE

Hey Kell, you're lookin' good.

BILL

I just don't get why you would want to stay with someone who didn't want to be with you?

KELLY

You look pretty good yourself.

BARRY

Because I'm the man.

STEVE

So Barry's not home, huh? Hi Lis. Happy St. P's.

KELLY

No he's not.

LISA

(sarcastically.)

Erin-Go-Bragh.

(STEVE starts laying out the coke on a magazine on the coffee table.)

STEVE

Nobody's seen Maura?

KELLY

It's like she's avoidin' everyone.

STEVE

She fuckin' around with anyone?

BARRY

If I ever caught Kelly cheatin'.

(light fades on bar as BARRY slams his right fist into his left palm.)

KELLY

I don't know. Like I said, she's avoidin' everyone. Like she's in hidin' or somethin'. I thought we were friends, but she hasn't said anything to me.

STEVE

I keep callin' her mother's house, but she says Maura's not there.

KELLY

Well I know she's stayin' there. You know Barry's brother Ryan is goin' out with Sandra, and Sandra told him that Maura was back there so Linda must be lyin'.

STEVE

I hear Sandra's pregnant.

(STEVE snorts a big line and passes the rolled up bill to KELLY.)

KELLY

That seems to be the word.

(KELLY snorts and hands the bill to LISA.)

STEVE

Is it Ryan's?

KELLY

Looks like it.

STEVE

What a fuckin' disgrace. A junkie. Sandra was never like that.

KELLY

Want a beer, Steve?

STEVE

Yeah, I'd love one.

(KELLY exits. STEVE turns his charm on LISA.)

How are you, Lis?

LISA

Pretty good.

(LISA snorts and hands the bill to STEVE.)

STEVE

I hear you broke up with that Mark guy.

LISA

No secrets around here.

STEVE

Why should there be. We've always known everything about each other.

LISA

And you don't see anything wrong with not having any privacy?

STEVE

No, I don't. Makes us like one big, happy family.

LISA

Not all families are happy. Besides, wouldn't that make what you and Kelly did like incest?

(doorbell rings. KELLY rushes on, hands STEVE his beer and goes to answer door.)

STEVE

You still on that? She was broken up then, remember?

LISA

It still wasn't right. I thought Barry was your friend?

STEVE

(laughing.)

That's right, he *was* my friend.

(KELLY enters with RYAN, STEVE rises and they shake hands.)

RYAN

Hey.

STEVE

How you doin' Ryan?

RYAN

Good Steve. How bout you? Hi Lis. Happy St. Patty's.

STEVE

Aside from losin' my wife I guess I'm okay. She back home?

RYAN

As far as I know.

STEVE

As far as you know. Everyone knows you're fuckin' around with her sister Sandra, you must know somethin'.

RYAN

All I know is that Sandra said Maura moved back. I'm not allowed over there, so I don't know what's happenin' in the house.

KELLY

You got 'em?

RYAN

Yeah.

KELLY

Twenty bucks right?

RYAN

I meant to say twenty-five. You know, half price.

KELLY

You said twenty on the phone, so fuck you.

RYAN

Come on Kell, what are you tryin' to do to me here? Fifty bucks worth of food.

KELLY

Twenty bucks or I tell Barry you stole your mother's food stamps again.

RYAN

All right, twenty.

KELLY

What are you gonna say when she finds out they're gone?

RYAN

I took them from the middle of the book. She'll think she spent them or sold them herself. She does you know, that's how I get away with it.

KELLY

All the times you stole them, you think she'd learn.

(RYAN holds out the food stamps, KELLY holds out a twenty-dollar bill. They stand for a second before they each grab their share from the other. RYAN continues.)

RYAN

Hey, I saw your kids over the house. They're gettin' so big.

LISA

I thought they were at your mother's.

KELLY

(taking the rolled bill from STEVE, she kneels at the table.)

No, Barry's. She says she never sees them so I let her take them for the night. But I fuckin' hate to let her have them. That bitch hates me, ever since me and Barry broke up that time. Like it was all my fault. She should know her son can be a prick, she raised him.

(KELLY snorts.)

LISA

They're gone for the whole night?

KELLY

(standing, KELLY dances and sings.)

All night long...all night, all night. Like I'm single again.

RYAN

Where's my brother?

KELLY

Up the bar, and I gotta meet him, so you better go.

RYAN

All right Kell, thanks. Bye Steve, bye Lis.

LISA

Happy St. Patty's, Ryan.

(RYAN exits.)

STEVE

He's still doin' that shit, huh?

KELLY

I don't know.

STEVE

Don't give me that I don't know crap Kelly. What did he want money for if it wasn't to buy shit with? Twenty-one years old and a junkie. What a fuckin' waste.

(STEVE snorts a line of coke as light dims on apartment, and comes up on bar.)

BARRY

So we're drunk as can be, you know. Then we go to her place and do a few more lines. We're kissin' and shit, I'm feelin' her tits. Next thing you know, we're headin' for her bedroom. She's rubbin' my dick, but I can't get hard. I don't know what it is, whenever I do coke, I can't get hard and now she says she wants to blow me, anything for the coke right? So I start strokin' myself with one hand, rubbin' her pussy with the other.

(KELLY and LISA enter and stand beside BARRY and BILL.)

KELLY

Excuse me, there are ladies present. What if I talked like that in front of you?

BARRY

I'd get all excited and want to mmm-mmm-mmm.

KELLY

You fuckin' pig. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

(KELLY kisses BILL, wiping her lipstick from his cheek with her thumb.)

How do you stand listenin' to those same old stories Bill?

BILL

I try to ignore him but it doesn't do any good. He just keeps talkin'.

KELLY

So you gonna buy us a beer or what?

BILL

Sure, what'll you have?

KELLY

Bud Light.

LISA

Me too.

(BILL reaches down for two beers and places them on the bar.)

BARRY

What took you so long. We've been waitin'.

KELLY

Nothin'. I had to drop the kids at your mother's, we had a few beers back at the house, while we got ready.

(KELLY twirls, showing off her glittering Irish-ness.)

What do you think?

BARRY

(ignoring this.)

Who was at my mother's? Was Ryan there?

KELLY

No, I didn't see him.

BARRY

My mother thinks he's back on the shit again. For someone who doesn't work, he seems to have no problem gettin' money to get high with.

(light comes up on RYAN, shooting up in an alley down by the dumpster. RYAN continues his ritual as the conversation in the bar continues. As he pulls the needle from his arm, the light dims on him.)

BILL

How are you Lis?

LISA

I'm just fine...how are you?

BILL

I'm all right. You know, same old, same old.

LISA

Tell me about it. All I do is work.

KELLY

At least you get to get out of the house. It's not so bad though, next year Brittany will be in school, then I'm goin' back to work.

LISA

Three kids is work.

BARRY

What the hell kind of job are you gonna get? You haven't worked in ten years.

KELLY

I can get a job.

LISA

There are plenty of things she could do.

BARRY

Well whorin's out. After three kid's nobody's gonna pay for the fuckin' black hole of Calcutta.

BILL

You still workin' at the same place?

KELLY

Fuck you Barry. You don't seem to mind when you want to put your limp dick somewhere.

LISA

Yeah, still doin' books at the auto parts, but I'm takin' classes.

BARRY

Take a joke for God's sake.

BILL

Where you takin' classes? I was thinkin' of maybe goin' back to school.

BARRY

What the fuck do you want to take classes for?

BILL

I don't know, try somethin' different.

BARRY

Somethin' different. What a crock of shit. What, you want to be like those fuckin' rich boys come through every year to go to Harvard and M.I.T. Makin' the rents go up so the people who've lived here their whole lives can't afford to anymore? What do they care how they change things, Daddy's payin' for it all anyway. Just be thankful you got a job.

BILL

Some fuckin' job. I've been doin' the same thing practically since high school. Don't you ever get bored? I don't want to be doin' what I'm doin' now forever. I'm almost thirty fuckin' years old and gettin' awfully tired of puttin' up drywall all week, workin' here for my father on Saturdays...

BARRY

Nothin' wrong with construction my friend.

(as BARRY and BILL continue their discourse, LISA and KELLY whisper quietly, sometimes laughing out loud, sometimes stifling a laugh as they glance at BILL and BARRY, who are obviously the subject of their conversation.)

BILL

It's not construction. We're fuckin' lackies, workin' for some prick who treats us like slaves. Luggin' shit around, cleanin' up after everyone else.

BARRY

So? Good pay, all under the table, no taxes. Shit, you still live home and don't even have to pay rent, what's better than that? We're not starvin', we're not on welfare. We're in a pretty good place and I don't see any reason to go screwin' that up.

LISA

Think I should?

BILL

Don't you ever want to try somethin' else, maybe go someplace you haven't been?

KELLY

You're a fool if you don't.

BARRY

What are you talkin' about, we went to Vegas last year, remember?

LISA

It's not that I don't want to...

BILL

That's not what I'm talkin' about.

LISA

It's just, I've known him so long, feels kind of weird.

BARRY

Then what you are talkin' about. Where do you want to go?

KEELY

He's a good kisser.

BILL

Nowhere in particular...

LISA

What?

BILL

...but since you brought it up, I don't know, what about campin'?

LISA

You and Bill?

BARRY

What about it?

KELLY

We never did nothin'.

BILL

We talk about maybe goin' every summer. How come we never do?

KELLY

But I kissed him a couple times.

BARRY

Screw that. Sleepin' in the woods, waitin' to be fucked up the ass by some inbred serial killer whose mother is also his sister. The woods are full of retards.

LISA

Does Barry know?

BARRY

Remember what happened to those guys in that movie "Deliverance"?

KELLY

No.

BILL

What about Ireland?

KELLY

And I'll tell you somethin' else.

(KELLY and LISA whisper. KELLY holds her hands apart, far apart. They laugh.)

BILL

We keep talkin' about goin' to Ireland for St. Patty's and every year we're back up here, doin' the same thing.

KELLY

Like I said, you're a fool if you don't.

BARRY

Ireland's not goin' anywhere, we'll get there. Besides, our Guinness is as good as theirs.

BILL

And we're supposed to be so fuckin' Irish.

BARRY

Hey, I got cousins over there and my mother gives to the N.R.A. every year.

BILL

Don't you mean the I.R.A.?

BARRY

Whatever.

KELLY

(turning to BARRY and BILL.)

If you two are gonna argue, then we're gonna sit somewhere else.

BARRY

We're not arguin', we're talkin'. Helps to pass the time. Besides, Bill knows I'm right. He just likes to sound like a smart ass.

BILL

Yeah, just talkin'. That's all we ever do.

BARRY

So Lis, I hear you broke up with that Mark guy, huh?

LISA

Does everyone know my business?

BARRY

What, I'm just askin' a question.

LISA

Steve just asked me the same thing. God, I get so tired of everyone talkin' about everyone all the time.

BARRY

Steve? When did you see him?

(BARRY is suddenly suspicious, angry even.)

KELLY

(quickly, before LISA possibly says too much.)

We ran into him.

BARRY

You were doin' coke with him, weren't you? That's why you're late.

KELLY

If you'll shut up and listen, I'll tell you what happened. Lisa ran into him and told him she was comin' by to pick me up. He asked if he could meet her there, you know, now that he's not with Maura anymore.

BARRY

And you let him in my house?

KELLY

What could I do? Lisa already told him to meet her there.

BARRY

So, did you do lines or not?

KELLY

Yeah, we did a couple.

BARRY

Did you bring any for me?

(light dims on bar as it rises on LINDA'S apartment. SANDRA is on her way out.)

LINDA

Where you goin'?

SANDRA

Out.

LINDA

Where?

SANDRA

Just out. It's St. Patty's Day weekend. I don't want to sit in all night.

LINDA

Are you gonna be drinkin'?

SANDRA

Proibly, why?

LINDA

Stop it Sandra. You know why.

SANDRA

Don't fuckin' start that shit with me again, Ma.

LINDA

Are you gonna see Ryan?

SANDRA

No. I told you, I'm goin' out with friends.

LINDA

I want you to stay away from him, do you hear me?

SANDRA

You can't tell me what to do.

LINDA

Ever since you started seein' him, you've been drinkin', stayin' out all night.

SANDRA

I'm nineteen, I can do what I want.

LINDA

If you're so independent, why don't you just move out?

SANDRA

Who says I won't?

LINDA

Then what will you do, go on welfare?

SANDRA

It was good enough for you.

LINDA

Who the hell do you think you're talkin' to? Don't you ever speak to me like that again or I'll smack the mouth off you.

SANDRA

Oh please.

(MAURA enters.)

MAURA

Don't fuckin' talk to her like that.

SANDRA

Mind your own fuckin' business Maura.

MAURA

Why don't you just grow up Sandra? We're tryin' to help you.

LINDA

You think it's easy livin' on your own? What are you gonna do when the baby comes?

SANDRA

(defensive and a little hysterical.)

Stop it. I told you, there is no baby. Okay, you got that? There is no baby. Just leave me alone.

(SANDRA runs off crying. Light dims on apartment as it rises on STEVE down by the dumpster. He is just finishing a conversation, and hangs up the phone.)

STEVE

All right Marty, I'll see you then.

(calling off.)

Sandra.

(SANDRA enters.)

SANDRA

Hey Steve, what's goin' on?

STEVE

Your fuckin' sister's drivin' me crazy.

SANDRA

You and me both.

STEVE

Where is she?

SANDRA

She was home when I was there, but I had to get out.

STEVE

She seein' anyone?

SANDRA

I don't know. I never talk to her.

STEVE

Where you goin'?

SANDRA

Up the bar.

STEVE

Not for nothin' or anything Sandra, but I hear you're pregnant.

SANDRA

Did you also happen to hear whether it's a boy or a girl?

STEVE

I'm just tellin' you what I heard.

SANDRA

Well it's not true, I'm not pregnant. Maybe I should where a fuckin' sign around my neck. But what do I care, let them talk. They can kiss my fuckin' ass.

(SANDRA shrugs her shoulders and smiles, changing her tone.)

What are you up to?

STEVE

I have to stop and pick somethin' up. Marty's got a little package for me.

SANDRA

Mind if I come along. I need a little fun tonight.

STEVE

Sure, come on.

(STEVE and SANDRA exit, light dims on street as it rises on LINDA, she is talking on the phone, smoking, sipping from a refilled cocktail.)

LINDA

I don't know Dotty. I know she's goin' out with your Ryan, so why won't she tell me? She knows I'd never kick her out or anything like that. It's not like it used to be. She doesn't have to marry him, nobody's gonna think the worse of her. We weren't that lucky, you know. I wouldn't have married Norman if I didn't have to, we were made to back then. I don't think I knew anyone who got married because they wanted to. But she's gotta start takin' care of herself, stop the drinkin', the runnin' around. People will talk, as if they don't have enough to talk about already. And another thing, Sandra better get her ass in gear if she wants to apply for welfare, medic-aid. She'd probly get her name on a list for the projects too. Then she'd have it made. She'd be all set. But they don't want to do anything to help themselves, you know...

(LINDA sips her drink as she listens to the person on the other end of the line.)

I know, I know it's St. Patrick's Day weekend, I don't care that she wants to go out and have a little fun, I mean we used to like our fun too, but we didn't stay out all night like this. Couldn't. Our parents would have killed us. They have all the freedom in the world and what do they do with it? Drink, do drugs, like it's all one big party. But, you can't tell them nothin', they won't listen. I just don't understand why they act like this...

(LINDA sips and shakes her head, listening.)

Yeah, I'll come over for a few. I just gotta grab my cigarettes.

(LINDA hangs up the phone and stands.)

LINDA

Maura. Come out here a minute will you?

(MAURA enters, she too carries a glass from which she sips out of. Her voice is low, perhaps slightly slurred.)

MAURA

What?

LINDA

I'm goin' out. I'll be down Dotty's if anyone calls.

MAURA

All right.

LINDA

What are you doin' tonight?

MAURA

I don't know. St. Patrick's Day weekend, maybe go up the bar for a few beers. I don't know.

LINDA

Maybe you better stay home tonight.

MAURA

Why?

LINDA

What if you see Steve up there? I don't trust him. Especially if he's doin' the coke.

MAURA

I can handle him. I'm not a prisoner, I can go up the bar if I want.

LINDA

Just for tonight, stay home.

MAURA

I'm not afraid of him.

LINDA

Please.

MAURA

No, I'm not gonna be afraid of him anymore.

LINDA

Don't do anything to make him mad, okay?

MAURA

I haven't done anything.

LINDA

Just be careful.

MAURA

I'm not fourteen years old. Goodnight.

(LINDA exits as light dims on apartment, rises on the bar. BARRY is still seated, KELLY and LISA are down stage, presumably in the ladies' room. They are looking out as if looking into a mirror, checking make-up, hair.)

KELLY

I had to say somethin'. I'm sorry, but I couldn't let Barry know I invited Steve over, he'd have a fit.

BILL

What's with that shit, is she seein' that asshole?

LISA

Now Bill's gonna think I want to see Steve. Fuckin' holiday weekend, I was hopin' to maybe get laid.

BARRY

If that's the kind of guy she likes, you're better off without her. Cunts and whores.

KELLY

You're the one who had to open your big, fuckin' mouth about talkin' to Steve.

(KELLY pulls small vial of coke from her purse, along with a short straw, and snorts a little cocaine directly from the vial. She offers the vial to LISA.)

LISA

No, I don't think so.

KELLY

Oh what, now you're gonna ruin my fun? One fuckin' night of the year I get out...

LISA

You ruined mine.

KELLY

Look, we'll just let Bill know you're not interested in Steve, make it sound like Steve wanted you, but that you don't want anything to do with him. Okay? Now

KELLY (*cont.*)

let's go back out there and have a good time before the night's over. I got no fuckin' kids tonight, and I want to party.

(KELLY tilts her head back, LISA checks her nose and shakes her head that everything's okay. Light fades on KELLY and LISA as RYAN enters the bar and crosses to BARRY and BILL. RYAN'S joviality is obviously the influence of drugs. Uncontrollable jerks and gestures, giggling as if everything's a big joke.)

RYAN

Hey, Bro, how you doin'?

BARRY

I'm not givin' you any money.

RYAN

I don't need money.

BARRY

Obviously not. Who'd you steal from this time?

RYAN

Hey Bill. How you doin'?

(KELLY and LISA cross to join them at the bar.)

Hey Kell, long time no see.

KELLY

(nervously.)

Hi Ryan. What are you doin' here?

RYAN

Just came to say Happy St. Patrick's Day.

(yelling and laughing, RYAN lifts his shirt, baring his chest.)

Erin Go Bragh-less!

BILL

Your brother's got nice nipples, Barry.

BARRY

(to BILL.)

Runs in the family.

(to RYAN.)

Will you get the fuck outta here and stop makin' a fool of yourself?

RYAN

I'm not goin' anywhere, I gotta meet Marty here.

BARRY

What are you doin' coke now too?

RYAN

Fuck that. Coke. Nobody does coke anymore. I'd never touch that shit. I'll hold out for somethin' better, right Kell?

BARRY

(not liking the fact that's he's obviously missing something.)

What's goin' on?

KELLY

Nothin', he's fuckin' wasted. You can't listen to a word he says.

RYAN

Oh, I'm sorry, I hope I didn't spill the beans.

BARRY

Kelly, what the fuck is he talkin' about?

KELLY

Nothin'. He's just a fuckin' loser.

RYAN

(his mood becoming angry as he tries to hide his hurt.)

You weren't callin' me a loser when I had those food stamps for you, were you?

BARRY

What food stamps? Did you give him money for food stamps?

KELLY

No. I wouldn't give him money for nothin'.

BILL

(coming out from behind the bar, BILL tries to lead RYAN away from Barry.)

Come on Ryan, have a seat over here.

RYAN

Don't fuckin' touch me, all right.

BILL

All right, I won't touch you. Just come sit over here.

(BILL and RYAN cross to one of the small tables where they sit.)

RYAN

What the fuck, Bill.

BARRY

What's goin' on Kell?

RYAN

I'm tired of their fuckin' shit.

KELLY

Nothin'.

BILL

Just ignore them.

BARRY

What's he talkin' about, food stamps?

RYAN

(watching BARRY intently.)

Like his life is perfect.

KELLY

I don't know. He's fuckin' wasted. He's talkin' shit.

RYAN

He fucks around on his wife. Does coke like it's fuckin' Christmas.

BARRY

What happened Lisa?

RYAN

All of a sudden, he's Mister Fuckin' Morals.

LISA

Nothin'. I don't know what he's talkin' about.

BILL

He's just worried about you, that's all.

BARRY

You better not have given him any money, because I'll fuckin' kill you. Both of you.

RYAN

Don't give me that shit, Bill.

KELLY

(trying to appease BARRY, she strokes his hair, talks softly.)

You know me better than that. I wouldn't give him money.

BARRY

First I hear you let Steve in my fuckin' house and now this. You better not be lyin' to me. I swear to God I'll kill you.

BILL

Come on, Ryan, he's your brother.

KELLY

I'm not lyin'. Jesus, relax.

RYAN

Yeah, he's my brother, my older brother. Isn't that supposed to mean somethin'? It means shit. You're supposed to look up to your older brother, want to be like him. What the fuck do I want to be like that for? My life might not be perfect, but it's better than his.

(RYAN stands and quickly, furiously moves to where BARRY sits, BILL follows.)

RYAN (*cont.*)

Yes yours, you fuckin' drunk. You call me the loser, and what are you? Sittin' around here night after night, fuckin' around with douche bags, doin' coke, wastin' away to nothin'.

(BARRY gets up to hit RYAN, BILL steps in and stops him.)

BARRY

Let me go Bill. I'm gonna kill that little pussy.

RYAN

(enjoying the confrontation, laughing, playing the game for all its worth.)

I am what I eat, which would explain why you're such a prick. Let him go Bill. Don't protect him, I can kick his ass. Let him go. Come on Barry, you fuckin' faggot, come on.

BARRY

Get the fuck out of here Ryan. I'll fuckin' kill you, I swear to God, I'll fuckin' kill you, you don't get out of here right now.

KELLY

Come on Ryan, just leave. You know what he's like when he has a few.

RYAN

Fuck you too Kelly. You're just as bad as the rest of them. Lettin' him fuck you over like that.

(KELLY tries to lead him away, grasping his elbow. He shakes her off and continues.)

Take your fuckin' hands off me. I'm leavin'. You didn't want me to leave earlier, when you and Steve were doin' coke, huh, when you bought those food stamps off me. But I don't need you or your money. I can always get money.

(RYAN exits. BILL lets BARRY go. BARRY looks at KELLY, who moves downstage, trying to stay out of his way.)

BARRY

Real fuckin' nice. Real fuckin' nice, huh?

(in an attempt to avoid BARRY herself, LISA crosses to KELLY as the action begins to spill downstage.)

LISA

I told you somethin' like this was gonna happen.

BARRY

(sitting at the bar but keeping his eyes on KELLY.)

I mean, what the fuck, Bill. Do you believe that shit? My own fuckin' wife givin' that little prick money.

KELLY

I didn't think he was gonna find out.

LISA

Everybody always finds out.

(STEVE and SANDRA enter. LISA continues.)

When are you gonna learn...

(KELLY, not wanting a lecture, turns her attention away from LISA and speaks to SANDRA.)

KELLY

What are you doin' here?

STEVE

What, I can be here.

KELLY

Not you, her.

SANDRA

None of your business what I'm doin' here, you're not my mother.

(KELLY and LISA whisper, looking at SANDRA from time to time. SANDRA quietly goes to the bar. BILL slips a beer in front of her and turns away.)

STEVE

(sauntering up to the bar, he throws money on the bar. BILL gets him a beer.)

Hey Barry, how's it goin'?

(BARRY reaches out to shake STEVE'S hand but does not take his eyes off KELLY.)

BARRY

Oh, I'm doin' just fuckin' fine.

STEVE

Hey, we just made a score over the projects. Marty's got some good stuff. Interested in purchasin' a little piece?

BARRY

Why don't you ask Kelly. I'm sure she's interested.

STEVE

(sizing up the situation, STEVE laughs.)

Okay then...How you doin' Bill? Happy St.'s.

BILL

You too, Steve, how you been?

STEVE

Not too good, I've been tryin' to get in touch with Maura, but she won't talk to me.

KELLY

(facetiously.)

Ryan was here a minute ago Sandra, you just missed him.

SANDRA

So?

STEVE

Maura been up here yet?

KELLY

I just thought you might want to know that he was wasted.

BILL

No, I've been here all day and she hasn't come in.

SANDRA

What does that have to do with me?

STEVE

What about you, Barry? You seen her?

KELLY

I don't know. I just thought you might be interested. Aren't you seein' him?

(KELLY makes an exaggerated "bump" over her belly with her hands as she says this.)

BARRY

No. Haven't seen her.

(light comes up on RYAN down by the dumpster. He is on the phone, speaking frantically.)

RYAN

Come on Marty. No, I'm not at the bar. Let me come over...

KELLY

(staying on SANDRA'S heels, playfully glancing at LISA as she goes.)

Are you all right, Sandra?

RYAN

I know, I know I owe you. I'll pay you tomorrow. Promise...

SANDRA

Fine. Why?

RYAN

Come on, please. I need somethin'. Just a little.

KELLY

I don't know. You look a little *tired*.

RYAN

I don't have any money...

SANDRA

Bitch.

(SANDRA turns away from them as KELLY and LISA exchange gleeful glances.)

RYAN

All right, I'll get some. Don't go anywhere, I'll be over soon.

(RYAN hangs up the phone.)

LISA

Did you see the way she just looked at you?

(RYAN speaks to a passer by offstage.)

RYAN

Hey. Spare any change? Please?

(RYAN exits, LISA speaks to KELLY, indicating the bar.)

LISA

I'm goin' for it. I'm gonna get him.

(LISA makes her way to the bar as MAURA enters.)

BILL

(under his breath.)

Jesus, this is all we need.

(everyone turns toward the door. KELLY sits at one of the tables, still wanting to avoid BARRY.)

STEVE

Maura.

MAURA

(somewhat frightened, but trying to act cool.)

Fuck me. What?

STEVE

Can I talk to you?

MAURA

No. I don't want to talk to you. I have nothin' to say.

(MAURA tries to get away from STEVE, who follows her, as BARRY crosses to KELLY. BILL and LISA talk quietly together at the bar.)

BARRY

What the fuck are you givin' him money for?

STEVE

How come you won't take my calls?

KELLY

I didn't.

STEVE

You got your fuckin' mother lyin' for you.

BARRY

You're fuckin' lyin' to me Kelly. He said you bought food stamps. You know he stole them. What the fuck is wrong with you?

STEVE

You fuckin up and walk out, no explanations.

KELLY

Don't fuckin' talk to me like that. I'm not takin' this shit.

STEVE

(finally cornering MAURA.)

I mean, what the fuck did I ever do to you?

(KELLY storms off, BARRY yells after her.)

BARRY

You better fuckin' run away before I smash your face in.

MAURA

Steve, please, not here. I don't want to get into this now.

BILL

(sarcastically aside to LISA.)

Happy St. Patrick's Day.

STEVE

Oh no, we're doin' this right here, right now.

(LISA laughs, but tries to keep her voice down as well.)

LISA

Saint Patrick's Day, they're like this every day.

MAURA

I have nothin' to say to you.

BILL

Sometimes I feel like slappin' all of them.

STEVE

Don't fuckin' do this to me, Maura.

BARRY

(crossing back to bar.)

Should fuckin' slap her talkin' to me like that.

SANDRA

Just talk to him. Give him a chance.

MAURA

(seeing SANDRA for the first time.)

What the fuck are you doin' here?

STEVE

Don't fuckin' walk away from me.

BARRY

She came in with Steve. He's been givin' everyone coke, like it's fuckin' Christmas.

STEVE

What the fuck is wrong with you Barry, huh? You want to start somethin'?

MAURA

Did you give her coke? Sandra, are you doin' coke?

BARRY

Don't fuckin' push me Steve, okay? Not tonight.

SANDRA

What's it to you?

MAURA

Stop it, Sandra, you know why. It's bad enough the father's a junkie.

(light comes up on RYAN. He is in the shadows by the dumpster. RYAN is taking money from a man partially hidden in the shadows. RYAN drops to his knees in front of the man as MAURA continues while light fades on RYAN.)

MAURA

How do you expect him to raise a kid when all he cares about is how he's gonna get money to get high with?

STEVE

(taunting.)

I'm still waitn'...

SANDRA

Miss Fuckin' Goody-Two-Shoes. Go home and drink the vodka you hide around the house.

BILL

What's he want with Maura? I thought that was over, I mean, weren't you seein' him?

MAURA

(ignoring STEVE.)

Ma know where you are?

(LISA, not believing what she's hearing, let's out a small shriek, as if she has just been accused of some heinous crime.)

LISA

Me seein' Steve? Oh please.

SANDRA

Listen to you. Think you can tell everyone what to do.

STEVE

Get your fuckin' ass over here.

BILL

The way Kelly was talkin'.

BARRY

Hey Lis, go in the bathroom and see what Kelly's doin'.

LISA

(to BILL.)

I'll be right back. And that's all Kelly was doin', talkin'.

(LISA exits.)

MAURA

Just go home Sandra, you don't belong here anyway.

STEVE

And when are you comin' home?

(light comes up on LISA and KELLY, down, in the ladies' room again.)

LISA

You okay, Kell?

MAURA

I'm not. Not with you. Not anymore.

LISA

Kell?

BARRY

What the fuck Bill. You try to have a good time...

KELLY

Talkin' to me like that in front of people. Embarrassin' me. Tell him to go fuck himself, I'll come out when I'm ready.

(light fades on ladies' room as LISA crosses back up.)

LISA

She'll be right out. She's just fixin' her make-up.

STEVE

Don't think you can do this to me Maura, you're fuckin' comin' home with me tonight.

(STEVE grabs MAURA as LISA crosses back up to bar.)

SANDRA

Don't fuckin' touch her.

(SANDRA tries to stop STEVE, who pushes her violently away. SANDRA falls to the floor.)

MAURA

What the fuck are you doin'? She's pregnant you asshole.

(MAURA violently pushes STEVE, who tries to retaliate. BARRY and BILL grab STEVE and begin hustling STEVE off.)

STEVE

Don't you ever fuckin' hit me like that you cunt. You're dead Maura. You hear me, you're fuckin' dead.

(BARRY and BILL push STEVE off. SANDRA gets up off the floor.)

MAURA

You all right Sandra?

SANDRA

(obviously quite shaken.)

I'm fine. Just give me a minute...

MAURA

Go home Sandra. You can't be doin' this.

(KELLY, who has been hanging down, re-enters the scene.)

BARRY

You missed it, they were at it again.

MAURA

Big fuckin' joke isn't it? I'm glad we're here for your entertainment.

KELLY

You're better off without him Maura. I mean look at him. Look how he acts.

MAURA

You should talk. Let's go Sandra, we're goin' home.

SANDRA

I'm stayin' here. It's still early.

LISA

Why don't you go Sandra? Take care of yourself.

SANDRA

I want to have fun. You want to go, Maura, go, but I'm stayin' here.

BILL

Sandra, you gotta go, or I gotta start cardin'. I can't have this.

KELLY

Come on Sandra. Everyone knows you're pregnant. You shouldn't be out doin' this.

SANDRA

(knowing she is defeated, puts her beer down on the bar and makes a final stand.)

Oh good, that comin' from you, fuckin' mother of the year.

KELLY

Don't give me that shit. I love my kids.

SANDRA

That's why you drop them off every weekend to go out and party.

KELLY

You don't know what the fuck you're talkin' about you little bitch. I love my kids. I give them everything they want. I'd do anything for them.

SANDRA

Do anything for them my ass. You'd fuckin' sell them for a dime bag.

KELLY

At least I know who the father is.

SANDRA

Do they? Barry's always up here.

BARRY

Don't fuckin' wise off to me Sandra because I'm not in the mood.

MAURA

Lay off Barry, okay?

BARRY

Nice fuckin' thanks I get for savin' you from that asshole.

BILL

(loudly, like a carnival barker.)

Come on everyone. Let's just calm down, relax. Hey, it's St. Patrick's Day.

(LISA nudges BILL flirtatiously and speaks, under her breath.)

LISA

Erin Go Bragh-less.

MAURA

I'm leavin'. Sandra, you comin'?

LISA

Hey Maura, you just got here, stay and have a beer. Steve won't be comin' back tonight.

MAURA

No, I don't think so. You comin' Sandra?

SANDRA

No, all right. I told you, I'm stayin' here.

MAURA

Fine. Stay, I don't care. Stay, have a fuckin' party.

(MAURA starts for the door. KELLY speaks, loud enough for MAURA to hear.)

KELLY

Too good for us all of a sudden?

MAURA

What?

KELLY

You don't talk to us anymore, never call anyone back.

MAURA

I have a lot of things on my mind.

LISA

We're friends. Let us help.

MAURA

How, by talkin' about everyone?

KELLY

We have more important things to do than sit around talkin' about you.

MAURA

Like what? You haven't changed since we were five years old, and I'm through with it, with all of you.

(MAURA exits.)

KELLY

What's her problem?

SANDRA

What's yours? You've been all over me like a fly on shit since I walked in here. What, you think you're better than us or somethin', just 'cause you moved out of the projects? Good mother my ass. Buyin' your kids the most expensive clothes and sneakers means nothin'. You better open your fuckin' eyes and look around before you go sayin' shit to people Kelly.

BARRY

You know Sandra, you really should listen to her.

SANDRA

Are you gonna start now too?

BARRY

Yeah. It's gonna be my niece or nephew.

SANDRA

Look, get it through your thick, fuckin' heads, all of you, there is no baby.

(SANDRA stands on a chair and begins beating her belly.)

See, there is no baby. There is no baby.

(LISA pulls her down.)

LISA

Stop it. What the hell is wrong with you?

SANDRA

Nothin'. There's nothin' wrong with me. I don't have to stay here and take this shit.

(SANDRA exits. BARRY runs to the door of the bar and yells after her.)

BARRY

Hey, if you see Ryan, tell him he better not think of goin' back home to my mother's tonight, because I'll be there waitin' for him.

(BARRY turns back into the bar and saunters over to where KELLY is sitting.)

BILL

(laughing, shaking his head, letting out a big sigh of relief.)

So Lis, what were we talkin' about?

BARRY

Hey Kell, you got any more lines?

LISA

I think it was about people seein' people.

KELLY

No. I only had what I did with Steve and Lisa.

BILL

(playing along.)

Oh, that's right. About you seein' Steve.

BARRY

Nothin'?

LISA

Not seein' Steve.

KELLY

No, nothin'. Steve had it all.

(BILL leans in close to LISA.)

BILL

So, you seein' anyone?

BARRY

Then what were you doin' in the bathroom so long?

LISA

Why? What's it to you?

KELLY

I was cryin' all right.

BILL

Nothin' yet, but it might be somethin'.

BARRY

Let me see your pocketbook.

LISA

What about you? You seein' anyone?

KELLY

(laughing nervously, holding her bag tightly.)

Get the fuck out of here. You're not lookin' in my bag.

BILL

Nobody.

BARRY

Why, you hidin' somethin'?

(BARRY snatches KELLY'S pocketbook from her before she can stop him.)

LISA

Nobody?

KELLY

(grappling with BARRY for her bag.)

What the fuck Barry. Give that back to me.

BILL

Not yet.

BARRY

What are you so afraid for? You got nothin' to hide.

LISA

Anyone in mind?

KELLY

Come on Barry, it's none of your fuckin' business.

BILL

I can think of one person I wouldn't mind seein'.

BARRY

You said you have no coke, so what were you doin' in the bathroom so long?

LISA

Anyone I know?

KELLY

(yelling, KELLY steps back from BARRY.)

I was givin' everyone head back there, all right. Now give me my bag.

(exploding, BARRY forcibly throws KELLY'S pocketbook to her.)

BARRY

You fuckin' douche bag. Who do you think you're talkin' to? I'm your fuckin' husband.

KELLY

Some fuckin' husband. You think I don't know what you do up here every night, huh? You think I don't know the bitches you sleep with? And what do you think I do? Sit at home like some fuckin' loser waitin' for you to give me some disease? Fuck that. While you're out screwin' around, so am I. What do you think I was doin' with Steve tonight, huh? I gave it to him good. I got down on my knees and I sucked his cock.

(BARRY looks at KELLY, and slowly starts toward her. He is trying to find words, but can't. He stops in front of KELLY who is now very frightened. BARRY looks KELLY in the eyes and before anyone can stop him, he slaps KELLY hard, using the back of his hand. KELLY instinctively falls to the floor to escape a second blow. BARRY goes to strike her again when BILL steps in and stops him. LISA rushes to help KELLY up.)

LISA

You okay, Kelly?

KELLY

I'm fine.

(trying to regain her composure, KELLY turns to others in the bar, giving them the finger.)

KELLY

What the fuck are you all lookin' at? You get off on other people's problems?

BILL

(getting BARRY settled on his bar stool.)

Come on Barry, sit down. Finish your beer.

(defiantly, LISA turns to the gaping crowd around her.)

LISA

It's all right. Show's over.

(LISA turns her attention to KELLY, as BILL starts to get back behind the bar. In a flash, BARRY, unable to control himself, lunges at KELLY again. BILL manages to stop him.)

BILL

I'm gonna take Barry out.

BARRY

(backing off.)

No, she can go. This is my fuckin' weekend. She gotta leave.

KELLY

Fine. We will. And don't think you're comin' home tonight either, because I'll call the fuckin' cops and tell them you beat me.

BARRY

(sneering, as he takes his seat at the bar.)

Go ahead, call them. But if you do I'll send your father those pictures you let me take of you...you know the ones I mean. Besides, why the fuck would I want to come home to you, you slut?

KELLY

Come on Lis. Let's get out of here.

(KELLY is at the door.)

KELLY (*cont.*)

Good night, Bill. Good luck with that prick over there.

(KELLY storms out, standing just outside the door of the bar. LISA rushes to collect her things. She turns to BILL, who can't find the words to stop her from leaving.)

BILL

Hey.

LISA

I'm sorry.

BILL

Maybe you can come back later, get last call.

KELLY

Lisa.

LISA

I don't think so.

KELLY

Kiss your boyfriend good night and let's go.

LISA

Not tonight anyway.

BILL

I'll call you. Maybe tomorrow?

KELLY

It's freezing out here, I want to get home.

BARRY

(loud enough for KELLY to hear.)

Better not keep her waitin'. You know what she's like when she's in one of her moods. Next thing you know, she'll be callin' the cops on you.

LISA

(to BILL.)

I'm sorry...

BILL

Believe me...

(BILL sneers and nods his head, indicating BARRY.)

I understand.

LISA

Call me.

KELLY

If you're not comin', I'll get a cab.

LISA

Goodnight, Bill.

(LISA quickly rushes off, after KELLY. BILL sits beside BARRY, facing away from him.)

BARRY

Doesn't look like anyone's gonna be goin' home tonight.

BILL

The cops are gonna be awfully busy.

BARRY

(picking up his beer as light fades completely on stage.)

Happy fuckin' St. Patrick's Day.

(street sounds can be heard, low, almost imperceptible at first, sirens, screeching tires, voices yelling, as SANDRA enters, crossing down, hitchhiking. The headlights of a passing car sweep the stage. The car drives past. SANDRA laughs, lifts her shirt, baring her breasts and shouts, "Erin go Bragh-less." She laughs and starts hitch-hiking again. Light comes up on MAURA entering her mother's apartment. The sounds become louder still. STEVE jumps out of the shadows and threatens MAURA with a knife. She puts her arm up to defend herself. The knife accidentally cuts her and STEVE runs off as MAURA falls to the floor, reaching for the phone. Scared, crying, she dials, as light fades on her. SANDRA still hitch-hiking, repeats her "Erin Go Bragh-less," charade, baring her breasts to another passing car. RYAN enters and watches SANDRA. She sees him and slowly starts toward him. She throws her arms around RYAN, and kisses him. Her kissing becomes an outlet for her emotions, passionate, out of control. When RYAN responds, she pushes him away as suddenly as she grabbed him and runs off, leaving RYAN alone as the street sounds become deafening. Sudden silence as stage goes black.)

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

(A telephone can be heard ringing. It is late Sunday morning. Light comes up on KELLY'S apartment. KELLY is staring at the phone on the table as the ringing subsides. LISA is seated on the floor, barefoot, head held up by the arm resting on the table. They are hung over and sick, their speech slow, their voices low and scratchy. They are still dressed in the clothes they were wearing the night before.)

KELLY

(sitting opposite LISA.)

Time is it?

LISA

Almost eleven.

KELLY

How'd it get to be so late?

LISA

We didn't get to bed till after four.

KELLY

By all rights we shouldn't even be up yet.

LISA

When are you supposed to pick up the kids?

KELLY

About two hours ago. I'll bet that was my mother-in-law callin'.

LISA

What are you gonna tell her?

KELLY

(laughing.)

Fuck her. I'm not tellin' her nothin'.

LISA

(joining in on the laughter.)

What if she comes by?

KELLY

Let her. I'm not answerin' the door for nobody. She says she never sees them, well, she's seein' them. I bet she'll be pissed when she has to take them with her to the Post for that stupid corned beef dinner before the parade.

(sipping her coffee, she speaks with genuine concern.)

I hope everything's all right.

(light dims on KELLY and LISA as it rises on BILL and BARRY downstage. BILL is seated in an easy chair, his legs hanging over the sides. BARRY is on the floor, leaning his back against the front of the chair. They are smoking and sipping from a bottle of vodka they are passing back and forth.)

BARRY

Where's your mother? She gonna mind that I'm still here?

BILL

She won't care. She's probly down the Post for that stupid boiled dinner thing they do every year.

BARRY

(grimacing.)

Corned beef this early?

BILL

It's past eleven.

BARRY

Did you sleep at all?

BILL

On the floor. I couldn't make it up to bed, so I crashed down here.

BARRY

(after a moment.)

I don't even remember leavin' the bar.

BILL

Who drove?

(light dims on BARRY and BILL as it rises on a jail cell, down where the dumpster was in act one. STEVE is standing, RYAN is sitting behind him on a bench, holding his head between his hands.)

STEVE

'Bout fuckin' time you woke up.

RYAN

Where am I?

STEVE

You died and went to heaven. We're just waitin' for St. Peter to come and open the gates. I've been standin' here for hours talkin' to myself. I could have used some company.

RYAN

Gee, I'm sorry. Next time we share a cell, I'll be more considerate.

STEVE

You don't look so good.

RYAN

You should talk.

STEVE

Fuckin' Maura. All I did for her and she has me arrested. And Linda too. I'm better to her than her own fuckin' project rat sons. They never even bother with her anymore. All fuckin' drunks. The whole family. Anything Linda wanted done, I did...not them. Fuckin' family I married into.

RYAN

That's why I'm never gonna get married.

STEVE

Too fuckin' late, Pal. You got another kid comin'. You're already fucked.

RYAN

(teasing, wagging his ring finger.)

But I'm not married.

(STEVE can only laugh as light dims on cell and rises on LINDA'S apartment. LINDA and MAURA are seated at the kitchen table.)

LINDA

Did you call to find out what's goin' on?

MAURA

No, I told you, I don't want to. Why should I, he got what he deserved. I should have called the cops long before this.

LINDA

What happens now?

MAURA

I don't know. I guess he'll have to go to court Tuesday morning, I don't think the courts are open tomorrow, Evacuation Day.

LINDA

Are you gonna press charges?

MAURA

Probly.

LINDA

Isn't there somethin' else you could do?

MAURA

Like what? He tried to stab me.

LINDA

I think he just meant to scare you.

MAURA

Well he did a good fuckin' job.

LINDA

You still gonna press charges?

MAURA

Yes. Yes, I'm still gonna press charges. Why?

LINDA

Because I don't think that's really the best thing to do.

MAURA

Why not? Maybe he'll get a nice long sentence and I can relax a little bit.

LINDA

What if it makes him madder than before? What if he tries somethin' else?

MAURA

He won't. He'll probly be in jail for a while anyway, so you don't have to worry.

LINDA

I don't know. Goin' to court and everything. What if it gets in the papers?

MAURA

So what if it does? Then people will see what I've had to put up with for the past eight years.

LINDA

Couldn't you just let it go? Maybe tell him he can't come near you?

MAURA

Tell him? What are you crazy? I can't tell him. Look how effective a restrainin' order was. If he isn't gonna listen to the courts, he certainly won't listen to me.

LINDA

Just this one time.

MAURA

Just this one time? Look at me. I have stitches. He stabbed me. He broke in here and waited until I came home, and he stabbed me. You were the one tellin' me a minute ago that he might try somethin' even worse next time. No, I'm not gonna let it go. If I do that he'll never leave me alone. He might even think I want him back.

(light up on KELLY and LISA.)

LISA

Do you?

KELLY

Do I what?

LISA

Want him back this time?

(KELLY can't answer this immediately and looks away.)

LINDA

What about me?

MAURA

What about you?

LINDA

What if I get blamed for this?

KELLY

(turning back to LISA.)

I don't know.

MAURA

How could you?

LISA

Then you better figure it out.

LINDA

People talk you know.

LISA

You can't go on like this.

MAURA

They're gonna talk no matter what, why not give them somethin' real to talk about for a change?

KELLY

I just don't want to be the subject of everyone's gossip, have them laughin' at me.

LINDA

I don't want anyone findin' out.

LISA

What does it matter what they think?

MAURA

I have more important things on my mind than what people might think if they find out.

KELLY

I don't want my kids hearin' it outside.

LINDA

The woman downstairs got kicked out because her son was arrested for drugs.

LISA

I think you're worryin' about nothin'.

MAURA

What does the woman downstairs have to do with anything?

KELLY

I don't want to end up like Maura.

LINDA

Her son wasn't supposed to be livin' there. Someone said there were drugs sold out of her apartment and because her son had a drug record, she got kicked out. Housin' doesn't fool around anymore.

LISA

You won't end up like Maura.

MAURA

I'm not sellin' drugs.

KELLY

Pointed at and pitied.

LINDA

You're stayin' here with me. You're not on the lease. He stabbed you in my apartment. How do you think that'll look? Everyone knows he's been arrested for drugs before, that's bound to come up.

KELLY

To have to move back to the projects.

MAURA

What am I supposed to do, let him get away with this?

KELLY

This is all I have and I want to hold on to it.

LINDA

(begging.)

Drop the charges, please. This is all I have. Where am I supposed to go if they kick me out?

(SANDRA enters. She doesn't look very good and hurries off, to her room. Light dims on LINDA'S apartment but remain on KELLY and LISA, as it rises on BILL and BARRY, seated as before.)

BILL

Think she'll take you back?

KELLY

Anyway, he doesn't mean it. He only acts like that when he's drinkin', doin' coke.

BARRY

What choice does she have? We were drunk. No big deal.

LISA

When isn't he?

BARRY

When did everything get so fucked up?

KELLY

You don't understand, okay?

BILL

I don't know. It happens. You wake up one day and nothin's like you thought it would be.

LISA

No, I don't understand.

(light dims on KELLY and LISA.)

BILL

Remember the days we thought we'd play stick ball forever?

(BARRY shakes his head, liking the idea.)

BARRY

And street hockey. Don't forget street hockey.

BILL

Everything's changed. I don't even know who lives in this neighborhood anymore, all fuckin' strangers. I was down by the tracks the other day, nobody even speaks English.

BARRY

La cucaracha

La cucaracha

BILL

That's Mexicans you dipshit, these were Brazilians.

BARRY

Mexican, Brazilian...what's the difference?

BILL

Can't even get a decent canoli no more. Cara Donna's gone. La Contressa over in Davis Sq. is a sushi joint. Thank God for Lyndells' only good bakery left. Even up the bar. Now I got people askin' for drinks I don't know how to make, for wine we don't have, beers I never heard of. I mean, we used to know everyone. Knew what was gonna happen, everyday, knew what it was gonna be like. Now I don't know nothin'. I hate feelin' like it's all somehow slippin' away. And I want to do somethin' now before it's too late.

BARRY

(confused.)

Too late for what?

BILL

I don't know.

(BILL laughs at himself for thinking that BARRY might understand.)

Listen to me. Next time I talk stupid shit, just slap me.

(BILL drinks from vodka bottle, before passing it to BARRY. BILL continues.)

Don't get me wrong, I don't always hate my life, only when I stop to think about it.

(BARRY drinks from bottle and passes it back to BILL. Light dims on them as it rises on STEVE and RYAN in their cell.)

RYAN

No one made you get married.

STEVE

That's right, nobody *made* me get married. But you got a kid on the way. What are you gonna do about that?

RYAN

Nothin'.

STEVE

Nothin'?

RYAN

Nothin'. I mean, I'll be there when she needs me and shit.

STEVE

(joking.)

Hey, if you marry Sandra, we'll be related.

RYAN

Oh great, bein' related to you.

(they laugh at this.)

STEVE

No really, though, what are you gonna do?

RYAN

Well, I'm not gonna marry her.

STEVE

Does she know that?

RYAN

(becoming uncomfortable.)

Well, no, I mean, I might have said somethin' about always bein' there for her...you know.

STEVE

(impressed.)

So you fuckin' lied to her. You little prick, didn't know you had it in you.

RYAN

(pleased to be the object of STEVE'S pride.)

I didn't actually lie, I mean, I never really said I loved her, but you gotta do what you gotta do to have your fun.

STEVE

Believe me, I know that, but...you gotta let her know one way or the other, I mean, we might have our problems, but Maura knows I love her.

RYAN

No, I know, like I said, I'll be around if she needs anything.

STEVE

Good to hear, do the right thing, but what I'm sayin' is you gotta let her know how you feel, what to expect from you, then she can never say, "You're never around, you never help out, you never give me money..." Be honest, makes things easier.

RYAN

I'm not really sure how I feel, I mean I do like her...

STEVE

What you think of as like and what she thinks are two separate things and you better figure out the difference real fuckin' fast, Pal. A baby makes everything different. You should know that better than anyone.

RYAN

How come you and Maura never had kids?

STEVE

Maura said she wanted to wait.

RYAN

For what?

STEVE

I don't know, things to be better, until we had more money, got on our feet...so many reasons.

RYAN

If you did have a baby, you might not be broken up now.

STEVE

(slowly, as if the answer is dawning on him for the first time.)

That might be the smartest thing you ever said.

RYAN

You'd be a great father.

STEVE

Why didn't I think of it before?

RYAN

Not like fuckin' Barry...

STEVE

A baby changes everything.

RYAN

But he's an asshole no matter what.

STEVE

It makes so much sense.

RYAN

He used to kick the shit out of me for no reason.

STEVE

We'll have a baby.

RYAN

And my mother never stopped him.

STEVE

A little girl.

RYAN

Some people should never have kids.

(lights rises on LINDA'S apartment. MAURA and LINDA are talking.)

LINDA

I'm afraid for her.

STEVE

How'd I not see it before.

LINDA

Where was she all night?

STEVE

It's what's been missin'.

MAURA

Last I saw her, she was up the bar.

STEVE

Then she couldn't leave me.

MAURA

I tried to get her to leave with me.

STEVE

Wouldn't.

MAURA

I don't know what happened after that.

STEVE

Not when she sees how much I love that kid.

MAURA

I came home and Steve was here.

STEVE

How much I want her.

MAURA

You were still down Dotty's.

STEVE

We'll be happy again.

(light fades on STEVE and RYAN.)

MAURA

The rest of the night's a blur.

LINDA

She didn't look too good. I'm goin' in to talk to her.

MAURA

No, not now. You can talk to her later. Let her think about what she's doin'. You're always lettin' her off easy. You'll go in there and comfort her and tell her everything's all right.

LINDA

Everything will be all right.

MAURA

No, it won't.

LINDA

We all have problems.

MAURA

We're not talkin' about an overdue phone bill here.

LINDA

It's not the end of the world, Maura.

MAURA

(slowly, as trying to explain something to a child for the ump-teenth time.)

You think it's okay, don't you, that she's nineteen, pregnant, the father's a junkie...

LINDA

We don't know for sure it's Ryan's.

MAURA

Wake up. You act like this is all normal. Well let me tell you somethin', this is not normal, none of it. Look how we live. Normal people don't live like this, scared, hidin', stayin' put. We're used to it, so we think this is the way it's supposed to be and do nothin' to change it.

LINDA

Things could be worse.

MAURA

How?

(battle lines drawn, they stand. After a moment, MAURA speaks.)

You think she's ever gonna be better off than you or me?

LINDA

She's not the first teenager to get pregnant and she won't be the last. I was younger than her when I had you.

MAURA

That doesn't make it okay.

LINDA

What do you want me to do, Maura? I can't change the way things are. If your father didn't leave...

MAURA

But he did.

LINDA

That's right, he left...me, you, your brothers. I was six months pregnant with Sandra and he decided he had enough. *He* had enough. What was I supposed to do? Four kids, one on the way, no job...and you stand there and blame me.

MAURA

I'm not blamin' you. I just want you to understand.

LINDA

Oh, I understand, believe me, I understand.

(LINDA sits, trying to hide her tears. MAURA comes up and puts her hands on LINDA'S shoulders.)

MAURA

Did you ever love him? Dad?

LINDA

He was good to me. He *never* hit me. He drank, he ran around...that I always knew, but when he found out I was pregnant with Michael, after you, he offered to pay for an abortion.

(MAURA goes to speak, LINDA stops her, looking up directly into MAURA'S face.)

But I couldn't, didn't believe in it then, don't believe in it now. So he offered to marry me. Believe it or not, that saved me. Nobody could say anything about it after that.

MAURA

But did you love him?

LINDA

There's a fine line between love and gratitude.

(LINDA turns to MAURA.)

Do you love Steve?

MAURA

It was fun then, when we first got married. Everyone was gettin' married, remember? I was in so many weddin's...first it was Kelly, then there was Bianca Tucci's...

LINDA

Oh, the money they spent on that. What I could have done with that kind of money.

MAURA

It was like everyone I knew was gettin' married.

LINDA

The Italians are like that.

MAURA

And Steve insisted on that huge weddin'...

LINDA

He did that for you. I could never have afforded it.

MAURA

What did I know? I was twenty-two.

LINDA

Well, you're not twenty-two anymore, and I want you to think about it...

MAURA

There's nothin' to think about...

LINDA

Before you go throwin' it all away...all this about a new job, new apartment...Steve makes good money.

MAURA

Is money all you ever think about?

LINDA

Hard not to when you never had any.

MAURA

What's wrong with wanting something else?

(SANDRA enters. She is walking slowly and trembling. She has her hands between her legs, pressing hard. As she approaches, it is obvious she's bleeding heavily.)

SANDRA

Ma. Help me. Help me please.

(SANDRA sinks to her knees as light dims on LINDA'S apartment as it rises on BARRY and BILL.)

BARRY

Maybe it would be easier if I was gay.

BILL

What?

BARRY

They don't have to put up with this shit...they don't have to worry about wives, kids...

BILL

A lot of gay guys have kids.

BARRY

That's 'cause they want to. We're supposed to.

BILL

I'm sure they have their fights too.

BARRY

Yeah. Proibly right. Maybe nobody's happy.

(they pass the bottle back and forth. After a moment, BARRY speaks.)

Jesus was gay.

BILL

(incredulous.)

What the fuck are you talkin' about?

BARRY

Think about it. He was a man, right?

BILL

Yeah.

BARRY

So that means he had a dick, right?

BILL

I would assume.

BARRY

So you tell me. What guy in his right mind is gonna turn down a blow job from a hooker?

BILL

Who said anything about a blow job?

BARRY

Get with the program Bill. I mean there's this whore, right, kneelin' down in front of him, sayin' she wants to "*thank*" him for bein' so nice to her.

BILL

So?

BARRY

So...we all know what it means when a whore says she wants to "*show her appreciation*," and what does Jesus do? Has her wash his feet. Now you tell me.

BILL

Doesn't prove anything.

BARRY

Proves he cared more about his feet than her pussy. Gay.

BILL

Maybe he just had respect for her.

BARRY

She didn't want to marry him, just wanted to blow him. When will you learn? Respect has nothin' to do with it. She knew what she was supposed to do.

(they pass the bottle as light rises on RYAN, dialing his phone.)

RYAN

Hi, Ma...No, I'm all right...I'm sorry...I meant to call...I stayed with a friend...No, I'm not doin' drugs...Please...I'm fine, I stayed with a friend...What do you mean I can't come home...No, I didn't. I didn't take them...Barry's

fuckin' lyin', he must have been drunk when he called...I need a shower and some clothes...I didn't fuckin' take them...How come you never take my side, believe everything he says...I wish I fuckin' did take them, that's what you deserve...What...What...No, nobody called me...When...What hospital...

(light fades on RYAN as it rises on BARRY and BILL.)

BARRY

I just feel stuck. Work, Kelly. I can't breathe without someone telling me how.

BILL

Better off than some people.

BARRY

Yeah? Who?

BILL

Look at Kevin Joyce.

BARRY

Kevin Joyce? He's all set.

BILL

What are you talkin' about all set?

BARRY

Gettin' comp, disability, doesn't have to work anymore.

BILL

He's in a wheelchair for life.

BARRY

So? Think of all the free sympathy beer he's gonna get up the bar,

BILL

Yeah, well, I wouldn't trade places with him.

BARRY

You?

(light rises KELLY and LISA, as it remains on BARRY and BILL.)

KELLY

You and your perfect life. Why should you understand?

LISA

My life is far from perfect. And you know that better than anyone.

KELLY

I'm sorry, I didn't mean...

LISA

I was with Mark for four years. You know what that was like. I never told anyone...only you.

KELLY

I swear to God, I never told nobody, not even Barry. I was the one tellin' you you should leave him.

LISA

I know...and I wish I listened. But he liked me, so I put up with it.

KELLY

You're a good person, you should have more confidence.

LISA

It's hard. My whole life, I had to make people like me. You, you just walk into a room and people smile, laugh, want to be with you...

KELLY

I don't do nothin' special, I'm just myself.

LISA

Yeah but, they don't make up their minds about you as soon as they see you. I know what people are thinkin' when they look at me. I heard it my whole life. All those voices of reason...

(imitating all the voices she has heard through the years.)

But she has such a pretty face...fat ass...wide load...if she would only put the fork down...

(sipping her beer.)

KELLY

At least you know who your real friends are.

LISA

But Mark didn't treat me like that. He held my hand in public, kissed me, never acted like he was embarrassed. It was nice, you know, so when he started, I put up with it, because for the first time, I had somebody who liked me for me.

KELLY

You will find the right guy...

LISA

Now I go home to an empty apartment. Does it get lonely...oh God, yes, but you know what? It's better than *that*. Anything is better than livin' like that.

KELLY

It was easy for you to leave, you don't have kids.

BARRY

You got it fuckin' made.

BILL

What are you talkin' about I got it made? I got shit.

KELLY

At least you got to do what you wanted. Me, I got stuck.

BARRY

Nothin' to worry about. Nothin' hangin' over your head.

KELLY

Look at me. I don't even want to go and pick up my kids. I don't want to see them.

BARRY

I see guys, drinkin', drunk as can be, livin' on the street or close to it, and I'm jealous.

KELLY

Sometimes I don't even like them, don't want to be in the same room with them.

BARRY

Can you believe that shit? I'm jealous of the fuckin' bums.

KELLY

Everyday they're there to remind me how miserable I am.

BARRY

They have no one to answer to, can come and go whenever they please.

KELLY

I thought I was all set. Twenty years old, havin' a baby, gettin' married.

BARRY

Me, I go home to a bunch of questions.

KELLY

What the fuck did I know, that's what I thought I was supposed to do.

BARRY

I never really got to do what I wanted, you know?

KELLY

Next thing you know, I'm almost thirty, have three kids and hate my life.

BILL

You could leave.

KELLY

But all that's gonna change.

BARRY

Leave? So she can take me to court, and I end up payin' child support.

KELLY

I look around, see things on TV or in the papers. There are things I could do.

BARRY

They're my kids and she's my wife. That's how it's gonna stay.

KELLY

Look at you, takin' classes, gettin' somewhere.

BARRY

My kids aren't gonna be welfare rats, livin' on food stamps. I remember how embarrassed I was growin' up livin' like that.

KELLY

I just have to wait until next year...

BARRY

She'd probly end up movin' back to the projects too, livin' with the spics. That's who lives over there now. And the Haitians.

KELLY

Brittany will be in school then and I can figure out what I want to do.

BARRY

I'm stayin' home and she's stayin' with me.

KELLY

I'll fuckin' show him.

BARRY

I want to know who's takin' care of my kids while I'm out bustin' my balls to make enough to finally live decently.

KELLY

I will. Maybe I'll even move out.

BARRY

I want my kids to know that I cared enough to stay around.

KELLY

I can live without him.

BARRY

I see all these losers, walkin' out on their wives, leavin' the kids to beat up by the new boyfriend.

KELLY

Nobody will ever tell me what to do again.

BARRY

Look at my brother Ryan. A fuckin' junkie. And why? Because my fuckin' mother was out workin', not knowin' what was goin' on.

KELLY

Fuckin' Maura, I'll show her too, that I have changed.

BARRY

And that's my father's fault for leavin'. And I'm not gonna make the same mistake he made.

KELLY

Nobody will be able to say anything about it. I'll show them all.

BARRY

And if that means I gotta keep knockin' Kelly up to make her stay home, then that's what I'll do.

KELLY

Nobody will ever put me down again.

BARRY

How she gonna survive without me. All those fuckin' kids, huh?

KELLY

I just have to figure out what I want to do. There's still time.

BARRY

And if she wanted to leave, I'd kick her fuckin' teeth down her throat, and throw her out into the street.

KELLY

I have a whole year to figure it out.

BARRY

And she'd never see those kids again.

KELLY

Unless I really am pregnant again.

BARRY

I'm a good father and she knows it. I never once hit those kids.

(light fades on BARRY and BILL.)

LISA

(standing, collecting her things in her bag, looking for her shoes, a hair brush.)

I can't go through this again.

KELLY

What?

LISA

Sit back and watch you do this to yourself.

KELLY

What choice do I have?

LISA

You must really like it.

KELLY

Like it? Haven't you been listenin' to what I was sayin'?

LISA

Maybe you get some thrill out of bein' treated like this. I don't know. I mean all I ever here is next year this, someday that...but you don't mean any of it.

KELLY

What the fuck are bein' like this for?

LISA

Because every time you throw your life away, I have to pick up the pieces.
Pregnant? Are you shittin' me?

KELLY

I'm not sure yet, but I think I am.

LISA

Are you gonna have it if you are?

KELLY

He's good to me when I'm pregnant.

LISA

You can't keep gettin' pregnant to make your husband love you.

KELLY

Barry does love me, he just doesn't always know how to show it.

LISA

Oh really? Then where is this lovin' husband of yours, the one you wouldn't let
come home last night.

KELLY

At least I can get a husband.

(LISA stands unsure how to answer. Finally she speaks, as she gets her coat.)

LISA

I have to go. I have work in the morning and I have nothin' ready.

*(LISA storms off. KELLY slowly sinks to her knees and pulls her small vial of coke out of
her purse. Light rises on MAURA and STEVE slowly walking across downstage, the
sounds of the early stages of a parade, tin horns, whistles, bells in the distance.)*

MAURA

I'm not apologizin' for callin' the cops.

KELLY

(snorting some coke speaking to herself.)

Bitch...

(light fades on KELLY.)

MAURA

You stabbed me Steve. You could have killed me.

STEVE

I didn't mean to hurt you, I only wanted to scare you.

MAURA

Did you think that that was gonna make me come back to you?

STEVE

I didn't know what else to do. I was drunk. I didn't know how else to make you see how much I want you.

MAURA

What?

STEVE

I love you, and I know you still love me.

MAURA

No, Steve, I don't. I'm not really sure I ever did. It was a habit, like the coke. I didn't know how to give it up.

STEVE

I'll give up coke.

MAURA

It's not just the drugs, Steve. It's us together. We drag each other down. Have we said two words to each other over the past year that wasn't a fight?

STEVE

That's only when we're drinkin'. We can stop. Be like before.

(STEVE reaches out to tenderly touch MAURA. She pulls away.)

MAURA

Don't touch me. We can't be like before, I don't want to be like before. It wasn't so great then either, but we were too young, too stupid or too drunk to know the difference, and now it's too late.

STEVE

What if we had a baby?

MAURA

What?

STEVE

Have a baby, to bring us together.

MAURA

I don't know if you're high, still drunk or just crazy...but to bring a baby into this...

STEVE

You always said you wanted to wait, but...maybe it's time.

MAURA

Time for what? There's nothin' left to wait for. What good could that possibly do?

STEVE

To show you how much I need you.

MAURA

This isn't about you, Steve. A baby? I don't fuckin' believe this.

STEVE

You love me

MAURA

No, Steve, I don't. Not anymore. And I certainly wouldn't have a baby to prove it if I did.

STEVE

Then why did you get me out, drop the charges?

MAURA

(not sure how to answer, not wanting to say too much.)

Just...to be done with it...all of it. I can't do it anymore. It's over.

STEVE

No, no. This isn't over.

MAURA

You're wrong, Steve, because I'm leavin'.

STEVE

What do you mean, leavin'?

MAURA

Leavin', movin' away. I've been thinkin' about it for a long time.

STEVE

Where the hell would you go?

MAURA

Anywhere that's not here.

STEVE

You'll never make it on your own.

MAURA

People move everyday and they survive. I'm too old to be livin' home, afraid, like a child. Not knowin' what I'm gonna do next.

STEVE

(laughing, STEVE grabs MAURA by the arm.)

You just fuckin' try leavin', and see what happens.

(scared, but determined, MAURA pulls away.)

MAURA

If you want to stop me Steve, you're gonna have to kill me. And this is what you want to bring a baby up around?

(MAURA begins walking away. STEVE calls after her, a little frightened and bewildered by her strength.)

STEVE

That's it Maura, keep walkin'. Just remember, you'll be back. Wait and see, you'll be back.

(light dims on STEVE, as MAURA exits. Light comes up on BARRY with his phone as light comes on BILL on his phone. Light comes up on KELLY and LISA, answering their phones. LISA is dressed in a bathrobe.)

KELLY / LISA

Hello.

BARRY

Can we talk, Kel?

BILL

(stuttering a bit.)

Lisa? Hi, it's me...Bill.

KELLY

What do you want to talk about?

BILL

Sorry we didn't really get to talk last night.

BARRY

Why you bein' so pissy?

LISA

Believe me, so am I.

KELLY

You treat me like shit.

BILL

Those fuckers never know when to stop.

BARRY

Well I'm callin' to apologize.

LISA

It gets so tiring week after week.

KELLY

That's a switch.

BILL

I can't do it anymore, I feel like I'm always babysittin'.

BARRY

I was drunk.

LISA

They were loaded.

KELLY

That's no excuse.

BILL

Even when they're not, they treat everyone around them like shit.

BARRY

You know I don't mean it when I act like that.

LISA

I get so tired of hearing them bitch about everyone, like they're so perfect.

KELLY

Then why do you Barry?

BILL

Watch what happens, now the weekend's over.

BARRY

It's the coke. But I'll stop this time.

LISA

They'll get back together.

KELLY

I hear the same thing every time you do this.

BILL

Like nothin' ever happened.

BARRY

Honest. Listen, I got a couple lines on me now.

LISA

Listen to us.

KELLY

Is that supposed to be a peace offerin'?

BILL

What?

BARRY

I'm gonna flush it down the toilet, right in front of you. Every gram.

LISA

Even when we're not with them we're talkin' about them.

KELLY

And that's supposed to prove what?

LISA

What makes them so important to us?

BARRY

That I love you.

BILL

We've known them a long time.

KELLY

Oh please, Barry, don't start this shit again.

LISA

Never once has Kelly asked about me, how I'm doin', what's goin' on at work.

BARRY

Please, Kell. Let me come home.

BILL

Same with Barry, I don't think he even hears what I say.

KELLY

Don't bother, I won't be here.

LISA

I don't think they even listen to each other.

BARRY

Where the hell are you goin'?

BILL

It's only always about what they're doin'.

KELLY

Your mother's. I still have to pick up the kids.

LISA

See, it's happenin' again.

BARRY

I can meet you over there.

LISA

We start a conversation and it becomes about them.

KELLY

No. I just want to get the kids and go.

BILL

Like they're always with us.

(BILL shudders at the thought.)

KELLY

I'm sick of bein' treated like shit by everyone.

(KELLY hangs up the phone and sits staring at it.)

LISA

Well they're not with us.

(LISA smiles, changing her toe, become flirtatious.)

I was hopin' you'd call, I thought you might forget.

BILL

I wasn't that drunk. Was I?

LISA

We won't go there, but I'm glad you did call. What did you want to talk about?

BILL

I was wonderin' what you were doin' later, after the parade.

LISA

I'm not doin' anything later, just gettin' ready for work tomorrow.

BILL

You're workin' tomorrow?

LISA

Not everyone has an Irish boss.

BILL

I was thinkin', you know, if you wanted to go out, maybe see a movie...

LISA

I'd love to.

BILL

I can pick you up at your house. Just give me a time.

LISA

Maybe an hour. Get a bite to eat first.

BILL

Hey, maybe we should invite Barry and Kelly.

(BILL grimaces, realizing his mistake.)

LISA

No thanks, I think I can survive one night without that kind of drama, save that for the movies.

BILL

You're right, we don't need that...just habit I guess. See you in an hour. Bye, Lis.

LISA

Bye, Bill. Thanks.

(they hang up, both smiling. They slowly exit as light fades on them. Light comes up on SANDRA in a hospital gown, sitting in a wheelchair. MAURA enters and crosses to her.)

MAURA

They found an empty bed for you. It'll be ready soon.

SANDRA

If I had insurance they'd find a bed for me quick enough.

MAURA

How you feelin'?

SANDRA

I'm so tired.

(she pauses and starts again slowly.)

The baby's gone.

MAURA

I know. Ma told me.

SANDRA

It goes through my mind so fast, I can't keep up with it.

MAURA

Sometimes it feels like everything's rushin' by, and you never have a chance to stop and think things through.

SANDRA

Have you seen Ryan? I want him to know.

MAURA

He was arrested last night.

SANDRA

For what?

MAURA

He passed out on the sidewalk. They took him into P.C.

SANDRA

Is he okay?

MAURA

Steve said he was fine, just a little sick, you know.

SANDRA

When did Steve see him?

MAURA

Steve was arrested last night too.

SANDRA

Coke?

MAURA

No. He tried to stab me.

SANDRA

Are you all right?

MAURA

Yes. Just a couple stitches.

SANDRA

Think they'll send him away?

MAURA

(hesitating.)

No, I don't think so.

(wanting to change the subject.)

What happened after I left last night?

SANDRA

I was so mad, everyone tellin' me what to do, so I thought I'd do somethin' wild, anything to prove to them that there was no baby. So I hitched a ride down the Knights, then went to my friend Carol's, her big St. Patrick's Day party. We were drinkin' and doin' lines. I don't know. There was so much coke. And when I left this mornin', I didn't feel right, but I thought I was just hung over, so I went home to go to bed but I couldn't lie down. It hurt so bad...

(SANDRA'S true emotions are starting to show, she cries like a child.)

...then I started bleedin'. At first it didn't really worry me and I thought to myself, I hope I do lose this baby to prove them all wrong, but then I got scared, and there was so much blood, and I knew what was happenin'.

(SANDRA struggles to find her strong self, the one who doesn't care about anything.)

I don't want anyone else knowin'.

MAURA

I won't tell anyone, but Ma already told Dotty...you know how she is.

SANDRA

That means Ryan probly knows.

MAURA

That means everyone probly knows.

SANDRA

I wonder how he's gonna take it.

MAURA

You have to start worryin' about yourself.

SANDRA

He wanted this baby so much. Had all these plans.

MAURA

I always thought big sisters were supposed to watch out for their younger ones.
And I didn't.

(MAURA takes hold of SANDRA'S hand as light dims on them as it rises on BARRY standing on the street corner. The sounds of a gathering crowd can be heard in the distance. KELLY hurries on, sees BARRY and stops.)

KELLY

What are you doin' here?

BARRY

Just want to talk.

KELLY

There's nothin' to talk about.

BARRY

Why can't I come home?

KELLY

Really Barry, you're gonna do this now? It's freezin'.

BARRY

That's too fuckin' bad, you're gonna stay and listen.

KELLY

Is this your idea of an apology?

BARRY

I tried apologizin', you hung up on me.

KELLY

Flushin' coke down the toilet is your idea of an apology? That's fuckin' sick. I gotta get the kids.

BARRY

Fuck the kids. You're gonna hear what I have to say. I tried bein' nice...

KELLY

You really know how to pick your battles them don't you. You start out here in front of your mother's house...then when she comes out, she can tell the kids that it's all my fault, that I'm startin' trouble...

BARRY

This has nothin' to do with my mother or the friggin' kids, it only has to do with you and me.

KELLY

Listen to yourself. Just a second ago you said you tried bein' nice. How's that workin' out for you?

(BARRY raises a fist, looks around and thinks better of it. Instead, he gets in close and speaks low, but very pointedly.)

BARRY

How's that workin' out for me? I'll show you how that's workin' out for me. Oh, you just wait Kelly.

KELLY

I can't live like this anymore, Barry.

BARRY

We had a fight...what's the big deal?

KELLY

What's the big deal? Married people don't treat each other like this.

BARRY

You were the one tellin' me you were suckin' guys off in the bathroom. How the hell am I supposed to react?

KELLY

Listen to yourself. This is nothin' new.

BARRY

What am I supposed to do, get down on my knees and beg for forgiveness?

KELLY

If you stopped actin' like you do, you wouldn't have to.

BARRY

Oh, I know what this is. It's Lisa, isn't it? Tellin' you what a rotten husband I am and that you should leave me.

KELLY

Lisa has nothin' to do with this.

BARRY

Not much. Just because she's miserable, she wants you to be miserable too.

KELLY

If I'm miserable, it's because of you.

BARRY

What is all this, huh? I mean, what is it you want?

KELLY

All I ever wanted was to be a wife, your wife...look at us. How the hell did we end up here? Nothin's like I thought it would be. Everything's changed.

BARRY

I haven't. I'm the same guy you married.

KELLY

What does that say about me? That I still put up with it?

BARRY

You better wise the fuck up, Kelly, and stop listenin' to people like Lisa...I should fuckin' slap her in the mouth too.

KELLY

And you wonder why I won't let you come home?

BARRY

(grabbing KELLY by the wrist.)

Oh, I'm comin' home, whether you like it or not. Now go in there, get the kids and let's get the fuck out of here.

KELLY

You don't tell me what to do.

(pulling out of BARRY'S grip.)

You go get the kids. I already dealt with you, you think I'm goin' in there to hear more of the same from her...

(KELLY looks off, smiles and waves.)

Oh, look at that bitch. She must have been watchin' us the whole time. I'm surprised she didn't come down here to save her sonny boy. It's a wonder to me you're not still on the tit.

(BARRY is fuming, breathing deeply. He knows he cannot hit KELLY with his mother watching. KELLY knows this too and continues.)

KELLY (*cont.*)

Go ahead, Barry, show your mother what you're really like.

(BARRY takes a step back. KELLY continues.)

That's what I thought. Now go in there and cry to Mama...she's waitin'.

BARRY

Just wait Kelly, until I get home.

KELLY

No, you wait Barry. Things are gonna be different for us.

BARRY

I'll say how things are gonna be.

KELLY

You better go, your mother's startin' to look worried about you. Besides, I'm sure the kids are dyin' to see you.

(KELLY starts off. BARRY calls after her.)

BARRY

Fuck the kids and fuck you too.

(KELLY exits. BARRY looks off in the direction of the house. He shouts.)

Go inside, Ma. I'll be back later. I said go inside, I'll be back later...

(BARRY starts off as BILL enters, holding a Dunkin' Donuts cup.)

BILL

Hey...hey. Where you goin'?

BARRY

Up the bar. I just had a fight with Kelly, now my mother's startin'. One fuckin' day I want to have fun...one fuckin' day.

BILL

Have you even been home yet?

BARRY

No. I need a beer and a couple lines to calm me down.

BILL

Don't you ever stop?

BARRY

Jesus Christ...

BILL

What?

BARRY

It's bad enough I got those two on my back, I don't need you startin'.

BILL

You gotta fuckin' relax...

BARRY

I'll relax when I'm dead.

BILL

At the rate you're goin', that won't be long.

BARRY

Fuck you, Bill, all right?

BILL

(BILL laughs, almost to himself.)

Fuck me. Okay Barry, know what, have it your way.

(BILL starts off.)

BARRY

Where you goin'? You can't just walk away in the middle of a conversation.

BILL

What conversation? I haven't said anything. A conversation is two people talkin'...you know, you say something, then I answer...with you it's not a conversation...standing here ravin' like a lunatic

BARRY

You know what, Bill. I don't need this shit today.

BILL

You know what Barry...neither do I.

BARRY

Between Kelly and you, it's like havin' two fuckin' wives.

BILL

Then why don't you divorce one of us.

(BILL starts off again.)

BARRY

Where you goin'?

BILL

Home.

BARRY

Look, I'm sorry, okay. I wasn't thinkin'....

BILL

And that's different from every other day how?

BARRY

Very funny. I already said I'm sorry. You're the last person I want to fight with. Let's go get a beer.

BILL

I can't. I gotta get home.

BARRY

What's the big rush?

BILL

I got a date with Lisa later.

BARRY

The more the cushion.

BILL

What?

BARRY

Nothin'. Listen, come up the bar and have a beer with me. We'll kiss and make up.

BILL

(waving the coffee in the air.)

I can't, I made this date with Lisa and I'd like to be somewhat sober for it.

BARRY

Just for a couple. Kelly took off now I gotta get the kids, so I can't be out long anyway. Just long enough to catch my fuckin' breath.

BILL

I still have to take a shower and get dressed.

BARRY

Come on, St. Patrick's Day, have a beer with me. I can't go home and face her without at least one more in me.

BILL

It's my only day off, I don't want to spend it up there.

BARRY

Only day off my ass. We're not workin' tomorrow.

BILL

What the fuck, Barry.

BARRY

What, you sayin' no to a beer? I thought we were friends.

BILL

We are, but I have that date tonight and don't want to screw it up by gettin' drunk and makin' an ass of myself.

BARRY

It's only Lisa...she won't mind if you have a few.

BILL

I'm sorry. I can't.

BARRY

(pissed off.)

You can't?

BILL

No, I can't.

BARRY

(dumbfounded, almost at a loss for words.)

What the fuck is the matter with everyone today? For your sake, I hope to hell you get laid. Thanks a lot.

(BARRY storms off. BILL can only stand and shake his head. BILL exits, as light rises on KELLY, dialing her phone. Light comes up on LISA, still in her robe, as she answers her phone.)

LISA

Hello.

KELLY

Hey Lis, it's me. What are you doin'?

LISA

I got a date tonight.

KELLY

(incredulous.)

You do? With who?

LISA

Bill.

KELLY

Really?

LISA

You sound surprised. I may not be able to "get a husband," but I can get a date you know.

KELLY

(trying to catch herself.)

No...I know...it's just that, you know, I didn't think he was all that interested. I mean, he didn't really talk to you much last night.

LISA

Well, obviously, he is interested.

KELLY

(trying to regain some of her dignity and leadership.)

Look, I'm sorry about earlier, what I said.

LISA

Then why did you?

KELLY

I was mad...you were the only one around.

LISA

Great. Is that all I'm good for, to be your whipping post when nobody else is available?

KELLY

Of course not. It's just...all this shit with Barry.

LISA

Then do something about it.

KELLY

I'm tryin', but I can't do it alone. You know what he's capable of. I'm sorry, it's just that I have nobody else to turn to.

LISA

Come stay with me. You can leave before he gets home.

KELLY

I can't do that.

LISA

Why not?

KELLY

I don't like to leave the kids alone with him when he's in one of his moods.

LISA

Do you realize how crazy this sounds?

KELLY

I'm just tryin' to keep my family together.

LISA

You can't love someone like that.

KELLY

If he would just stop the coke...

LISA

You don't get it, do you? This is about more than just coke.

KELLY

Listen , can you do me a favor?

LISA

I don't know, I still have to get dressed, do my make-up.

KELLY

Can you come over for a while?

LISA

No, I told you, I have a date.

KELLY

Please. Barry will be here soon and I don't want to be alone with him.

LISA

Kelly, I'm goin' out.

KELLY

Come on. It's still early. Just be here when Barry comes home. We'll have a couple beers, pretend like we're still celebratin'. I don't want him to think I was upset or nothin'.

LISA

Bill's gonna be here soon.

KELLY

Just call Bill and tell him to meet you here.

LISA

Kelly, I got plans.

KELLY

Please.

LISA

I can't.

KELLY

I thought we were friends?

LISA

We are, but I have things to do.

KELLY

I just had a fight with Barry outside his mother's and he's pissed at me now. He's gettin' the kids and that means I have to let him in. You saw how he was last night. Please...

LISA

What time is he gonna be there?

KELLY

I don't know...

(imploring.)

Please Lisa, I'm really scared.

LISA

I don't want to watch you two fight.

KELLY

We won't. He won't start if you're here, besides, I'm gonna tell him I'm pregnant.

LISA

You can't do that...you don't even know for sure.

KELLY

It's the only thing I can do. If I find out I'm not I'll just have to get pregnant soon or tell him I had a miscarriage in a few months. But if I don't say something now, he'll kill me. You should have seen him.

LISA

I hope to hell you know what you're doin'.

KELLY

Just be here.

LISA

(giving in with a sigh.)

All right, but I don't want to stay all night.

(light comes up on SANDRA, still in the wheelchair. MAURA enters with two cups of coffee. She hands one to SANDRA.)

MAURA

I'm gonna be leavin' soon.

KELLY

No, just be here when he gets home. That's all.

SANDRA

Can you tell Ma to bring me up some clothes?

LISA

Okay, I'll be over as soon as I can.

MAURA

No, I mean leavin', movin' away.

KELLY

Thanks Lisa.

SANDRA

You're not movin' away.

KELLY

You're the only one I can count on.

(lights dim on LISA and KELLY.)

MAURA

I think you should come with me.

SANDRA

I'm not fuckin' goin' nowhere.

MAURA

Just gonna hang around here the rest of your life?

SANDRA

Proibly.

MAURA

And do what?

SANDRA

I don't know...I mean, Jesus Christ, Maura, why you askin' me all this now?

MAURA

(sarcastically.)

What, maybe marry Ryan...

SANDRA

I'm not marryin' anyone, but he does care about me.

(light comes up on STEVE sitting with LINDA at LINDA'S kitchen table.)

STEVE

I know I shouldn't be here.

MAURA

Even if he does, you can't live with someone like that.

STEVE

I heard about Sandra. Linda, I am so sorry.

SANDRA

You don't know him like I do.

STEVE

Is there anything I can do...to help?

MAURA

I know what he is.

LINDA

Right now we just have to wait and see.

SANDRA

And you think that's all there is to him?

STEVE

Maybe I should go up the hospital, see how she's doin'.

MAURA

It's not good for us here, you have to believe me.

LINDA

Proibly not the best idea, Maura's up there now.

SANDRA

Why should I believe you? You don't know me.

STEVE

Maura and I were talkin' earlier...

SANDRA

You don't know nothin' about me.

STEVE

And maybe it's not the best time to bring it up.

MAURA

I know you better than you think.

STEVE

But we were talkin' about the possibility of maybe havin' a baby.

(light fades on MAURA and SANDRA.)

LINDA

You and Maura... a baby?

STEVE

Something good to look forward to.

LINDA

That might be exactly what she needs.

STEVE

What we all need.

LINDA

She didn't say anything to me about it when I talked to her this afternoon.

STEVE

And she probably won't, until we have a chance to work out this...*thing* between us.

LINDA

I told her from the beginning things would work out.

STEVE

We just need a little time.

LINDA

All that talk about leavin'...

STEVE

She's not leavin'.

LINDA

I hope to hell you're right. I can't take care of Sandra all by myself, not after what's happened.

STEVE

I promise. Besides, I'll be around to help.

LINDA

'Bout time we had some good news around here.

STEVE

Have you eaten?

LINDA

No, I...had so many other things on my mind.

STEVE

Why don't I come back later, I'll bring some dinner.

LINDA

She should have had a baby a long time ago.

STEVE

Maybe Chinese...

(light fades on LINDA and STEVE as RYAN enters. He is carrying a small, gift-shop teddy bear. He crosses to SANDRA.)

RYAN

Sandra...

MAURA

What the hell are you doin' here?

RYAN

I'm sorry.

MAURA

We don't need you here, Ryan.

RYAN

Everything's gonna be okay.

SANDRA

I'm sorry too.

RYAN

I'm gonna get a job.

MAURA

What the hell kind of job are you gonna get?

RYAN

We'll get an apartment together.

MAURA

He just spent the night in jail, Sandra.

RYAN

Maybe even have another baby.

SANDRA

Don't forget who he was in jail with.

RYAN

I've been thinkin' about it all the way over here.

MAURA

The difference is, I'm not with Steve anymore.

RYAN

I can get a G.E.D.

SANDRA

We've all heard that before.

RYAN

You could go to college.

MAURA

Is that how you want to live your life?

RYAN

We don't need anyone else.

SANDRA

This has nothin' to do with you, Maura.

RYAN

I'll check myself in.

MAURA

Don't be a fool, Sandra.

RYAN

Really clean up this time.

MAURA

Ask the mother of his first son how many times he said that to her.

SANDRA

Why don't you give him a chance, Maura...

RYAN

Fuck you, Maura. Sandra knows how much I care about her.

MAURA

You come here, tell her it's all gonna be fine, that things will settle down. What happens when he's back on the street again...what then, huh, Sandra?

SANDRA

Don't fuckin' treat me like this, Maura. What do you have that's so great?

MAURA

I got nothin'...which is exactly what you're gonna have if you stay with him.

RYAN

You know what, Maura...I'm tired of people like you puttin' me down, thinkin' you're better than me.

MAURA

I don't care about you Ryan, I don't care what you think or how you want to live your life, but you're not draggin' her down with you. So why don't you just get the hell out of here?

RYAN

Fuck you Maura, okay?

SANDRA

Ryan, please...

RYAN

You want me gone, I'm goin'.

SANDRA

You don't have to leave because of her.

RYAN

I'm sorry Sandra...

MAURA

Let him go, Sandra.

RYAN

I'll call you later...

(in his anger, RYAN throws the teddy bear at MAURA'S feet and exits.)

SANDRA

You must really think I'm a moron.

MAURA

Now he has an excuse.

SANDRA

Think you know everything.

MAURA

You can't believe a word he says.

SANDRA

I don't. I know he says things that will never happen, maybe even believes them himself, but I just lost my baby, his baby and he was only tryin' to make me feel better, and you couldn't even give him that much. Just a few minutes of pride. What the hell is wrong with you?

MAURA

I just don't want to see you ruin your life.

SANDRA

Like you ruined yours?

MAURA

Yes.

SANDRA

I'm not you.

MAURA

I'm only tryin' to help.

SANDRA

I don't want your help. You think you know me so well...I don't even drink coffee...

(SANDRA hands MAUARA the coffee cup.)

So why don't you just go...leave me alone.

(MAURA exits. SANDRA sits alone as light fades on her and comes up on BARRY, sitting alone at the bar. He is glancing between the Keno screen offstage and the slip in his hand. The sounds of the parade are louder. Instruments tuning up, clapping and cheering. BILL enters, grabs a beer from behind the bar and sits with BARRY.)

BARRY

So. What happened to your date?

BILL

She's at your house. I'm supposed to meet her there.

BARRY

Fuckin' Kelly. Always needs an audience.

BILL

Since she's there, I thought I'd meet up with you here and go to your place together.

(STEVE enters and joins them at the bar.)

STEVE

Hey, what's goin' on?

BARRY

Nothin'. What happened to you? You look like shit.

STEVE

I haven't been to bed yet. Fuckin' Maura had me arrested last night.

(they share a good laugh over STEVE'S "folly," as BILL goes behind the bar and gets STEVE a beer.)

BILL

What'd she have you arrested for?

STEVE

(smiling.)

How the fuck do I know. I was only tryin' to talk to her and she called the cops on me.

BARRY

Cunts and whores my friend. That's all they are, and nothin's never gonna change that.

STEVE

That's where you're wrong. I have everything figured out this time.

(BARRY looks at the Keno slip in his hand, crumples it and tosses it across the bar.)

BARRY

Fuckin' nothin'. Can't win for losin'.

STEVE

What can you do?

BARRY

I know what I'm gonna do.

STEVE

What?

BARRY

(raising his beer.)

Luck of the Irish.

STEVE

(raising his beer.)

Happy St. Patrick's Day.

BILL

(joining in the toast.)

Erin go Bragh-less.

(the sound of the parade drifts in, "Amazing Grace," played on the bag-pipes. As the sounds grow louder still, the lights come up full on stage. LINDA at her kitchen table, with her remote, looking off at a television screen. LISA and KELLY at KELLY'S, sitting

silently around the table. RYAN shooting up in the alley. SANDRA, sad and alone. BARRY, BILL and STEVE at the bar. BARRY begins filling out a Keno card, STEVE absently peels the label of his bottle. BILL wanders to the door and looks out at the street, waiting for the parade. MAURA hurries on downstage, she is carrying a small suitcase. She runs, trying to beat the parade. She stops before exiting and turns, glancing back at the neighborhood. Slowly, she walks, enters the bar and stops. BILL smiles at her. BARRY doesn't look up from his keno slips. STEVE turns to her and rises as MAURA puts her bag down. STEVE and MAURA stand, looking at each other silently, as light slowly fades. Stage goes black.)

END OF PLAY