

JO ANN
How about if I send over some angel
hair pasta?

CODY
- okay.

McKUSSIC
'Thank you.'

CODY
- thank you.

JO ANN
- be well, Cody.

91 INT. DEN McKUSSIC'S HOUSE WITH McKUSSIC AND JO ANN

91

who can't help but notice the ping-pong table again - cleaned
and ready for action.

McKUSSIC
I don't know what I'd done if you
hadn't come along, Greg had my car -

McKussic has started to shake a little.

JO ANN
- here, why don't you sit down?

McKussic breaks away from her and lurches toward the kitchen.

McKUSSIC
- I just need some gold -

He grabs the bottle of tequila on the counter and pours it -
into three shot glasses. He promptly downs one after another.

JO ANN
(quietly)
Sit down, Mr. McKussic.

He allows himself to be seated by her. Jo Ann kneels beside
him, checks her watch. She looks at McKussic's bowed head,
trying to decide what to do.

JO ANN
Your boy lives with you?

McKussic looks up, smiles.

McKUSSIC
Depends.

JO ANN

On what?

McKUSSIC

Money and his mama's mood -

McKussic rises and heads back for tequila, pours another shot.

JO ANN

- don't you think you've had enough? I mean you want to hear Cody if he wakes up and needs something, don't you?

McKussic puts the shot glass down carefully - after draining it.

JO ANN

You're not going to answer me, are you?

McKUSSIC

I don't really think you want me to.

JO ANN

Yes I do.

McKUSSIC

(amused)

Okidokie - I'll answer any question you care to ask. How about that?

It's a challenge that Jo Ann, has stepped into - she sees McKussic waiting for her to back down.

JO ANN

- okay..

She looks around - her eyes take in the bar top and the tequila.

McKUSSIC

Bet I know the first question.

JO ANN

What's that?

McKUSSIC

'How about a drink?'

Jo Ann flinches - then it turns into a tight little smile.

JO ANN

You can hold the lemon and salt.

(downs the shot)

- how can you feel about your
boy the way you do and sell
drugs? Cocaine - it is cocaine,
isn't it?

McKUSSIC

Well, it was.

Jo Ann shakes her head, grimly amused.

JO ANN

But not anymore.

McKUSSIC

No.

JO ANN

You were out with Sandy Leonard
the night he was arrested.

McKUSSIC

Nick told you that?

JO ANN

You weren't out with him?

McKUSSIC

- oh I was -

JO ANN

- and you weren't selling
cocaine?

McKUSSIC

No, I wasn't - he was.

Jo Ann smiles.

JO ANN

Oh come on! then what were you
doing?

McKUSSIC

(glum)

Trying to teach him how to sell
it.

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Jo Ann breaks out laughing. Then:

JO ANN
- you're serious.

McKUSSIC
(embarrassed)
Well, that's what it came down to -
that fella Sandy Leonard's smart
enough to be a lawyer, but he's way
too dumb to be a crook.

JO ANN
You had to be getting something.

McKUSSIC
Well yeah. He's my lawyer.

Jo Ann turns back, puzzled.

JO ANN
..yes..

McKUSSIC
He's your lawyer too.

JO ANN
Okay, he's your lawyer and he's my
lawyer. What does that do for you?

McKUSSIC
Look I pretty much knew you knew
what I'd done for a living and I
wanted him to let you know I also
had a legitimate business -
naturally I didn't want him busted
in the meantime.

JO ANN
(relentless)
- you thought Sandy Leonard would
give you respectability?

McKUSSIC
- yes m'am.

JO ANN
What do you need it for?

McKUSSIC
...so if I asked you out...maybe
you'd accept.

JO ANN

(stunned and redfaced)

- but I mean - gee. You don't need a lawyer for that - dating is not a criminal activity, Mr. McKussic. I think your profession has clouded your judgment here.

McKUSSIC

- sure, why not?

JO ANN

- I just don't know what to say. I'm - sorry. I'm really sorry - I'm flattered and I believe you and uhh - it was awful dumb.

McKUSSIC

Yeah it was.

JO ANN

- I'm late as hell -

She turns and heads down the stairs, walks back up into SHOT.

JO ANN

I would like to call and check up on Cody.

McKussic nods.

92 INT. VALLENARI'S (NIGHT) JO ANN

92

flushed and elegant makes her way thru the crush of customers to the reservations desk by the bar.

JO ANN

Arturo, pour me a glass of champagne..

As Arturo pours, Jo Ann breaks into a smile.

JO ANN

You'll never believe what just happened -

ARTURO

- if it's bad news, Giovanna - I generally believe it.

JO ANN

- I went to return Mr. McKussic's money -