POETIC JUSTICE: PART ONE

by

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1 INT. "INTERVIEW ROOM"

JAMES	Okay. Fine. I was drunk. But so was she. And so was <i>she</i> . So I wasn't really fully aware of what went on last night.
MELISSA	Last night?
JAMES	Yeah. FTP Fridays? That's what you're asking about, yeah?
MELISSA	Yes. Are you certain there's nothing you can tell me?
JAMES	Well, like I said, I was a little, uh, distracted, by my, uh, <i>companions</i> , what with all the flirting and
MELISSA	They were flirting with you?
JAMES	Well, they were flirting over me. The one on my left, uuhhhhh, Abigail? I think? Was, I mean, reasonably tipsy, and she kept getting distracted by Eleanor, on my right, being - and I quote - "intimidatingly hot".
MELISSA	Right.
JAMES	I then remarked that Abigail might have had a tad too much to drink at this point and should probably stop blurting out the entire contents of her brain.
MELISSA	Is this going anywhere?
JAMES	Yes. Yes! Yes, it is. Well, no. You'll see.
MELISSA	Okay. Just we don't have much time.
JAMES	Really, why? Actually, never mind. I don't care. Oh, that was rude.
MELISSA	Do continue.
JAMES	Yes. Sorry. She turns to me - Eleanor, that is - and asks if I think she's intimidatingly hot. And in my head I said, "Not intimidatingly!" like the smooth guy I am in my head and only my head. But, uh, what I actually said was "HAHAHAHAHAAIMEANOHMYGODWELLHAHAHMMNOTSUREWHAT TOSAYTHATSABITOUTOFTHEBLUEBUTIMEANYOUREREASONA BLYATTRAC- Oh, where've you gone?"
MELISSA	Smooth.
JAMES	Why am I telling you all this?

MELISSA	Truth serum.
JAMES	Ohhh. That makes sense. Wait, no it doesn't.
MELISSA	Listen, James. I need to know everything you saw even if you don't know it yet on Friday night.
JAMES	Why, what happened?
MELISSA	You really don't know?
JAMES	Like I said. I still have a hangover.
MELISSA	It's Tuesday.
JAMES	It was a hell of a weekend.
MELISSA	Yeah, I could tell. Well, I suppose I should tell you now, since you were, uh, unconscious, when I picked you up. James Andrews, you are arrested under suspicion for the murder of
JAMES	There was a MURDER?!
MELISSA	Just how drunk were you?

TITLE MUSIC: "ANOTHER BREAKDOWN".

2 INT. PUB ROOM - NIGH	IΤ
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FX: LUKE OPENS THE DOOR, STEPS THROUGH AND SHUTS IT.

ANGIE	Hey!
LUKE	Hey!
LUKE 2 (Sar	ne time) Hey!
LUKE	Ah, you're not talking to me. That, that's that's great. Completely fine with that.
ANGIE	Are you performing tonight?
LUKE 2	I would love to.
ANGIE	I'll pop your name down. Jones, yeah?
LUKE 2	That's right.
ANGIE	Enjoy the show.
LUKE 2	You too.

FX: LUKE STEPS FORWARD.

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ANGIE	Hey, are you here for FTP?	
LUKE	I sure am. £4?	
ANGIE	£4.50.	
LUKE	Ohhh, yes. I knew that. Of course I knew it. Wish my pockets knew that.	
ANGIE	I'm afraid I can't let you in if	
LUKE	What if I said I'm a student?	
ANGIE	You're 27.	
LUKE	Some students are 27.	
ANGIE	Yes, but you're not.	
LUKE	How do you know?	
ANGIE	We graduated the same year.	
LUKE	Oh, yeah.	
FX: LUKE 2 STEPS IN.		
LUKE 2	Might I be able to help? I saw a 50p out in the corridor. Was that yours?	
LUKE	Oh! Yes. I mean, no. But it is now. Thank you.	
FX: ANGIE SIGHS. LUI	KE STEPS OUT OF THE ROOM	
ANGIE	Every. Time.	
LUKE	Hey, who is that outside the Oh, you've gone. Excellent.	
INT. "INTERVIEW ROOM"		
JAMES	So you think I did it?	
MELISSA	We can't discount the possibility. But I'm just interested to see what you saw.	
JAMES	Tell you what, though - the handcuffs make way more sense now.	
MELISSA	What did you think they were for?	
JAMES	Well, uh	
MELISSA	Actually, no. I don't want to know.	

JAMES	You forget, I'm compelled to tell the truth! And the truth you will get. When I woke up, first thought? Dungeon. Low lighting. Then, handcuffs. Ooh. Bit early, but I like it. Then, you walk in. Police uniform. What else was I to expect?
MELISSA	That I'm a police officer and you're part of a murder investigation.
JAMES	Like I said, it all makes sense now. Women don't normally hmm. I'll stop talking now.
MELISSA	Oh, now you want to stop talking.
JAMES	You do need to work on your lighting though. Doesn't do much for the ambience Sorry.
MELISSA	So tell me about the regulars.
JAMES	Well, obviously there's Angie. She runs FTP Poetry.
MELISSA	Right.
JAMES	No. FT Poetry. The 'P' is for 'Poetry', so FT Poetry.
MELISSA	FT? You want to tell me what that stands for?
JAMES	Fuck that.
MELISSA	Harsh. Wait, why isn't the truth serum
JAMES	No, it means 'Fuck That'. Fuck That Poetry. I don't think it's literal.
MELISSA	In a way I'm regretting using the truth serum on you.
JAMES	Hey, my brain is a wonderful place.
MELISSA	I'm sure someone, somewhere agrees. And I feel sorry for them. Who else?
JAMES	Well, there's the two Lukes. I call them Luke Warm and Luke Hot.
MELISSA	Why?
JAMES	Well, because Do I really need to explain this one?
MELISSA	Yep. Go on.
JAMES	Well he, uh uh, well.

MELISSA	And here was me thinking it was just the women you had creepy thoughts about.
JAMES	Hey, no! I'm a creep for all the genders. That's not what I meant to say.
MELISSA	Can't lie though.
JAMES	Damn it. I've never told anyone that before.
MELISSA	I won't tell if you won't.
JAMES	You're a weird kind of police officer.
MELISSA (p	Yeah. I am, aren't I? ause) So. The two Lukes.
JAMES (k	Yeah. Luke Warm? Walking disaster. Luke Hot? isses the air) Delicious. The most beautiful pizza of a man.
MELISSA	That probably made sense in your head.
JAMES	With pineapple.
MELISSA	This interview is seriously close to being over.

4 INT. PUB ROOM - NIGHT

FX: LUKE STEPS BACK INTO THE ROOM.

LUKE	Right, so.
JAMES (in	the distance) HAHAHAHAHAAIMEANOHMYGODWELLHAHAHMMNOTSUREWHATT OSAYTHATSABITOUTOFTHEBLUEBUTIMEANYOUREREASONAB LYATTRAC- Oh, where've you gone?
LUKE	What in the name of?
ANGIE	Luke?
LUKE Yes?	LUKE 2 Yes?
LUKE	Oh, right. Of course.
ANGIE	What? Oh 50p, thank you.
FX: SHE TAKES THE MO	DNEY.

LUKE You're welcome.

ANGIE	Enjoy the show.
LUKE	You too. No, you're in it. That's a silly thing to say. I'm gonna sit down now. Bye.
FX: HE SITS NEXT TO	JAMES.
LUKE	Good day?
JAMES	What? Oh, brilliant. Bellissimo. Why am I speaking Italian?
LUKE 2	Hey, guys, how are
JAMES	MAMMA MIA!
LUKE 2	you.
JAMES	Sorry. Um. Gave me a, uh, bit of a, uh, a fright there. All good now. Everything's fine. How are you?
LUKE 2	I'm fine. How are you?
JAMES	I just I just said.
LUKE 2	Right. And how are you, Luke?
JAMES	Luke? You're Luke.
LUKE	I'm Luke.
JAMES	You're Luke!
LUKE We're both Luke!	LUKE 2 We're both Luke!
LUKE 2	How many times have you been to this event?
JAMES	Uuhh good point. Sorry. I need more alcohol.
LUKE 2	Oh! Good idea. What's your poison?
JAMES	Cyanide.
LUKE 2	Ooh! Okay, Cyanide and some Arsenic for you, Luke?
LUKE	Deal.
LUKE 2	Alright. I'll go and
JAMES	No, I can get them!
LUKE 2	Are you sure!
JAMES	Yep. Just let me stand up first.

JAMES	Ooh, that's interesting. Bit spinny. But yeah, I'll manage.
LUKE 2	Are you sure you're okay.
JAMES	Yeah, I'm fine. I never buy the drinks, so I I should. And I've had a few already, so
LUKE 2	Good man.
JAMES (lou	dly) DOES ANYBODY WANT A DRINK?
ANGIE	I'D LOVE ONE!
JAMES	COOL!
ANGIE	WHY ARE WE SHOUTING?
JAMES	I DON'T KNOW!
ANGIE	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE JUST COME OVER HERE!
JAMES	YEP! IN HINDSIGHT THAT WAS PROBABLY THE BEST OPTION!

5 INT. "INTERVIEW ROOM"

MELISSA	So is that it?
JAMES	What do you mean, "is that it"?
MELISSA	Is that it? Luke, Luke, Angie, James. No other regulars? I thought there'd be dozens or more.
JAMES	This is a <i>poetry</i> event.
MELISSA	Oh, right.
JAMES	Wait are you telling me that one of those, maybe even me, is a <i>murderer</i> ? Or that one of them is <i>dead</i> ?
MELISSA	That's, uh, entirely possible.
JAMES	Well, surely you know who died. Not Luke? Surely not Luke. You know which one.
MELISSA	I'm more interested in what you know. Keep going. You went to get drinks

6 INT. PUB - NIGHT

MELISSA

FX: JAMES STEPS INTO A BUSIER AREA OF THE PUB. STEPS UP TO THE BAR.

MELISSA	What can I get you?
JAMES	Oh, hi. Uh, can I have a, uh a rum in Pepsi. And a, uh, another one. Actually, make it four.

(chuckles) Coming right up.

7 INT. "INTERVIEW ROOM"

JAMES	It was	you!
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MELISSA Me?

JAMES The waitress! No, bar -- the one at the bar. Whatever they're called. You, it was you! You gave me the drinks that -- I remember.

MELISSA Go on.

8 INT. PUB - NIGHT

FX: MELISSA POURS THE DRINKS, ETC.

MELISSA There you go.

FX: JAMES PAYS FOR THE DRINKS, THEN PICKS THEM UP.

9 INT. PUB ROOM - NIGHT

FX: JAMES STEPS INTO THE ROOM.

JAMES	Et voila! One for you
LUKE	Thank you.
JAMES	And here's yours
LUKE 2	Thank you very much.
JAMES	And you where've you gone! Oh, not again

FX: HE DROPS A GLASS.

JAMES Oh!

FX: THE ROOM GOES SILENT.

JAMES	It's fine. That one's mine. That's fine. Not a problem.	
ANGIE	You should probably go home. Is that mine?	
JAMES	Yeah. Yeah, here's yours.	
ANGIE	Thank you. And yeah. You should probably go home. Don't you think you've had enough to drink?	
JAMES	You know what? I might. I'm not feeling 100%.	
FX: JAMES FAINTS.		
ANGIE	Well, that answers that question.	
FX: ANGIE SIPS HER DRINK. COUGHS.		
ANGIE	What the fuck did James give me?	
FX: SHE FAINTS.		
10 INT. "INTERVIEW ROOM	1''	
JAMES	What did you do?	
MELISSA (pau	Oh, nothing at first. I just watched them. Helpless on the floor. Walked around. Preparing my story in case of unexpected witnesses. se) I chose my moment.	
JAMES	You killed them. You killed them all.	
MELISSA	No. Not all. Just her. I couldn't decide, then she looked at me with such puppy dog eyes, and there was nothing I wanted more in the world than to snuff them out.	
JAMES	I knew. I knew this wasn't real. I knew you weren't a police officer.	
MELISSA	Hmm. You were almost there you were almost clever. But not clever enough. And too willing to give in to attractive people. A lesson for the next life.	
JAMES	What are you going to do?	
MELISSA	Whatever. I. Like.	
JAMES	Huh. Wait	

MELISSA	And I'm afraid it's already time. You see, that wasn't just truth serum I gave you. It was a nice, slow acting poison. Same I gave to your friends. And, this time, you can't drop it.
JAMES	What happened to you? How did you end up in such a dark place?
MELISSA	Oh, please. Life is always a comedy until somebody dies. Now you get to appreciate that, from a unique angle. I'm doing you a service, really. It'll give you a new perspective on life.
JAMES	And Luke? And the other Luke?
MELISSA (pau	Oh, them? Believe me, their stories are very much to be continued. use) For now.

END.