

POETIC JUSTICE: PART ONE

by

Alex Stabler

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 - NIGHT

FX: LUKE OPENS THE DOOR, STEPS THROUGH AND SHUTS IT.

ANGIE Hey!

LUKE Hey!

LUKE 2
(Same 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.

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 Yeah. I am, aren't I?
(pause)
So. The two Lukes.

JAMES Yeah. Luke Warm? Walking disaster. Luke Hot?
(kisses 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)
HAHAHAHAHAIMEANOHWYDOWELLHAHAHMMNOTSUREWHATT
OSAYTHATSABITOUTOFTHEBLUEBUTIMEANYOUREREASONAB
LYATTRAC- Oh, where've you gone?

LUKE What in the name of...?

ANGIE Luke?

LUKE Yes? LUKE 2
Yes? Yes?

LUKE Oh, right. Of course.

ANGIE What? Oh -- 50p, thank you.

FX: SHE TAKES THE MONEY.

LUKE You're welcome.

FX: HE STANDS UP.

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
 (loudly)
 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 *poetry* event.

MELISSA Oh, right.

JAMES Wait -- are you telling me that one of those, maybe even me, is a *murderer*? Or that... one of them is *dead*?

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

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.

MELISSA (chuckles)
 Coming right up.

7 INT. "INTERVIEW ROOM"

JAMES It was you!

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"

JAMES What did you do?

MELISSA Oh, nothing at first. I just watched them. Helpless on the floor. Walked around. Preparing my story in case of... unexpected witnesses.

(pause)

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 Oh, them? Believe me, their stories are very much to be continued.
(pause)
For now.

END.