

On The House
"From Johnnie to Arnold"
by
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Current Revisions by
Dwight C. Douglas, 9-02-04
Dwight C. Douglas, 9-04-04
Dwight C. Douglas, 9-07-04
Dwight C. Douglas, 9-08-04
Dwight C. Douglas, 9-13-04

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FADE IN

ROLL OPENING PIECE, SHOT OF FOUR LEAF CLOVER THAT TRANSITIONS TO TIME CLOCK AT RAINBOW CELLULAR COMPANY. LARGE RAINBOW LOGO ON WALL AS EMPLOYEES FILE THROUGH PULLING TIME CARDS AND PUNCHING IN. CROSS FADE TO SHOT OF TIME LAPSE OF THE FOUR LEAF CLOVER FROM 1930 TO TODAY. MUSIC IN B.G.

NARRATOR

Some people work hard all week so they can celebrate their achievements at the local watering hole at the end of their week. This is a story about those poor souls who go drinking every night just to get through their week. To them, their just reward comes with the phrase, "This one's ON THE HOUSE."

INSERT. CALENDAR PAGE - MONDAY

EXT. FOUR LEAF CLOVER - LATE AFTERNOON

CHUCK O. BYRD WALKS DOWN THE STREET AND INTO THE TAVERN.

INT. FOUR LEAF CLOVER- SAME DAY

AS CHUCK WALKS INTO THE BAR, HE LOOKS AROUND AND SEES CARL KARLINSKI SITTING AT THEIR REGULAR TABLE - TALL WITH FOUR STOOLS.

CARL

Hey Chuck-O, how was your Monday?

CHUCK

Please, if I have to hear that Swedish meatball ask me one more time, 'so vat do you have on your plate dis veek?', They might as well throw me in front of the Six-twenty four express train.

CARL

Typical Monday.

CHUCK

Oh yeah, freakin' micro-management
Monday.

CUTE TWENTY-SOMETHING WAITRESS ALI WALKS UP TO THE TABLE.

ALI

Hi guys, the usual?

CARL

Dewars and soda on the rocks.

CHUCK

Yes, those evil doers are lurking in
every glass, right Carl?

ALI

And a Bass for you? What about your
little guy? (makes one inch gesture
with her hand)

CHUCK

Ali, please not in public. (pause)
Yeah, a shot of Johnnie Black (mimics
the gesture) and a Bass, it is a damn
Monday

CARL

Monday, Monday, can't trust that day.

ALI

You guys don't need a bad day in order
to have a drink.

CHUCK

I sense a bit of sarcasm little miss
Luciano?

ALI

Come on, I love you two guys. What
would the Four Leaf Clover be without
Carl and Chuck? Just another bar with
TV screens, (points around), and
darts, and sports crap on the walls,
and of course a cavalcade of cleavage
and crusty old horny men who come here
with hope. You guys are already
hopeless, it's great!

ALI WALKS AWAY TO GET THE DRINKS. TIGHT SHOT OF HER TIGHT
BUTT WALKING TOWARD THE BAR.

CHUCK

You know Carl, that's (points) the
future of America, right there.

CARL

Well, my future at Rainbow Cellular is
a little shaky. We shipped a bunch of
phones to this company in Athens,
Greece today.

CHUCK

Wow, that must of been a big order.

CARL

Yeah, but they should have gone to
Athens, Georgia.

(MORE)

CARL (CONT'D)

The village idiot in the mail room got
the city right, country WRONG!

CHUCK

I got some bad news today too.

CARL

What's that, did Rainbow renew your
contract?

CHUCK

Not that bad, but I think I'll have to
give up drinking. So I guess I won't
be coming here every night.

CARL

Yeah sure, you've said that before.

CHUCK

No really, I got some tests back from
the doctor. Just some elevated liver
tests.

CARL

Can I have your office? You got that
great view of all the chicks running
to the train station.

CHUCK

I'm not dying, I am just going to stop
drinking.

CARL
(tear in his eye)

You gotta keep coming to The Four Leaf
Clover with me man, or I'll have to go
back to therapy.

ALI RETURNS WITH DRINKS. RIGHT BEHIND HER IS J.J. JOHANSEN
AND SONG FONG WONG, CO-WORKERS.

ALI
Here you go guys.

JJ
Okay, you might as well bring me a
pitcher of Sam... and keep them comin'
until I see God. What a day!

SONG
I would like to have a Vot-Tee-Ka on
the locks.

CHUCK
Whoa, even Song-Fong Wong is drinking.
Must have been a bad day in graphics?

SONG NODS, ALI SPRINTS AWAY AGAIN. JJ AND SONG SIT DOWN IN
THE OTHER TWO CHAIRS.

JJ
(looking up at TVs) I'm so damn sick
of all those political ads on TV.

CARL
You know that they're all part of a
conspiracy.

CHUCK

Here we go again. Why did you bring
that up JJ?

SONG

What does it mean?

CHUCK

Don't get him started. He thinks that
Kennedy was killed by E.T.

CARL

You know I'm right Chuck-O! As soon as
the election is over, it will all come
out.

SONG

When do you have your erection?

EVERY ONE STOPS SHORT AND LOOKS AT EACH OTHER.

JJ

November 2nd.

CHUCK

I don't usually plan that far in
advance.

CARL

Talk about hanging Chads.

MUSIC UP.

INSERT. CALENDAR PAGE - TUESDAY

INT. FOUR LEAF CLOVER- EARLY EVENING

CHUCK AND CARL SITTING AT THEIR TABLE. CHUCK JUMPS UP AND
WALKS OVER TO THE BAR. KATHY KELLY, THE BARTENDER, WALKS TO
CHUCK.

KATHY

What can I do you for Chuck?

CHUCK
(throws two dollars down)

I'll take a couple of Lotto tickets.

KATHY TURNS TO GET THE TICKETS. CHUCK LOOKS AT HER TALL, WELL-SHAPED BODY FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND SHAKES HIS HEAD.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

One more thing. Do you know of any non-alcoholic drinks that actually don't have alcohol in them?

KATHY

Yeah sure, let me make you one, I'll send it over. (hands him two tickets)
Good luck OLD MAN! And remember to send me that one way ticket to whatever island you decide to spend your money on.

CHUCK

(holds up tickets) Are these the winning numbers?

KATHY

Yeah Bird-man, and you're pitching for the Yankees tomorrow night.

CHUCK STUFFS TICKETS IN POCKET AND WALKS BACK TO THE TABLE. AS HE PASSES KIMBERLY GLUCKMAN AND JOHN HENRY JACKSON AT THE BAR, THEY LIFT SHOT GLASSES AND IN UNISON SAY "FOUR MORE YEARS" CHUCK RETURNS TO TABLE.

CHUCK

I guess they're going to be coming here every night for four more years.

CARL

Yeah, but what about you?

CHUCK

I don't know, I'm starting to develop O.G.O.M. Syndrome.

CARL

What the hell is O-G-O-M?

CHUCK

Opinionated Grumpy Old Man Syndrome.

CARL

(dramatic announcer voice) Is there a cure? Can there be a cure? Can Charles O. Byrd, unappreciated marketing genius of Rainbow Cellular, find happiness after fifty?

CHUCK

Get off my ass. I'm just saying that I'm tired of people telling me what to do and then coming here and crying in my beer every night. I gotta change my lifestyle.

CARL

Oh, there's that inability to deal with authority figures.

(MORE)

CARL (CONT'D)

That, was covered in your last annual review; the one you stormed out of, I might add.

CHUCK

Where does it say that people from Sweden are the only people who know anything about cell phones? These are the same people who take steam baths, roll around in the snow and then let their wives beat them with sticks!

CARL

Oh, now we're getting to the root of all your problems. You fear American business is being taken over by foreign powers. You know they're all spies from other nations, coming here like giant sponges to suck all the intelligence from America.

CHUCK

Carl, really. (pause) Sucking, intelligence, sponges, you're getting a little oxymoronic.

ALI COMES OVER WITH TRAY FULL OF DRINKS.

ALI

Hey, nice big word there Chuck. Here ya go Carl, Dewars and soda and here's a drink that Kathy made special for you (mockingly) Mr. Big Byrd.

CHUCK

What is it? (holding glass up) It looks like a Long Island Iced Tea, is Kathy trying to kill me?

ALI

It's called an Arnold Palmer. I guess that golfer guy invented it.

CARL

That's the golfer who's wife said she kisses his balls for good luck, on the old Johnny Carson show.

ALI

(looking at Chuck) Isn't that a dangling modifier?

CHUCK

Anatomy wasn't my major. What's in this drink?

ALI

Just two-thirds iced tea and one-third lemonade. Who's Johnny Carson?

CHUCK

Thank you Ali.

ALI WALKS AWAY

CHUCK (CONT'D)

(down in depression) She is so cute,
but she makes me feel so old
sometimes.

CARL

Chuck-O, (beat) you are old. .

CHUCK

Screw you Karlinski! Here's to me,
(holds glass up) and my new life with
Arnold Palmer and whatever it takes to
have good luck.

INSERT. CALENDAR PAGE - WEDNESDAY

INT. FOUR LEAF CLOVER- EARLY EVENING

CHUCK AND CARL ALREADY AT THEIR TABLE WITH DRINKS IN FRONT OF
THEM. THE FRONT DOOR OPENS. JJ JOHANSEN, RAJEEV GUPTA AND
STEVIE CUMBERLAND WALK IN.

CHUCK

(raises arm) Over here guys.

CARL

So you were saying?

CHUCK

What I'm saying is pretty simple, if
you have lots of money and a hot car
you can get the chicks.

STEVIE

(sitting down) What are you guys,
chicken farmers? I believe all you
need to get chicks is a hen.

JJ

Thank you little miss customer
support, but I think you need at least
one rooster!

CHUCK

And if the rooster dies, one of the
hens, through a process called
spontaneous sex reversal, can
sometimes take over the job. The
ultimate women's liberation!

STEVIE

Where do you get this stuff Chuck?

RAJEEV

In my country, we have chicken Tikka,
chicken Marsala and of course chicken
Biryani.

CHUCK

Hey Gupta, what about Beef on a stick?

RAJEEV

Oh no, the cow is sacred.

CARL

Yeah you guys believe that cows are
humans who have come back as bovines.

STEVIE

And to think, that just minutes ago, I was at Victoria Secret getting a new bra.

CHUCK

Rajeev, how is everything in software development?

RAJEEV

Going quite well, Sir. (moving his head) Today we found a bug, so I will break my fast and have a beer.

JJ

(shouts across the room) Ali, pitcher of beer and three glasses!

CHUCK

We were talking about men and women, our favorite topic. See here in America, we start out by trying to find the right woman...or in your case Stevie, the right guy.

STEVIE

I assume you mean finding the right person to marry. Can we talk about something else?

RAJEEV

In my country, our parents choose for us the person we will marry.

CARL

Those are arranged marriages.

RAJEEV

Yes Carl Uncle, and we get to know our partner after we get married.

CHUCK

And how could that possibly be good for you?

RAJEEV

Well, I do not know for me presently, but in India, we only have five percent divorce rate.

CARL

And of course, more than half of our marriages end in divorce.

CHUCK

This just in, 100% of Carl's three marriages ended in divorce.

STEVIE

And you guys are proud of that?

CARL

No, but "you've got a deal" for another four thousand dollars a month, you can also pay (screams) alimony!

STEVIE

What's the point?

ALI DROPS OFF THE PITCHER AND GLASSES. JJ POURS A ROUND.

JJ

The point is that marriage is like a corporation. It looks good on paper and all the partners agree to most things in the beginning, but then the corporation takes on other partners.

STEVIE

Other partners? I don't get it.

JJ

Damn kids! Then your life is over. Everything you do is based on the soccer schedule, the little league schedule, the cheerleader try-outs...

CHUCK

Yeah, and then the corporation spends too much money and has to declare bankruptcy.

JJ

Spoken like a real cynic! (raises his filled Pilsner glass) Here's to cynicism and the realism of marriage.

RAJEEV

Cheers!

CHUCK

Cheers, Beers and Queers!

CARL

And let there always be a cock in the
hen house!

THEY ALL DRINK. STEVIE CHOKES ON HER BEER.

STEVIE

You guys are crazy. Marriage is
alright if you meet the right person.

JJ

(wipes his mouth with his hand) Oh you
are so right, cradle robber!

STEVIE GIVES JJ A REAL MEAN STARE.

CARL

Stephanie, how old is your husband?

STEVIE

He's not that young.

CHUCK

Okay, Okay guys, I've met Stevie's
husband. He's not that young, I'd say
he looks at least, what, (pause) 18?

STEVIE

Why do I come here for this abuse?

RAJEEV

You all make it so complicated. In my
country, most wives consider their
husbands next to God.

CHUCK

Thus the famous Indian expression, "Oh God, Oh God, Oh my God!"

CARL

Hey, I've read the Kama Sutra, there are at least 101 ways she can make you happy!

STEVIE

Isn't that the book with all those funny positions?

CARL

Rajeev, why don't you tell her.

RAJEEV

(looks at the other guys nervously) It is a book about the five senses: Hearing, Feeling, Seeing, Tasting and Smelling.

JJ

Sounds pretty American to me. (counts with this fingers) Screaming, groping, watching TV, eating burgers and smoking big Cuban cigars.

RAJEEV

Can we make that a veggie burger?

CHUCK

Somehow, we covered it all tonight.

CARL

Yeah, but somehow I feel a strong
conflict between my Dharma and my
Karma.

RAJEEV

You need more scotch whisky Mr. Carl.

INSERT. CALENDAR PAGE - THURSDAY

EXT. FOUR LEAF CLOVER- EARLY EVENING

CARL AND CHUCK WALK INTO FOUR LEAF CLOVER AND PAUSE AT THE
DOOR. CARL POINTS TO THE SIGN, THURSDAY NIGHT KARAOKE NIGHT.
THEY RUN INTO BIG MIKE DELANEY ONCE INSIDE.

INT. FOUR LEAF CLOVER - CONTINUOUS

CARL

Big Mike Delaney, how's it hangin'?

DELANEY

How ya doin'?

CHUCK

Hey, your Yankees lost twenty-two to
nothin' last night, you must be proud?

DELANEY

At least it wasn't the freakin' Red
Sox!

CARL AND CHUCK MOVE QUICKLY TO THEIR FAVORITE TABLE.

CARL

You shouldn't mess with him. He could
snap you in two. He could tear you
limb to limb, throttle you with one
hand tied...

CHUCK

Okay Carl, Delaney is a pussycat. All he cares about is free beer. You know his motto? "If it moves, fondle it!"

CARL

I don't know why old man Kelly keeps him around.

NOW SITTING AT THE TABLE AND SIGNALING FOR THE WAITRESS.

CHUCK

That is because he saved his life in some bar room fight about ten years ago.

SHOT OF THE 71 YEAR OLD ANGUS KELLY SITTING AT THE END OF THE BAR.

CARL

Delaney saved old man Kelly's life, cool!

CHUCK

No, Old man Kelly saved Delaney's life!

ALI APPEARS WITH THEIR DRINKS

ALI

Gentlemen.

CARL

We didn't even order. Boy you're good Ali. You'd make a great wife.

ALI

Sure, and that's why I busted my ass for four years to get a college degree! So I could remember your drink orders and make someone a good wife? You guys are living in the dark ages.

CARL

Hey, if you're are going to have that liberated feminist attitude, why don't you consider burning your bra? (looks at her chest)

ALI

(giggles) You wish, besides, why did women do that back then?

CHUCK

I think they were trying to send a message that bras were, like, a male controlling thing.

CARL

You know, "way up high and firm."
(makes gesture with his hands)

CHUCK

He's got a problem with his hands.
(makes same gesture)

CARL TAKES A MAJOR SWIG OF HIS SCOTCH AND SMILES.

ALI

Yeah, well my friend Patty paid seven thousand dollars to have that same problem with her hands.

CARL

Ali, you might want to think about some post graduate work at the school Chuck and I are starting.

ALI

What school is that Carl?

CARL

The Achievement School of Success for young women eighteen to twenty-five. We offer degrees in: "How to handle men", "Dating men twice your age" and of course one our most popular classes, "How to create titillating talk in a chat room!"

ALI

You guys are nuts. Enjoy your drinks.

ALI WALKS AWAY.

CARL

If I was younger... (staring at Ali)

CHUCK

And if I was Tom Cruise... Yada, yada, yada, Comma, Yada, Yada, Yada, next paragraph.

DOOR OPENS, JJ, STEVIE AND SONG COME INTO THE BAR. STEVIE IS CARRYING A BOX OF FLOWERS.

CARL

Oh, here we go. We have the Taiwanese princess, the cradle robber and the North Dakota cowboy. (waves at the group)

THEY WALK ACROSS THE FLOOR. ALI INTERCEPTS THEM AND GETS DRINK ORDERS. AND THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE TABLE.

CHUCK

Okay, now we have a quorum. Say Stevie, whataya got in the box?

STEVIE

Some roses.

CARL

Roses? Are they RED ROSES?

SONG

You got loses? Who send you loses?

CHUCK

(to Carl aside) What are loses? (looks back) Stevie, did your husband send you those roses?

CARL

A dozen roses, those are expensive.

STEVIE PROUDLY OPENS THE BOX TO SHOW EVERYONE.

JJ

Awww, isn't that sweet.

CARL

Wait a minute, there are only six.

CHUCK

Carl, please don't...

CARL

You know what that means?

STEVIE

No Carl, what does that mean?

CARL

Your hairless, tattooed, pierced and
peculiar husband did something bad.

Was he out last night?

STEVIE

Yeah, he worked at the club, you know
he's a DJ.

CHUCK

(trying to divert) Hey, that was
something about the Yankees... twenty-
two to nothing.

SONG

I thought they used nine prayers?

CHUCK

They needed more than prayers last
night, they needed a novena!

STEVIE

Carl, what are you trying to say?

CARL

A man sends his wife roses when he is
feeling guilty about something.

ALI ARRIVES WITH A VODKA, PITCHER OF BEER AND GLASSES. PUTS
THE DRINKS AND MOVES AWAY QUICKLY TO ANOTHER TABLE. A BUNCH
OF WELL ENDOWED YOUNG PROFESSIONAL WOMEN WALK INTO THE BAR IN
A FIT OF GIGGLES

JJ

Oh boy, better start this round. Looks
like Karaoke night is going to be
special.

CARL

But the good news Stevie, only six
roses, so he probably didn't go all
the way.

JJ

Or he's cheap.

STEVIE

You guys are the worst. (slams the top
back on the box and throws them to the
floor)

CHUCK

Guys, would you please leave her
alone! Maybe he just wanted to give
his wife a present. (looks at Stevie)
Did you check his pockets for phone
numbers?

JJ

Look at those two over there. (nods
his head in the direction)

TWO YOUNG KIDS ARE WRAPPED AROUND EACH OTHER KISSING IN A
REAL AGGRESSIVE MANNER AT ANOTHER TABLE.

JJ (CONT'D)

Hey, GET A ROOM!

CHUCK

They're young kids. They probably live
at home and this is the only place
where they can get intimate.

CARL

Yeah, still living at home. They're
probably brother and sister.

STEVIE

Carl!

ALI COMES BY.

ALI

How we doing? You wanna see a menu?

JJ

Shots of tequila for the table, it's
THURSDAY! Only one more day, thank
God!

CHUCK

Another Arnold Ali. (to himself) Boy,
that's hard to say even sober.

ALI

Since you been such a good boy tonight
Chuck, the next one is ON THE HOUSE!
(winks)

CHUCK

I must be livin' right!

SONG

You rucky you don't have to dlink to
be happy.

CHUCK

With friends like you (holds glass of
AP up) I am very RUCKY. (mocking)

MUSIC UP

INT. FOUR LEAF CLOVER- LATER THAT EVENING

MIKE DELANEY IS UP ON A LITTLE STAGE HOLDING MICROPHONE IN
FRONT OF KARAOKE MACHINE.

DELANEY

Okay, welcome to the Four Leaf Clover.
It's time for Karaoke! Who's brave
enough to sing?

PLACE IS PACKED AND ERUPTS WITH APPLAUSE. JJ TAKES A SHOT OF
TEQUILA, THEN STANDS UP, HOLDS HIS HAND UP HIGH. WALKS TO THE
STAGE AND TAKES MIC. CROWD IS CHEERING.

JJ

Thank you very much. (music starts)
It's almost Friday, so I thought I
would do a positive song (nods to DJ)
and it goes something like this:

CREDITS ROLL OVER JJ SINGING.

SUGGESTED SONG: DEVO'S BEAUTIFUL WORLD

Composed By Gerald V. Casale/Mark Mothersbaugh - Warner
Brothers Records. (c) 1981

JJ (CONT'D)

(singing) It's a beautiful world we
live in. A sweet romantic place.
Beautiful people everywhere. The way
they show they care makes me want to
say, It's a Beautiful World for you
it's a wonderful time to be here. It's
nice to be alive, wonderful people
everywhere! (continues)

FADE OUT.