

THE KING OF CURRIES

By Joe Jabbar

23 March 2002

Address
Withheld

jabbarman@yahoo.com

ACT 1

The Interview

We look upon an Indian Restaurant, it's closed because it's daytime and in the window is a sign marked "Waitress required".

(1) EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

An anxious young woman with a newspaper in her hand walks into view, looks at the sign, steps back looking up at the name of the restaurant and then knowing that she's at the right address walks in.

(2) INT. RESTAURANT RECEPTION - DAY

She sees that the inside of the restaurant is not well lit, but looks like a normal Indian Restaurant. All the tables are set neatly; there are Indian themed hangings on the walls and at the back a bar to one side.

WOMAN

Hello!

She has walked into an apparently empty Restaurant; she walks in a little further her eyes adjusting to the reduced light.

WOMAN

HELLO! ... Is anyone in?

She looks around and then cautiously walks in further taking in some of the details. She really wants this job and isn't about to let mere silence stop her. Her gaze eventually falls upon a bright object nestling on the bar. She's drawn to it.

(3) INT. RESTAURANT DEEPER WITHIN - DAY

She leans down; her face getting closer to the object and just begins to read the inscription under it when suddenly a face appears next to hers.

MAN

Cajun cooking!

Reena is a little taken aback by the sudden appearance of the man.

WOMAN

Cajun!

The man mistakes the repetition for a question

MAN

Croatian Asian!

WOMAN

Cajun cooking Croatian Asian?

MAN

Croatian Asian Cajun cooking King of
Curries!

The man explains with pride. There's a pause as they both look at each other.

WOMAN

Do you always alliterate your answers?

MAN

Pardon?

WOMAN

Sorry... nothing, I've come about the
job, that's if you're still looking for
someone?

MAN

Oh yes, yes, yes. You're the first to
reply to the ad.

WOMAN

Good. Hopefully I'll be the last.

The man smiles approvingly and motions towards a table with chairs.

(4) INT. RESTAURANT SEATING AREA - DAY

The man is dressed in chef's clothing. He shows the woman to a chair.

WOMAN

So, you're the King of Curries?

The chef sits down with the woman. He smiles in an embarrassed manner.

MAN/RAJA

I suppose so. Raja's the name, Chef
and owner of this little place.

WOMAN/REENA

My name is Reena. And I really want
this job!

RAJA

You do don't you. Tell me Reena have
you worked around here before?

REENA

Well, I've just come into the area but
I once did two weeks in a Tapas bar in
Tamworth.

RAJA

Looks like I'm not the only alligator.

Reena manages to suppress a strong urge to laugh

REENA

Doh! ... You got me there.

RAJA

Anyway, I've had to let go of my last waitress so she won't be here this evening, so maybe you could start tonight?

Reena is pleasantly startled.

REENA

Err... yes! I suppose I could... I mean absolutely.

RAJA

Great, lets see how you cope tonight, if you work out you're in.

Reena smiles in delight.

(5) EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

We see Raja smiling as he takes away the waitress wanted sign.

ACT 2

Bon Appetite

It's night time in the Restaurant. It's well lit, there is music in the background and it's crowded with customers happily enjoying their meals.

(6) INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Reena is weaving in amongst the customers taking orders, delivering meals and clearing away dishes. The customers are getting increasingly voluble with their praises for the food and demands for more.

(7) INT. RESTAURANT RECEPTION - NIGHT

Some customers have put their coats on and are leaving; Reena holds the door open for them.

REENA

Thank you. Please come again

Some more customers arrive at the same time. Reena welcomes them and shows them to their table.

(8) INT. RESTAURANT SEATING AREA - NIGHT

Later, Reena looks closer at the customers. They're all gorging themselves, in rapturous appreciation of their food. She takes their orders

(9) INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Raja's hands can be seen deftly cooking and serving the food into their containers. Reena comes into the Kitchen to collect it and they look into each other's eyes.

(10) INT. RESTAURANT SEATING AREA - NIGHT

The music becomes intoxicating and Reena finds herself dancing around the customers and tables in time to the music as she not only copes with but also begins to thrive in her waitress duties.

(11) INT. RESTAURANT RECEPTION - NIGHT

The last customers are being shown out by Reena, She takes the dirty plates and heads off into the kitchen.

(12) INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Raja finishes putting away something and closes the fridge door.

RAJA

Have all the customers gone?

Reena puts the plates into the sink

REENA

I'm relieved to say yes. It's
exhausting serving so many people, the
best curry in the country.

RAJA

Well now it's not going to be possible
without you.

Reena smiles at the thought of having met with Raja's approval.

RAJA

Could I just ask you to finish off
those plates?

Reena is happy to oblige. Raja looks on, smiles and then goes
into the Restaurant dining area.

Reena finishes washing the plates, dries her hands and makes her
way to the dining area. Before she gets to the door we see that
the lights go off. Reena doesn't notice this.

ACT 3

A fridge too far

(13) INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Reena re-enters the dining area and finds it silent, empty and in darkness. She stops in her tracks, confused. She looks around for Raja but there's no sign of him. She walks briskly over to the door and tries it. It is locked and there is no sign of the key. She turns and heads back to the kitchen.

(14) INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Reena enters the kitchen again and looks in the direction of the fridge. The fridge door is open. Reena looks around.

REENA

Raja! ... Raja? The ... urm ... I think
we've been locked in

Raja?

She walks towards the fridge

Reena is standing in front of the fridge apparently in the yellow glow of the light from the fridge. Her eyes widen in incredulity. Suddenly outstretched arms emerge out of shadow and push Reena violently into the fridge. Raja emerges into the light and closes the fridge door.

(15) EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Raja can be seen placing the "waitress required" sign back in the Restaurant window.

The End