

THE BALLAD OF JOHN

by

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

JOHN.....a bartender, early twenties  
TARA.....a college student, late teens  
BRENNNA.....John's friend from college  
MACK.....the neighborhood policeman

TIME: Night--The fall of 1998

SETTING: Upstage area suggests a back alley in a run-down city. A brick wall with broken windows represents the back of an abandoned warehouse building. Downstage areas of green and shrubbery indicate a park and a wooded area.

*ACT ONE*

**SCENE 1**

(AT RISE we see JOHN, early twenties, in the alley and leaning up against the warehouse wall. He is fidgeting with a small package. After a few moments TARA, late teens, enters. JOHN quickly hides the package behind his back.)

JOHN

I thought you weren't coming.

TARA

Why would you think that?

JOHN

It's ten o'clock.

(Pause.)

TARA

John, I'm really concerned about you.

JOHN

People keep saying that, "I'm really concerned about you."

TARA

Maybe that's because people really are concerned about you.

(pause)

What are we doing here?

(suddenly angry)

What are we doing here!?

(JOHN pulls the package out from behind his back and holds it out, presenting it to TARA.)

JOHN

This is for you.

TARA

(not taking the package)

What is this?