

One Tea Too Many

(Based Upon a True Story)

Introduction:

The following script is the result of one of those “live and learn” moments. When this story was first related to me, I thought there might be an element of “suspense” that would work well in a comic format. I could see the panels, art, and dialog in my head. But then after I wrote it, and went back and read it, I saw that I was wrong and that it does not work in the comic format at all!

What I learned from this is what I am guessing all comic writers learn the hard way (and early on, if they are lucky), and that is that not all stories can be successfully done in a comic form.

There are many forms of story telling. Novels, movies, animation, anime, comics, poetry, etc. To write a successful story, you must find the best medium for that particular story. In this case, it is not the comic book format.

So for those who want me to know this didn't work, you can relax and be assured that I already know.

This story was originally written for Issue #2 of my “In the City” comic book series. But since I am trying to make that a quality series, it will not be included. But also since I did spend a couple of days writing it, and since it is based upon a true story, I decided to put it out there anyway with this disclaimer introduction.

Enjoy the story.

Thomas A. McKean
-09/22/10

P.S. Names in this story were changed, not to protect the innocent, but because I was threatened with death upon my person if I were to use the real names.

PAGE ONE: SPLASH PANEL

PANEL ONE

Night in a Texas suburb. View is from inside driver's seat of the car. A pretty young girl (LuAnn) has just been pulled over by the police. There is an officer shining his flashlight into the car. He is speaking to LuAnn.

[CAPTION]: A wonderful evening with her boyfriend turns to a nightmare for LuAnn on the way home when...

OFFICER: I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to step out of the car, Ma'am.

[CAPTION]: LuAnn -- a criminal? Could this be a misunderstanding, or is there something more sinister happening? Find out in...

[TITLE]: One Tea Too Many!*

[CAPTION]: (small)
*Based upon a true story.

[CAPTION]: There are a thousand stories in the city, and this is one of those stories!

PAGE TWO

PANEL ONE

Living room at night. A couple in their early 20's are enjoying the evening. This is Billy and LuAnn. They are sitting on the sofa watching a movie. LuAnn is wearing jeans with a belt and a long sleeve shirt. She is up close to Billy. She is holding a large glass of tea that is almost empty.

LUANN: I'm having a great time tonight, Billy.

BILLY: Me, too, LuAnn.

PANEL TWO

Close on LuAnn, holding up the tea glass and "making eyes" at Billy.

LUANN: Do you have anymore of that
delicious tea?

BILLY: (O.S.)
Coming right up!

PANEL THREE

Billy walking back to LuAnn with a full glass of tea.

BILLY: Here you are.

LUANN: Thank you, Billy.

PANEL FOUR

View facing the sofa. Billy and LuAnn sitting closely together on the sofa watching the television. LuAnn is sipping her tea.

TELEVISION: (electrical)
EEEEK! It's--It's some of
creature! No. NO! Don't come
near me! Get away! Get
awaaaayyy!!!

PANEL FIVE

Back to Billy and LuAnn. Billy is smiling.

BILLY: I just love these old rubber
suit monster movies...

PAGE THREE

PANEL ONE

On LuAnn, looking at Billy. You can see that around 1/3 of her tea is gone.

LUANN: I can't tell what you see in
these. They are ridiculous.
You can tell that monster is
just a guy in a badly made rubber
suit. The acting is horrible
and the script is atrocious!

PANEL TWO

On a smug Billy.

BILLY: That's the whole point, LuAnn.
Where you see absurdity, I see
art! This movie is so bad, and
that's what makes it so good!

PANEL THREE

On LuAnn, rolling her eyes.

LUANN: Sometimes I don't know why I
love you.

PANEL FOUR

On Billy and LuAnn. Billy is speaking to LuAnn as LuAnn takes another drink of tea.

BILLY: It is obviously because I am
intelligent, cute, and most of
all I have excellent taste in
movies.

PANEL FIVE

On LuAnn, giving Billy a sultry look.

LUANN: Yeah. I guess that must be it.

PAGE FOUR

PANEL ONE

Long, horizontal panel. Billy and LuAnn are looking at each other. There is a sexual tension between them.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL TWO

LuAnn turns her head away.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL THREE

On a resigned LuAnn.

LUANN: I wish I could stay, Billy.
But it's 2:00am already and I
have work tomorrow.

PANEL FOUR

On Billy, getting up from the couch.

BILLY: I'll walk you to your car.

PANEL FIVE

On LuAnn, driving down deserted road in the middle of the night.
There are trees and bushes along the sides of the road.

[CAPTION]: We'll give these two their
privacy when saying goodbye and
rejoin LuAnn a short time later,
as...

LUANN: (thought)
Maybe I shouldn't have had that
second glass of tea...

PAGE FIVE

PANEL ONE

On LuAnn. Fidgeting in the driver's seat as she goes down the
long, dark, lonely road.

LUANN: (thought)
Now I know I shouldn't have had
that last glass of tea!

PANEL TWO

On LuAnn, driving with one hand and holding her lower belly
with the other.

LUANN: (thought)
Maybe I can pull over? But
what if I am seen? What if
someone sees me while I'm...?

PANEL THREE

On LuAnn, thinking further.

LUANN: There should be a place I can
 stop a few miles down the road...

PANEL FOUR

View from behind LuAnn's car as it weaves slightly back and forth along the dark road.

[CAPTION]: So focused is LuAnn on her
 extended bladder that she fails
 to notice she is driving
 erratically!

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL FIVE

View from behind police car which is a bit behind LuAnn.

[CAPTION]: But not far behind LuAnn, it
 does not go so unnoticed!

PAGE SIX

PANEL ONE

View on LuAnn. Red and blue lights can be seen flashing behind her and she is looking at her rear view mirror.

LUANN: Oh no, not now.

LUANN: NOT NOW!

PANEL TWO

View from behind. LuAnn pulls over to the side of the road, police car follows. Shadows of two officers can be seen in the police car.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL THREE

Inside LuAnn's car. One officer (Officer Sanchez) is standing at her window as the window comes down.

LUANN: Hello, officer.

SANCHEZ: Evening, Ma'am. May I see your license, registration and proof of insurance, please?

PANEL FOUR

LuAnn hands the officer her paperwork.

LUANN: Here you go, Officer.

PANEL FIVE

On Sanchez and LuAnn. Sanchez is examining paperwork.

SANCHEZ: Are you aware that you were weaving back and forth along the road, Ma'am?

LUANN: No, Sir. I was not aware.

PANEL SIX

On Sanchez, looking serious like a cop.

SANCHEZ: I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to step out of the car, Ma'am.

PAGE SEVEN

PANEL ONE

On LuAnn.

LUANN: (thought)
If I move from this spot, I'm going to... No. I have to. It's the police. This is so embarrassing!

PANEL TWO

On LuAnn and Sanchez. LuAnn is getting out of the car.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL THREE

On Sanchez.

SANCHEZ: Stand over here and put your hands on the car, Ma'am.

PANEL FOUR

On LuAnn. She is standing with her hands on the car. Sanchez is looking over her paperwork.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL FIVE

On LuAnn. Standing with her hands on the car and fidgeting. Sanchez looks up and notices her discomfort.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL SIX

On Sanchez.

SANCHEZ: Is something wrong, Ma'am?

PANEL SEVEN

On a very uncomfortable LuAnn, still with her hands on the car.

LUANN: (embarrassed)
Yes...

PAGE EIGHT

PANEL ONE

Close on LuAnn.

LUANN: (embarrassed)
You see, Officer, I really do need to...

PANEL TWO

On LuAnn, looking down and even more embarrassed.

LUANN: ...relieve myself...

PANEL THREE

On Sanchez, giving serious cop look to LuAnn.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle, with Sanchez, LuAnn, LuAnn's car and police car. Shadow of Garcia can be seen through police car windshield. Sanchez is trying to get Garcia's attention.

SANCHEZ: Hey! Garcia! We got a live one, here!

PANEL FIVE

On Garcia, getting out of car.

GARCIA: What's up, Sanchez?

PAGE NINE

PANEL ONE

On all three as Garcia approaches LuAnn and Sanchez. LuAnn still has her hands on the car.

SANCHEZ: Girl here says she has to whiz!

GARCIA: Is that right, Ma'am?

PANEL TWO

On LuAnn.

LUANN: I'm...I'm sorry, Officer.

PANEL THREE

On all three.

GARCIA: It's okay, Ma'am, I understand.
You are free to go.

SANCHEZ: Now hang on a minute, Garcia...

SANCHEZ: How do we know she's telling
the truth? You saw her driving.

PANEL FOUR

On Garcia and Sanchez.

GARCIA: Sanchez, now is not the time
to...

SANCHEZ: I'm just saying we have a job
to do, Garcia.

PANEL FIVE

On Garcia.

GARCIA: >sigh<

GARCIA: You're the boss, Sanchez, I
can't stop you. Go ahead.

PAGE TEN

PANEL ONE

On Sanchez and LuAnn.

SANCHEZ: Have you been drinking this
evening, Ma'am?

LUANN: Yes. I've been drinking tea.

PANEL TWO

On Sanchez and LuAnn.

SANCHEZ: I'm afraid I'm going to have to
ask you to walk in a straight
line, Ma'am.

LUANN: You have **got** to be kidding me.

PANEL THREE

On Garcia and LuAnn.

GARCIA: Sanchez, she's okay. Let her go.

LUANN: There's certainly going to be problems if I don't "go" and soon!

PANEL FOUR

On Garcia.

GARCIA: Then let's get this over with. Walk the line, Ma'am, one foot directly in front of the other.

PANEL FIVE

On LuAnn, doing a balancing act to please the officer.

[NO DIALOG]:

PAGE ELEVEN

PANEL ONE

On Sanchez.

SANCHEZ: Thank you, Ma'am, you did very well.

SANCHEZ: Now I have to ask you to touch your nose with your eyes closed.

PANEL TWO

On Sanchez and LuAnn.

LUANN: Officer, I **really** need to...

SANCHEZ: ...This won't take any time at all, Ma'am.

PANEL THREE

On LuAnn, with her eyes closed. One arm is out, the other is reaching in to touch her nose.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL FOUR

On Sanchez.

SANCHEZ: Very good, Ma'am. Now, I need you to recite your A B C's for me.

PANEL FIVE

On a desperate LuAnn.

LUANN: If I don't get somewhere right now...

PAGE TWELVE

PANEL ONE

On Sanchez and Garcia.

GARCIA: Sanchez, how long are you going to make her wait?

SANCHEZ: Knock it off, Garcia, this is the last test. She can go after this.

PANEL TWO

On LuAnn.

LUANN: (thought)
In more ways than one, I pray!

LUANN: A-B-C-D-E-F...

PANEL THREE

On LuAnn, holding her belly and doubling over in pain.

LUANN: >ooohhhh!!!<

PANEL FOUR

On Garcia and LuAnn.

GARCIA: Are you okay, Ma'am?

LUANN: ...I really don't think I am.

PANEL FIVE

On all three.

SANCHEZ: Soon you recite your A B C's,
you can go.

PANEL SIX

On LuAnn, with a strained look on her face.

[CAPTION]: And so LuAnn, barely, does her
A B C's.

LUANN: (singing)
Now I know my A B C's, won't
you come and play with me?

PAGE THIRTEEN

PANEL ONE

On Sanchez.

SANCHEZ: Thank you, Ma'am. We also would
have accepted, "Next time won't
you sing with me."

SANCHEZ: You are free to go.

PANEL TWO

On LuAnn and Garcia. LuAnn is getting into her car.

GARCIA: There is a place a couple of
miles down the road where you
can take care of your business,
Ma'am.

LUANN: That's where I was heading,
Officer.

PANEL THREE

On LuAnn and Garcia. LuAnn is in her car.

GARCIA: Drive safely, Ma'am.

LUANN: Thank you, Officer.

PANEL FOUR

On Luann's car, pulling into gas station and convenience store.

LUANN: (thought)
I thought I'd never get here.
But I don't think I am going to
make it!

PANEL FIVE

On LuAnn, getting out of her car.

LUANN: (thought)
Oh please please PLEASE!

PAGE FOURTEEN

On Luann, running through the door of convenience store.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL TWO

On LuAnn, running towards the ladies room. Teenage male clerk behind the counter is watching her run.

CLERK: >????<

PANEL THREE

On LuAnn in ladies room. She is in a stall unbuckling her belt and looking to be in severe distress.

[NO DIALOG]:

PANEL FOUR

On LuAnn, finally sitting down.

SFX: >!!!FFFFSSSSSSSSSSSS!!!<

PANEL FIVE

On LuAnn, obviously feeling better.

LUANN: (thought)
Ahhhh....Relief at LAST!

[CAPTION]: There are a thousand stories in
the city, and this is one of
those stories!

END