

THE LITTLE VOICE

A Two-Act Interactive Play by

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A Two-Act Interactive Play

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Scene One ..... In the kitchen of Joe and Rachel

Scene Two (OPTION 1) ..... In the new, expensive kitchen of Joe and Rachel

Scene Two (OPTION 2) ..... In the original kitchen of Joe and Rachel

**RUNNING TIME:**  
8-10 minutes

THE LITTLE VOICE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

JOE ..... AGE MID-to-LATE 30s, AN AMBITIOUS SALES PERSON  
RACHEL ..... AGE MID30s, LOVING WIFE OF JOE  
  
JENIFER ..... AGE 15, DAUGHTER  
ANTON ..... AGE 13, SON

THE LITTLE VOICE

## SETTING:

## ACT 1:

CENTER STAGE—A MODEST KITCHEN ROOM SETTING WITH KITCHENETTE TABLE; FOUR CHAIRS— JOE, DRESSED IN DRESS SLACKS AND POLO SHIRT, SITS ON THE LEFT CHAIR, RACHEL, DRESSED IN A NURSE'S UNIFORM, SITS ON THE CENTER CHAIR, THE OTHER TWO CHAIRS ARE EMPTY; JOE AND RACHEL BOTH SIT BEHIND EMPTY PLATES. EMPTY PLATES ALSO OCCUPY THE EMPTY CHAIRS. FAR RIGHT IS A COUNTER WITH COFFEE MAKER, JUICE CONTAINER AND A TELEPHONE. FAR LEFT IS A DOOR.

## ACT 2 (OPTION 1):

THE SETTING IS SIMILAR EXCEPT REFLECTS A NEW, EXPENSIVE KITCHEN (PERHAPS SWAP OUT KITCHEN TABLE AND CHAIRS, AND COUNTER APPLIANCES WITH EXPENSIVE, NEW ITEMS). ALSO, NOTE INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN SCRIPT.

## ACT 2 (OPTION 2):

THE SETTING IS GENERALLY IDENTICAL TO ACT 1, WITH ATTENTION TO NOTED INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN SCRIPT.

THE LITTLE VOICE

**JOE:** (somber, unsure) Honey, it's the chance of a lifetime. Everything we've dreamt of.

**RACHEL:** (skeptical, yet supportive) When we were in college. I know this is a big opportunity for you. But we have kids now. We have roots in this community.

**JOE:** Roots? What roots? We've lived here just five years.

**RACHEL:** (gets up, carries her plate and glass to the counter) Joe, do you remember how long it took Anton to make friends when we moved here?

**JOE:** He's older now. Besides we'd only be a few hours away.

**RACHEL:** He's still the same boy. A few hours or a few days--no difference, they're both a world away to a thirteen year old. (picks up purse and jacket) And Jenifer is doing quite well in this school. She has youth group and she's very dedicated to her team--your soccer team! Do you want to throw that away?

**JOE:** Throw what away? I can coach another team anywhere. Jen won't care.

**RACHEL:** (heading for the door, adamant) She will and you won't! This job will demand a lot more of your time, don't kid yourself. (pauses) Think about it. I'm behind whatever you decide, but I've got to go now. (leaves through the door)

**JOE:** (yells to her Rachel) You won't have to work anymore.

**RACHEL:** (off stage) It's not work. I love what I do.

Joe contemplates.

**VOICE 1:** (God mic: loud, authoritative, dry) Sales manager! In command of 3,000 people. It's a dream come true Mr. Smeltzer. Six figures puts you in the top ten percentile. A whole new ball game. Big league. You'll need a top notch accountant, a money manager, a few bright stock brokers and, of course, a slick tax attorney. A good, off-shore tax shelter is a must to protect your well deserved, hard earned cash. You've reached the big league. Congratulations. (pause) Do you have a pre-nup?

**VOICE 2:** (God mic: loud, slick, fast-talking like a used car salesman) You'll soon be living the high life my friend. Jet setting. High roller friends. Country club membership. Tailor-made clothes. A boat. A sport car. Heck, two sport cars and... a sixty-nine GTO for cruise nights. Your kids can go to private schools, no... boarding schools. You'll be able to provide your lovely all the things a wife should have—an Escalade, jewelry, designer dresses, health spa treatments, and plastic surg-- err, I mean cosmetic surgery. You've made it pal!

**VOICE 3:** (God mic: barely audible, warm) Joe. (complete silence) Joe, consider your life right now. Do you really want to give all this up? Do you want to walk away from your soccer team? All those girls look up to you Joe...even your daughter. What greater reward? (pause) Your son will expect that same commitment one day. How would Anton accept negligence? He's just a boy. (pause) And Joe, be real careful to not take Rachel for granted. Don't do it. You must realize her role at the clinic is fulfilling to her. Those patients need her. Her absence would be a great loss to many. And Joe, I see a mighty role for you in your church's youth gr--

The other voices all start chiming at once, drowning out the little voice.

FREEZE ACTION. COMMENTATOR ENTERS. VOICES FADE.

**COMMENTATOR:** Joe has a bit of a dilemma as many of us do... but, Joe's always had a bit of problem making big decisions. Rachel's made her case, but so have the voices. So now I ask you to help Joe. A show of hands. Does Joe take the career job with of his dreams? Or does Joe keep life as is—relatively uneventful and mediocre, but safe and stable? Take the job? (survey response) Decline the offer? (survey response)  
[STATE RESPONSE]

COMMENTATOR EXITS.

RESUME ACTION WITH OPTION OF CHOSEN RESPONSE.

THE ALTERNATE OPTION IS PERFORMED LATER, EITHER WITHIN THE MESSAGE; OR AFTER A TRANSITION ANNOUNCING "WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD JOE MADE THE OTHER CHOICE;" OR NOT PERFORMED AT ALL—LEFT FOR THE SPEAKER TO COMMENT ON.

**ACT II — OPTION #1 - Joe Takes The Job**

Joe walks to the phone and dials a number.

**JOE:** Mr. Barrington? Joseph Smeltzer. I would like to accept your offer--

Jenifer and Anton enter, both toting backpacks. Both are dressed in conservative, yet stylish clothing. Both are happy and well-adjusted.

**JOE:** Yes. Thank you. Two weeks. You got it.

Joe hangs up, leans against the counter, happy

**JENIFER:** Dad, don't forget, practice at six tonight. (cheerful) I truly think we have a real shot this year!

Jenifer approaches Joe, kisses him on the cheek then picks up a bagged lunch from the counter.

**ANTON:** (timidly proud) I get to play short stop tomorrow.

**JOE:** (proud) That's fantastic!

**ANTON:** Are you going to be there?

**JOE:** Wouldn't miss it for anything.

**JENIFER:** Bus is here! Love you.

Jenifer departs out the door. Anton picks up his bagged lunch, smiles and waves bye to Joe.

FADE LIGHTS. RESET STAGE.

**VOICE 3:** (God mic: barely audible, warm) Joe... it's not too late.

VIDEO SCREEN reads: "ONE YEAR LATER"

RAISE LIGHTS.

Rachel is sitting at a new, expensive table, drinking black coffee. Her hair is askew and she still dons make-up from the night before. A near empty bottle of expensive Scotch is on the counter.

Joe, dressed for success enters, grabs a briefcase, a top coat and a travel mug. He gives Rachel a quick peck on the cheek, heads for the door

**RACHEL:** Will you drop the kids off to school?

**JOE:** No can do. Can't wait. Have them take the bus. And don't hold dinner for me tonight either, I have a meeting at the club.

Joe goes out the door before Rachel can respond. She sadly shakes her head.

**RACHEL:** (cynical) Take the bus. Yeah, right.

Jenifer and Anton enter. Jenifer is "fashionably" dressed, much looser than before. Anton is heavy in black—clothes and hair. He opens a Pop Tart package and eats right out of the wrapper

**ANTON:** (commands to Rachel) Let's go!

Anton puts head phones on.

**JENIFER:** Rael's picking me up after school. We're hitting the mall. New Eminem.

**RACHEL:** When will you be home?

Jenifer shrugs and struts out the door. Anton holds out his hand.

**ANTON:** (commands, loud due to the headphones) Lunch money!

Rachel sighs and reaches in her purse.

LIGHTS FADE.

**VOICE 3:** (God mic: barely audible, warm) It's not too late. It's never too late.

THE END.

**ACT II — OPTION #2 - Joe Declines The Offer**

Joe walks to the phone and hesitantly dials a number

**JOE:** Mr. Barrington? Joseph Smeltzer. After careful consideration...

Jenifer and Anton enter, both toting backpacks. Both are dressed in conservative, yet stylish clothing. Both are happy and well-adjusted.

**JOE:** ...I must decline your offer. As much as this is a dream come true for me, I have other obligations I must consider as well. (pause) Yes, I knew you would understand, and I thank you once again.

Joe hangs up, leans against the counter, pleased.

**JENIFER:** Dad, don't forget, practice at six tonight. (cheerful) I truly think we have a real shot this year!

Jenifer approaches Joe, kisses him on the cheek then picks up a bagged lunch from the counter.

**ANTON:** (timidly proud) I get to play short stop tomorrow.

**JOE:** (proud) That's fantastic!

**ANTON:** Are you going to be there?

**JOE:** I don't think I can make it, gotta work.

**ANTON:** (shocked) Wha--

**JOE:** (broad smile, hugs Anton) Wouldn't miss it for anything.

**JENIFER:** Bus is here! Love you.

Jenifer departs out the door. Anton picks up his bagged lunch, smiles and waves bye to Joe.

FADE LIGHTS. RESET STAGE.PROPS

**VOICE 3:** (God mic: barely audible, warm) Need I say more?

VIDEO SCREEN reads: "ONE YEAR LATER"

RAISE LIGHTS.

Rachel, dressed as in Act I, pours juice in four glasses at four settings on the same, original kitchenette table. Joe enters, gives Rachel a well-received, affectionate hug from behind.

**JOE:** I'll drive the kids this morning.

Joe sits at the table, Rachel sits in a chair close to him.

**RACHEL:** They don't mind taking the bus. Actually, I think Anton actually has a little girl friend on the bus.

**JOE:** I like to drive them every now and then. It really gives me a chance to connect with them before they start their day. I'm in no rush. Besides they'll be on with their own lives before we know it. (teasingly) Then it's just you and I.

Rachel raises a single eyebrow, welcoming the prospects.

Jenifer and Anton enter. Both are properly dressed. They sit in the remaining seats.

**JENIFER:** Mom, Dad... may I go to the movies with Billy Murphy Friday night--it'll be with a bunch of other kids from youth group?

**JOE:** Sure.

**ANTON:** (to Jenifer) I got my league banquet Friday. You gonna miss that? It's the first time our team ever won the championship. I may be up for MVP!

Jenifer is suddenly perplexed.

**RACHEL:** I can tape it for her.

Anton thinks a moment, then nods approvingly

Joe surveys his family, takes a deep, apprehensive breath.

**JOE:** Family pow-wow moment.

All turn their attention to Joe.

**JOE:** I've been given a new job opportunity. (pause) It may mean a degree of sacrifice on all our parts.

Jenifer and Anton hold their breath for what's to come. Rachel already aware of the news monitors the kid's reactions. Joe lets the moment linger.

**JENIFER:** What's the job?

**JOE:** (very serious look, then broad smile) I've been offered the regional director position at Habitat for Humanity. (pause) Money will be tight, not a lot of perks, no new cars or fancy clothes, but... we will keep cable though, I promise.

Rachel shakes her head—goof ball.

**JENIFER:** No big deal to me, I'll be off to college next year anyway.

Unaffected, Jenifer resumes with her meal. Anton however is still eyeing Joe, with no particular sense of emotion on his face.

**RACHEL:** (concerned, to Anton) The important thing is your dad will be around more than ever. He'll have lots more time.

Anton still remains unmoved.

**JOE:** (concerned, to Anton) Well?

Long pause.

**ANTON:** (authoritative) What's the little voice say?

LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE.

THE END.