

EXTRAORDINARY TATTOO
By Dylan Dawson

CHARACTERS:

Joey “Needles”

Aged 30, played by Dylan.

Sally

Aged 12 in Earth years, played by Ruby

Tough Customer

John, please ☺

Two biker dudes

Interns.

SCENE 1

Time: Evening.

Place: Tattoo parlor.

At Rise: Joey Needles is tattooing a Tough Customer’s arm. Joey wears a pair of glasses that have one of those cool magnifying lens attachments on it.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

Ow.
Ow.
Ow.
Ow.

Joey stops tattooing.

JOEY NEEDLES

It’s supposed to hurt, you know?

TOUGH CUSTOMER

I’m fine.

JOEY NEEDLES

Are you sure? Cause we can take five if you need it.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

I said I’m FINE!

A beat. Joey starts tattooing again.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

Ow.
Ow.
Ow.

The door jingles and SALLY enters - perhaps accompanied by a guitar riff. She wears a leather jacket over a pink outfit. Sunglasses too maybe.

SALLY

Joseph Niedermeyer?

JOEY NEEDLES

Yep that's me. But the name on the sign out front is what most people call me – Joey Needles.

SALLY

Well Mr. Needles, I need you to give me a tattoo.

JOEY NEEDLES

Sorry lady, but I'm closing up shop once I'm finished with Hurty McOwsalot here.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

Hey..!

JOEY NEEDLES

But I'm sure I can set up an appointment for you –

(looks up, sees her for the first time)

- in about ten years, kid, sheesh. You want temporary tattoos, try the mall.

SALLY

I'm not as young as I look, Mr. Needles. Besides, I don't think that what I want comes in a sticker.

Sally unfolds a piece of paper with a design on it, shows it to Needles. There's a dramatic musical stinger as Needles sees the design, causing him to drag the needle along the customer's arm in shock.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

OW! WHAT THE-!?!?

SALLY

I need this tattoo, Joseph. And you're the only one who can give it to me.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

HEY! WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY ARM!?!

JOEY NEEDLES

What? Oh right...

Joey starts pushing Tough Customer out the door.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

Hey what's the big idea, Joey?! Look if you messed up my sweet tat...!

JOEY NEEDLES

So Snoopy has a mustache, big deal! Now GET OUT!

CUSTOMER

You're even crazier than everyone says you are, Needles, you know that?!!
Well I'm coming back!! With FRIENDS!!

Joey locks the door and turns to face Sally, his eyes wide with fear.

JOEY NEEDLES

(pointing at piece of paper)

Where did you get that?

SALLY

First show me your hand so I can be sure you are who you say you are.

Joey hesitates, then holds up all five fingers revealing a strangely patterned tattoo on his hand. Perhaps it is projected as well.

JOEY NEEDLES

There she is. Got 'er when they took me up in that spacecraft of theirs. I take it whoever led you to me told you about my alien abduction twenty years ago?

SALLY

Twenty years ago tonight, actually.

JOEY NEEDLES

Heyyy! How did you know tonight was my abductiversary??

SALLY

Because, Joseph Neidermeyer. I'm the one who abducted you.

Musical stinger.

JOEY NEEDLES

Now, listen kid. I don't know who put you up to this, but I'm going to have to kindly ask you leave my-

SALLY

(speaking in a scary – i.e. prerecorded and lip synced – voice that couldn't possibly belong to a 12-year old)

Joseph Neidermeyer! You have been selected for abduction by visitors from the Planet Inkblart! Congratulations on your selection and please stop crying like that. You're embarrassing yourself!

(her voice back to normal)

Sound familiar?

Joey starts crying. In an embarrassing way.

JOEY NEEDLES

Oh God! You're gonna take me away again, aren't you?!! Wahhhh, I don't wanna go away again, wahhhhh!!!

Sally steps up on a stool and slaps Joey across the face, hard.

SALLY

Joseph, settle down. I'm not here to abduct you. I'm here so you can help me go home.

JOEY NEEDLES

Buh?

SALLY

I'll explain on the way, come on.

JOEY NEEDLES

Oh no. You want me to give you a tattoo, that's fine. But I'm not going anywhere with an extra terrestrial that I don't want to. I made that promise to myself nineteen years and three hundred and sixty four days ago.

SALLY

Fine. Can I just see your hand one more time real quick?

JOEY

Sure.

Joey holds out his hand. Sally grabs it, slams it on his table of tools, and reveals a giant scary looking blade from out of nowhere.

JOEY

What are you DOING??!! I thought you just wanted a tattoo??!

SALLY

Yup! THAT tattoo. And since you're not giving it to me, I'm gonna have to TAKE it!

She raises it up and is about to chop when...

JOEY

(singing in a panicked wail)

WAAAAAAAAAAAAIIIIIIITTTTTTTTT!

SONG: "PLEASE DON'T CHOP OFF MY HAND!"

Super upbeat, rocking and fast. Think Meatloaf. I know you guys don't use electric guitars, but man...

JOEY

(singing)

**PLEASE DON'T CHOP OFF MY HAND
CRAZY SPACE LADY
IT'S THE ONLY THING I GOT
IT'S HOW I MAKE MY TATTOOS!**

(I'M SAYIN')

**PRETTY PLEASE DON'T CHOP OFF MY HAND
PLEASE, ARE YOU CRAZY?
JUST TAKE A FOOT INSTEAD
THOSE THINGS I HARDLY EVER USE**

SALLY

(singing)

**WELL I'M GONNA HAVE TO CHOP OFF YOUR HAND
YOU WHINY BABY
THAT TATTOO IS A SIGNAL
IT'S WHY WE GAVE IT TO YOUU**

(SO I'M)

**GONNA REALLY CHOP OFF YOUR HAND
UNLESS YOU TRUST ME
AND TRUST ME IF YOU DON'T, MAN
THEN WE'RE REALLY BOTH SCREWED!!**

JOEY NEEDLES

What do you mean we're both screwed?

Sally faces out, the music vamps meaningfully underneath.

SALLY

When we came here twenty years ago, I really was twelve years old, and just starting to realize there was a world outside of my planet. So while my parents were busy trying to get you to stop crying-

JOEY NEEDLES

I'm a crier! I get it!

SALLY

- I snuck off the spaceship to see the world.

JOEY NEEDLES

You ran away.

SALLY

That's right. I discovered motorcycles and music and the color pink. It was all a great adventure. But now I realize that the best adventure is the one that brings you home to the Inkblarts you love. That's why I need your tattoo.

JOEY NEEDLES

Look, lord knows I fantasize getting off this planet from time to pretty much all the time. But not as a hostage. What if this is some Inkblart trick to abduct me again?

SALLY

You're just going to have to trust me.

A meaningful beat, underscored by more meaningful music, as Joey considers this.

JOEY NEEDLES

Or!

Music cuts out.

I could just give you the same tattoo and you could contact your folks *that* way!

SALLY

Nah. Needles make me squeamish.

She slams his hand on the table again, raises the blade.

SALLY

(THAT'S WHY)

**I'M GONNA HAVE TO CHOP OFF THIS HAND
YOU STUBBORN DOO-DOO
CAUSE YOU'RE LITTLE BLUE PLANET'S
STARTING TO MAKE ME BLUE**

JOEY NEEDLES

**PLEASE! NO! DON'T CHOP OFF MY HAND
I WANNA HELP YOU
BUT WHAT IF YOU'RE LYING
I CAN'T TAKE NO MORE ALIEN ABUSE**

SALLY

IT'S TIME TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND

JOEY NEEDLES
IT'S A STICKY SITUATION

SALLY
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME

JOEY NEEDLES
I NEED MY HAND FOR MY VOCATION

SALLY
I'M GONNA COUNT DOWN FROM FIVE

JOEY
THAT'S NOT HELPING MY CONCENTRATION

SALLY
**FOUR!
THREE!
TWO!
HERE WE GOOOO!!!!**

JOEY
**I DON'T KNOW
I DON'T KNOW
I DON'T KNOW
I DON'T KNOOOOW!!!!**

Sally is about to chop, when suddenly the sound of revving motorcycles can be heard outside.

TOUGH CUSTOMER
(offstage, or silhouetted)

Hear that Needles?! That's the sound of every biker gang in the tri-county area, all of 'em ready to make the livin' fun out of you all night!

JOEY NEEDLES
On second thought, let's go.

SALLY
Now we're talking!

Joey Needles looks out the window of his store.

JOEY NEEDLES
There's too many of 'em. We'll never make it to my motorcycle.

SALLY
Oh, we're not getting there on *your* motorcycle.

The front door flies open and SALLY'S PINK MOTORCYCLE rides in on its own.

SALLY
We're getting there on *mine*.

SCENE 2

At Rise: Sally rides her motorcycle to the alien location with Joey Needles seated just behind her. The biker gang can be seen in silhouette (or just heard) in pursuit.

JOEY NEEDLES

Aw man, now they're really gonna make fun of me, riding on the back of a pink motorcycle with some *kid*.

SALLY

How many times I gotta tell you, I'm not a kid anymore. Just that our host bodies don't age.

JOEY NEEDLES

Whoa, really?

SALLY

Yeah dude. Try being twelve for twenty years and then talk to me about people not taking you seriously.

JOEY NEEDLES

Looks like that's going to end soon.

SALLY

It better.

JOEY NEEDLES

No, I mean that road! It's going to end soon!!!

SALLY

Oh *that*. Chill out dude. That's why I'm driving!
(*to her motorcycle*)

Fly Pink! FLY!!!

They tilt back in a wheelie pointed right at the sky as lights go to black and the action shifts to the scrim.

Silhouetted against the scrim we see:

- A GREAT FULL MOON A LA "E.T. THE EXTRA TERRESTIAL".
- IN FACT, THE THEME MUSIC FROM E.T. CAN BE HEARD.
- IN FACT, THE ICONIC SILHOUETTE OF E.T. AND ELLIOT ON A BICYCLE CAN BE SEEN SOARING ACROSS THE MOON.
- MUSIC CUTS OUT, REPLACED BY SOMETHING MORE MOTORCYCLE FRIENDLY AS JOEY NEEDLES AND SALLY SOAR ACROSS THE MOON JUST BEHIND THEM, KNOCKING E.T. AND ELLIOT FROM THE SKY

Lights out on silhouetted sequence.

SCENE 3

At Rise: The woods at night.

Joey and Sally enter. Crickets chirp, etc.

JOEY NEEDLES

This is where I woke up after my abduction.

SALLY

It's where we get the best signal from space. Speaking of which, your hand please, Joseph.

Joey hesitates.

SALLY

Joseph, please. I'm your friend.

JOEY NEEDLES

Then stop calling me Joseph! It's Joey! Joey Needles!

SALLY

Please Joey, lend me your hand. I won't chop it off, I swear.

JOEY NEEDLES

Pinky swear?

SALLY

I'll swear by anything with the word pink in it.

They pinky swear. Joey offers her his palm.

JOEY NEEDLES

How does this work?

SALLY

Simple. I just press each of these five symbols on your hand here. One...two...three...four...and now I just need to press this last symbol here aaand –

TOUGH CUSTOMER

There he is! Grab him boys!

Tough Customer appears while TWO BIKER GANG MEMBERS grab Sally and Joey, pulling them apart before Sally can press the final symbol.

Tough Customer pulls out a tattoo needle and slowly raises it to Joey's face.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

You know what they say, Crazy Joe: An eye for an eye. A mustache for a mustache!

SALLY

Leave my friend alone! He's not crazy!

TOUGH CUSTOMER

Stay out of this kid.

In a series of crazy combat moves, Sally frees herself and kicks both biker's butts, before grabbing Tough Customer's arm, squeezing it so hard that he drops the needle.

She speaks in her scary alien voice

SALLY

I ain't no *kid*.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

Wh...who are you?

SALLY

I'm Sally from the Planet Inkblart! And you must be Hurty McOwsalot.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

Hey...!

SALLY

Well Hurty.

(reveals her alien blade)

Get ready to say "ow."

(raises it)

A lot.

She's about to strike, when Tough Customer cries out.

TOUGH CUSTOMER

(singing in a panicked wail)

WAAAAAAAAAAAAIIIIIIITTTTTTTT!
PLEASE DON'T CUT OFF MY HAND
CRAZY SPACE LADY-

SALLY

Oh for crying out- Just GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY!

Tough Customer and bikers run off, whimpering.

JOEY NEEDLES

Thanks.

SALLY

Don't mention it. Now where were we?

JOEY NEEDLES

Oh right. Here.

He offers her his hand, retracts it, giving her a look. She tosses her blade and he offers it again with a smile. Sally takes it, quickly hitting all five symbols on his palm (PS. Each symbol should be accompanied by the five notes from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind")

JOEY

What do we do now?

SALLY

We wait. Or at least I do. You can leave if you're worried about getting abducted again.

JOEY

No, that's cool. I'll wait.

They wait. There's a few moments of awkward silence, then...

SALLY

You wanna come with?

JOEY

(almost overlapping)

Oh man, you bet I do!

SALLY

Now we're talking!

The sounds and lights of an incoming spaceship.

JOEY/SALLY

Best. Abductiversary. EVER.

Joey and Sally take each others hands and stare up at the stars, waiting for their ship to come.

End of play.

