

STONES IN HIS POCKETS

Marie Jones

CHARLIE: Aye, sorry mate, it was the lemon meringue pie interrogation that got to me . . . well I am on the run, sort of... had a video shop that went bust... them Extra Vision bastards... I never heard one person in Ballycastle complain to me before them hures opened up... you know... if a video was out the customers would take something else, no problem... the big boys move in and gullible Charlie here thinks... my customers are loyal.

JAKE: Look out, here she comes... You were just in front of me beside oul Mickey and you had your hat on.

CHARLIE: Sure it doesn't matter.

MICKEY: Oh it will surely matter, they will check thon Polaroid and see for sure who was wearing what and you don't want to be gettin' yourself in trouble with your one with the yoke on her ear... you have to keep your nose clean for thon one has a gob on her that would turn milk.

CHARLIE: (*puts his cap on*). Happy now, Mickey?

MICKEY: Not me fella, I'm only warning you, if you don't want to be replaced you do as you're bid... just say nothin' and you will be forty quid a day the wiser, that's my motto Jake.

JAKE: Aye right Mickey.

CHARLIE: Right pain in the ass.

JAKE: (*to CHARLIE*). My mother's third cousin. Do you know that man's famous. He's the last surviving extra on The Quiet Man... but don't get him started. Where were we... aye the Extra Vision hures.

CHARLIE: Aye... I says to myself... they won't desert me... my customers won't desert me... I am one of them, support your own and all that... fuck was I wrong ... (*Mimics them.*) Charlie you have to have more than two copies of a video, Extra Vision has loads... Charlie you want to see the range Extra Vision has... then they stopped saying anything 'cos they just stopped coming... so I got up one morning, ... all my plans for the future in a heap of out-of-date movies... I couldn't start all over again... started all over again so many times I've lost count... this time I just couldn't do it... so I closed the door on the shop... videos still on the shelves, nothing touched... threw the tent in the boot and decided to do Ireland... what about you.

JAKE: Well I can't follow that.

CHARLIE: Ah don't mind me... just thought I would get it all out at once, same the locals making it up for me... oh and the other thing, my girlfriend dumped me too... talk about kicking a man when he is on the floor... and you'll not believe this.

JAKE: She is going out with the manager of Extra Vision.

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CHARLIE: How did you know?

JAKE: You told the story last night in the pub to a second cousin of mine.

CHARLIE: Jesus, that's me and gin... bad combo... anyway, the place is coming down with Hollywood stars... it's a who's who of who's bonked who, and me, Charlie Conlon is a topic of conversation...

JAKE: We are used to that lot... it's outsiders coming in and taking jobs we don't like.

CHARLIE: Place is coming down with outsiders... it's like a bloody circus... there she is... look... me, Charlie Conlon only ten feet away from Caroline Giovanni... I'd give her one alright.