

On Class Even Without Joan Allen
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In a thought for this site back in December of 2008 entitled "On Sending a Message with Joan Allen," I reported that the producer of the film "Death Race" had said that he cast the prestigious actress Joan Allen in his movie in order to send the message that his was a high-class film. I noted that one of Ms. Allen's lines in this producer's epic was, "Okay cocksucker, fuck with me and we'll see who shits on the sidewalk," which gave me pause just a bit, but I had to give credit to this producer for taking the high road with Ms. Allen.

I thought about this producer while watching the DVD of season one of Showtime's hit series "Dexter." It was a scene between two civilian-clothed male police officers, so of course Joan Allen wouldn't have worked here, but I think Philip Seymour Hoffman and Tom Hanks would have signaled the classiness of this premium cable show.

"Hey, Doakes, what's up? Fuck anyone's wife lately?"

"Thanks to your little chickenshit stunt, Guerrero's guys are tailing me everywhere I go."

"That's not good, James. You should alert the police. Unless, of course, the officers of Miami Metro wouldn't want to help you, because, like, you know, you fucked one of their wives."

"You think this is a joke. I'm gonna end up dead, it's just a matter of when."

"You should have thought of that before you stuck your dick in my sister."

"You're right. I should have waited until the divorce came through."

"Bullshit."

"What, she didn't tell you? She filed the papers, jackass. You don't

believe me, ask the captain. She filed the papers. He tried to pull Ricky out of the assignment, but Ricky didn't want to come out."

"Of course not. His job was to bring down Guerrero."

"It was his job to protect his wife. Ricky's the motherfucker who got her killed. You picked the wrong cop, asshole."

Or maybe Daniel Day-Lewis rather than Tom Hanks.