Joe Goldberg's EQ

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The purpose of this analysis is to re-evaluate Joe Goldberg's standing in SCD, directly addressing his feats that simply go under the radar and dispelling common misconceptions regarding his EQ

Categories:

- Interpersonal EU
- Intrapersonal EU
- EP
- EE
- Intrapersonal EM

I will not be going over interpersonal EM seeing as nobody dogs on it or anything. Technically his EE also doesn't get dogged on but it's still undervalued so I choose to go over it

This doc will cover:

- Why common anti-feats are simply invalid/not as bad
- Joe's best feat for that category
- Where the feat scales overall in SCD

Note:

Season 5 **anti-feats** just won't be mentioned as they shouldn't be used logically in the first place due to the writers actively nerfing Joe to make him lose + blatant mischaracterization

Why Joe's Inter EU and EP isn't as bad as its made out to be

Many people try to claim that Joe has horrible inter EU and EP for SCD due to mainly these 3 anti-feats:

1. Joe failing to understand Beck deceiving him while she is in the cage and believing that she genuinely forgave him for killing Benji and Peach

2. Failing to see Love's other side of herself in time

3. Believing that Marianne would genuinely want to run away with him after seeing him again

Now here's my refutations to them:

First point

Joe actively KNEW he was being lied to so he actively didn't get deceived by Beck at all in the first place. We also need to remember that Joe was in a horrible headspace at this time overall:

- Off straight chance, Beck had found out that he had killed Benji, killed Peach, and that he had been stalking her for months on end

- He found out that Peach's death was being investigated and that he left his pee at the scene(He had his head split open and he was passing out and waking back up and hallucinating which was the reason why he forgot in the first place)

- He had to kill Ron in front of Paco, his own son to defend him

Him while under all if this is still able to fully see through Beck with no effort(in fact you can say he's purposely trying to not read Beck in this scene) while she is actively putting on a performance and reinforced mentally

Second point

Even while Love didn't show her dark side to Joe, he still had a deep map of her profile:

- Her trauma with Forty (2x3, 2x5)
- Her need to protect and heal the people she cares about (2x3, 2x4, 2x5, 2x6)
- Her grief over her late husband James (2x1, 2x6, 2x7)
- Her family's toxicity. (2x5)

Joe uses this model to predict her exact emotional triggers, reactions, and conversational moves.

Joe already had a deep understanding on Love even before she reveals her true self at 2x9

Third point

Much like the first point refutation, Joe's headspace was absolutely in a horrible spot, in fact even worse. He was going through:

- His engagement with her was at such a high state at that point he was already thinking of moving away while still married with Love (3x8)

- He had to abandon his own son (3x10)

- He no longer can even go about with his own name and his identity is completely lost (3x10)

- He is completely isolated with no one else in his life

We also need to bring up that Marianne and Joe agreed to run away on numerous occasion for 3x8-10 and that he understood immediately when they finally met again after 4 months

Joe's best Inter EU/EP feats

Emotion Smelling

In 4x7, Rhys unironically smells to detect that Joe is actively trying to manipulate/deceive him, all done to support a prediction he had on Joe on something he would try to do, which was to film him and get him caught, which just simply would ruin his whole scheme by this point.

Some things I think should be pointed out:

- What Rhys is smelling here is the actual emotion, not anything physical like adrenaline spikes or sweat seeing as Joe has no signs of sweating here and Rhys smelt it while the situation was still calm.

- Rhy doesn't actively need to limit his other senses in order to perform this feat

- This would scale dramatically high when we go over the fact that Joe is completely reinforced here. When we look at his Intrapersonal EM later on, it will be obvious how much this feat will be boosted

- Rhys is an alternate personality made from a portion of the original Joe. His whole mental foundation is only a copy of a portion of Joe's mind, so Joe logically should scale MASSIVELY above this.

Nadia psychoanalysis

In 4x8, Joe sees that Nadia is acting strangely.

She was late to class, she's acting anxious and worried, she didn't do the homework. She gives a very normal excuse to this which is seen through immediately.

From just this, Joe realized that she knew he is the Eat The Rich Killer, she knew about Marianne's situation, understood the danger, and that she is going to try to expose him. He reconstructs what she knows, what she believes, her intentions, her inferences from her acquired knowledge, what her new objective she has adopted is, and the actions she is going to take, and the exact timeline of her actions before she even knew what they were

He had only 10 real interactions with her over a full university course term with the timeframe varying from 1-3 minutes in length each so he had very little information about her before this as well. The format on her was very much lacking and dry

Him with a handful of interactions + a minimal change in behavior is able to perfectly reconstruct what she now knows and her thought process before even she does

What he did after realizing she knew:

Marianne's staged suicide, Nadia's subsequent attempt to expose him to Edward by bringing him to the cage, and their eventual movement toward Joe's house was all perfectly predicted by Joe. He predicted everything she was gonna do and the exact timeframe of when she was gonna do it, all from a single change in her behavior

Behavioral anomaly -> concealed knowledge -> recognition of Joe's identity -> awareness of Marianne's predicament -> investigative objective -> intended method of exposure -> operational sequence -> predicted exact destination -> predicted exact temporal window.

Him with extremely minimal information was able to predict exact knowledge, intent, cognition, action, sequence, destination, and timing of Nadia. He bridged a tiny behavioral anomaly and immediately understood Nadia's entire thought process before she knew what to do.

Why Joe's Intra EU and Intra EM isn't as bad as its made out to be

Many people try to claim that Joe has horrible Intra EU and Intra EM for SCD due to mainly for this anti feat:

- Joe in season 4 contracted DID, schizophrenia, and erotomania

Now I genuinely think people who bring this up simply did not watch the show to their best ability

1. Joe only gained erotomania naturally, unlike the others. This was when he was at his most mentally vulnerable as already mentioned in the second tab. The fact that he was self aware that he was an erotomanic with no given help is already grounds for high tier Intra EU, let alone him curing it in a single moment
2. Joe only gained schizophrenia and DID after the headbash and him ACTUALLY making Rhys, he never gained it naturally. His management of these mental illnesses later on post-acceptance is unironically top tier

Joe's best intra EU/EM feats

Erotomaina awareness

In 4x8, Joe after he locks Marianne in the cage sees how his mental state is at the moment(which would include the erotomania) and completely cures it by himself in a single moment, becoming "reborn"

Erotomania:

Like many psychotic or delusional conditions, a neurological and psychological barrier prevents the person from recognizing that their brain is generating false perception

When the "object of affection" denies the relationship, ignores them, or takes out restraining orders, the individual does not see this as proof that the relationship doesn't exist. Instead, they rationalize the rejection as a secret test, a coded message, or interference from outside forces.

https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5359441/

https://www.hiwellapp.com/en/blog/erotomania

Someone with erotomania in real life just simply cannot be self aware that they suffer from it as the core feature of the condition is a fixed, unshakable delusion that feels completely real to them.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erotomania

Intra EU:

Pretty obvious, Joe is performing an impossible feat in this category by actively being aware of a condition that provides the core feature of the condition is an unstoppable delusion that is completely real to the victim. The only way someone can know they have erotomania is if they are told so by outside help. Joe was able to be self aware for erotomania while having no outside help at all, easily giving him high tier Intra EU

Intra EM:
Joe being able to cure Erotomania is simply a top tier feat for Intra EM. Joe's amygdala would be sending out an overwhelming cascade of distress and high-salience signals designed to force a delusion-preserving rationalization which is actively incurable:

dopamine (reality altering obsession)

oxytocin (reality altering obsessive attachment)

vasopressin (reality altering obsessive attachment)

cortisol (destruction of the reality altering obsession)

norepinephrine (attention being on reality altering obsession)

serotonin (reality altering obsession)

glutamate (reconstruction on that reality altering obsession)

All of these chemicals that are being signaled to Joe's prefrontal cortex are incurable and extremely dysregulated

Joe's prefrontal cortex is managing all of this and actively shutting down the incurable mental illness.

Rhys killing

In season 4x10, Joe was able to cure himself of schizophrenia and DID with killing Rhys, all in a single moment.

Schizophrenia:

Schizophrenia is a chronic neurodevelopmental and neurobiological disorder. It involves altered brain chemistry and structural brain differences. There is currently no known permanent cure.

https://psychcentral.com/schizophrenia/theres-no-cure-for-schizophrenia-but-treatment-can-help#:~:text=irregular%20levels%20of,serotonin

https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3181763/

https://www.healthline.com/health/schizophrenia/schizophrenia-brain-vs-normal-brain

Disassociative identity disorder:

DID permanently alters how it integrates identity, memory, and consciousness. There is no known permanent cure.

https://www.sheppardpratt.org/knowledge-center/conditions-diagnoses/dissociative-identity-disorder/#:~:text=Frequent%20gaps%20in,you%20are%20real

Intra EM:

Joe being able to cure DID and schizophrenia is simply a top tier feat for Intra EM. Joe's amygdala would be hyperactive, firing a massive cascade of chemical messengers to trigger extreme fear, arousal, and emotional stress that is actively incurable:

Glutamate

GABA (Gamma-Aminobutyric Acid)

Dopamine

Norepinephrine (Noradrenaline)

Serotonin (5-HT)

Histamine

CRH / CRF (Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone / Factor)

Neuropeptide Y (NPY)

Substance P

Somatostatin (SST)

Neurotensin

Cholecystokinin (CCK)

Galanin

Met-Enkephalin / Leu-Enkephalin

Dynorphin

Oxytocin

Vasopressin

Anandamide (AEA)

2-Arachidonoylglycerol (2-AG)

All of these chemicals that are being signaled to Joe's prefrontal cortex are incurable and extremely dysregulated

Joe's prefrontal cortex is managing all of this and actively shutting down the incurable mental illness, all in a few seconds.

Some will mention that he was actively sad based on a tear from this scene, but I would just argue that his EE with Rhys was so great that it just could override the management already happening which would just simply boost his EE be above his Intra EM