

SAMUEL FRENCH SAMPLE PERUSAL

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Samuel French Acting Edition

Enfrascada

by Tanya Saracho

|| SAMUEL FRENCH ||

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www.SamuelFrench.com

www.SamuelFrench.co.uk

FOR PRODUCTION ENQUIRIES

UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Info@SamuelFrench.com

1-866-598-8449

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ENFRASCADA was first produced by Teatro Luna (under the title *Jarred*) from November 6 through December 14, 2008. The production was directed by Tanya Saracho, with set design by Tim Thomas Jr. and costume design by Christine Pascual. The Production Stage Manager was Ana Espinosa. The cast was as follows:

YESENIA/ROMINA..... Yadiria Correa
CAROLINATanya Saracho
ALICIA. Dana Cruz
LULU/WOMAN.....Marie Antoinette Flores
CAT/MARTA/KARINA Miranda Gonzalez

CHARACTERS

YESENIA
CAROLINA
ALICIA
LULU
CAT
ROMINA
MARTA
WOMAN
KARINA

Note: Characters can be doubled. This is especially recommended for the “Señora Track” (CAT/MARTA/KARINA).

SETTING

Chicago, IL and the surrounding area

TIME

It could be now, but mainly this is set in 2013. But it could be now.

AUTHOR’S NOTE

Overlapping is very important in this play because these women – these friends – they talk over each other, finish each other’s sentences, and can listen as they talk; you know, as Latina girlfriends do. Overlapping is denoted by a /. A // indicates a cue to the same speaker.

Scene 1

WISCONSIN OR BUST

(Wisconsin. An outdoor concert. You can hear a band kind of setting up and sound checking. YESENIA is setting up a blanket on the grass. CAROLINA is looking toward the musicians, every so often stomping her left foot.)

YESENIA. I don't know why we didn't stop at the damn Citgo. / Seriously.

CAROLINA. Because you're always on Potorro time.

YESENIA. I hate doing things when I'm thirsty. I think I died de sed in a past life.

CAROLINA. She went to get you water. / You're a fish.

YESENIA. ...Little ass bottles. What are they gunna sell here? Just those little bottles. Cost an arm and a leg too.

CAROLINA. *(Still looking toward the music stage.)* Stingiest rich person I know. Hey, is that one yours? That one with the dreads?

YESENIA. Dreads? No! Wait, which?

(CAROLINA points.)

No way! Ugh. Can't stand white people with dreads. Why do they do that to their head?

CAROLINA. Only the dirty ones do it. Cochinos.

(Beat.)

Yessie, I think we're overdressed. I'm looking around and I'm thinking we're a little too decked out.

YESENIA. We're in Wisconsin, we could be in PJs and we'd be too decked out. Fuck, these shoes are no good for

this grass. Why didn't I wear my kicks? I'm gunna take 'em off.

CAROLINA. Gúacala de pollo, luego se te meten bichos entre los dedos.

YESENIA. There's gonna be bichos, Carolina. We're outside. Is that what you're doing with your foot there? Killing bichos?

CAROLINA. Shut up, you know what I'm doing with my foot.

YESENIA. Still?

CAROLINA. Am I pregnant right now? No. Do you see a belly on me? No. So I'm going to keep on stomping my foot, thank you very much. I don't want to talk about it.

(Beat.)

Oooh, is he that one with the pelito like this? All Justin Bieber?

YESENIA. His hair don't look like Justin Bieber. Does it?

CAROLINA. All over his face like this?

(Makes gesture. They crack up a little.)

YESENIA. Man, shut up. I'ma throw this shoe at you.

(ALICIA enters carrying four waters. She tries to hand one to CAROLINA.)

ALICIA. Something just dawned on me. As kids – here you go Caro – as kids or in our formative years, we are never taught Grace. That woman who just shoved me to get to the head of the line; no Grace. / And what is that? It's like our parents, our grandparents teach us obedience and something akin to a code of ethics but do they ever truly teach us – *(Handing two bottles to YESENIA as she continues.)* Sorry, they only had this size – // do they teach us Grace? Is that a notion that is... Sorry. That's all they had. That's why I brought you two.

YESENIA. Some cheesehead shoved you?

YESENIA.

(*To CAROLINA.*) See? What did I say? Little ass bottles.

CAROLINA.

(*To ALICIA.*) That's not going to be enough for her. She's a fish.

YESENIA. How much were they?

ALICIA. Girl.

YESENIA. They were like five dollars each, weren't they? Just like at the movies. / This water better taste like Cristal!

CAROLINA. Coda.

ALICIA. Listen. I just had the idea of the year! Well for me it is because I've been wracking my brain trying to think of a theme to pitch on Thursday –

YESENIA. I just hate it when people are shady. / Descá'ra'os.

ALICIA. It's a concert, Yesenia. The prices are going to be shady. Come on don't start gettin' the stankface, girl.

CAROLINA. She does get her stankface.

(*Beat.*)

What theme? Like for a party?

ALICIA. No, like we do every year at the museum. The thematic. What's the season going to be about. Like next season, it's Fear, which is just so totally sexy. I mean, the kind of programming we're about to bring in surrounding the theme of Fear is just –

CAROLINA. What's this year's?

ALICIA. Oh, this year is lame. You were at the opening night party, remember? It's another look at the 60s in Chicago. / It's nothing. We do it every few years in one configuration or another. People just like to see blown up black and white photographs of '68 and the Democratic Convention and Mayor Daley and riots. Complete sensationalism if you ask me. Anyway, like I said, 2012 is Fear, which is like...just so exciting to me.

CAROLINA. Oh, right! We wore the beehives to the party! That was fun.

YESENIA. Fear's exciting?

ALICIA. Just as a theme. But what I'm trying to say is that I think I got 2013!

YESENIA. My credit card expires 2013 and it always feels so far away.

CAROLINA. You can like make that happen? Decide what the whole MCA has to do for the year?

ALICIA. Kind of. I mean, after last year I sort of can. In this new position, yeah. But I still have to pitch it and they have to like it.

CAROLINA. What's 2013 going to be?

ALICIA. Grace.

CAROLINA. What like...when you pray at the table?

ALICIA. That's when you *say* grace, but sure. Maybe an exhibit will have something to do with saying grace. Sure. I hadn't even thought of it.

YESENIA. Like ballerinas. They're very graceful. But they got busted ass toes because they have to dance around on their tippies. *Black Swan*, girl.

ALICIA. Yeah, that idea of Grace too. I mean... What does Grace look like? What are the elements, the markers of...is it a value, an instinct. I don't know. I'm just talking here. This is so great. I'm so glad we came out here, Yess. You see what clean air does? We need to get out of the city more often. Breathe in all this air. This pure oxygen is good for the brain.

(To YESENIA, who's sitting holding the two bottles like the Holy Grail.)

What's the matter with you? I thought you were thirsty.

CAROLINA. There's that stankface again.

YESENIA. Feels like I need to ration these bottles or something. Man, my past life, I know I died in the desert.

CAROLINA. There's more water right over there, ridicula.

ALICIA. Yes, I'll go get you more water. Come on. Look at all this. How can you have a stankface with all of this? Look at this sky! So blue and so clear. We got this nice spot in the shade. We got our blanket. We got our... little waters. I got these cheese curds. / Apparently they're all the rage here. I got you chips. And here we got us. All set up and ready to listen to your new man play in his –

CAROLINA. Is that what that is?

YESENIA. He's NOT my man.

ALICIA. Right. Not your new man, but your new...what? Um...

CAROLINA. Lover.

YESENIA. See?! / I knew you guys were going to be like this. I knew you guys were going to make a bigger deal about this than it is. He's not my anything...

ALICIA. Alright, alright not your man, not your lover. Your boy toy? / No, not boy toy... Um, your FRIEND. We're here to see your *friend* play in his band.

CAROLINA. Bootycall-on-call?

Her friend is the one that looks like Justin Bieber over there.

ALICIA. Oooh, is that him?

(Pause.)

YESENIA. Yes. He's the one that looks like a short lesbian.

ALICIA. He's not that short.

YESENIA. Short to me. You know I like 'em of NBA dimensions. Can we stop staring at him, please? You guys are gettin' me all... Just come on. Could you just sit down? He's going to see us and I didn't say for sure-for sure that I was coming. You too Caro. Sit chu ass down. Stomp later. When they start playing you get up and stomp, okay? You making me nervous.

(They settle.)

ALICIA. I love summer.

CAROLINA. Our one month of it.

ALICIA. But isn't it so worth it? People don't take it for granted here.

YESENIA. I always think that. People other places take the sun for granted. When I go back to Puerto Rico I always think, "You don't know how good you got it here."

ALICIA. I should do something like this with Diego. We haven't gone out in so long. I mean, not even to like a restaurant. He's been so depressed and I haven't pushed because I've been so damn busy.

CAROLINA. It's hard when the woman's the breadwinner, isn't it? Real talk. If it's hard when the man is the breadwinner like in my case, I can only imagine how it is for you.

ALICIA. He'll find something again.

YESENIA. Of course he will. That's my boy. He just having a bad year but I got a couple of little candles lit for him. You'll see he'll bounce right back.

ALICIA. Candles...we need some of these companies to call him back for an interview, that's what we need. Not candles.

CAROLINA. Sometimes candles can get a company to call him back, Alicia.

(Quick beat.)

Let me stop. You never like talking about all that stuff.

ALICIA. Just worried about him. It's hard to celebrate all the good stuff that's happening to you when your guy won't get out of his sweats because he's so down.

(Beat.)

Yessie, these shoes are sickening.

YESENIA. Aren't they tho'? Half off, girl.

CAROLINA. How do you always find the deals!

(CAROLINA is still trying to stomp her foot while she's sitting down.)

YESENIA. Can you please...

(CAROLINA stops.)

ALICIA. I should call Diego. I want him to TiVo that show about honey bees.

(She tries to call.)

Are you guys getting reception?

YESENIA. AT&T, girl. Una mierda.

ALICIA. It won't even let me send a text. This is crazy.

CAROLINA. Can you imagine a world without texting?

YESENIA. Yeah, apparently it's called Wisconsin. Here, let me turn it on and off. Sometimes that works.

(ALICIA hands her iPhone to YESENIA.)

ALICIA. Oooh, good idea.

CAROLINA. This Brazilian straightening is really holding up in this weather. I'm like amazed. I can't stop touching it.

ALICIA. I know. You look like a Pantene commercial. I'm getting one. Looks so good on you.

CAROLINA. Right? You need to go to this girl. She really knows what she's doing. You too Yesenia. Te lo alacia if you want.

ALICIA. No! I like her hair natural. Don't do anything to it, Yessie.

YESENIA. I'm done doing shit like that to my hair. Can't ever do shit with this pelo malo. All my sisters have good hair like you guys but me, I'm born with the pelo malo. / I gave up. I just concentrate on the shoes.

ALICIA. I love your hair.

CAROLINA. I never understand why you call it that, Yessie.

YESENIA. I'm not going to go through five hundred years of colonization with you again, Caro. You don't listen. Here, Ali. I think you got bars now.

ALICIA. Oooh, thanks. I'm just going to call Diego real quick. Tell him we're staying the night, right? We're staying the night?

(They nod. YESENIA is carefully drinking and examining her water. ALICIA dials. The band starts to play.)

CAROLINA. I think they're starting. What kind of music does he play?

YESENIA. I don't know.

CAROLINA. He didn't tell you?

YESENIA. I never asked. Talking is not our thing.

ALICIA. Hello? I'm sorry I have the wrong...

(She checks the screen to see if she dialed right.)

I'm sorry...

(Beat.)

Excuse me? Who is this? Can I ask why you are answering my house phone? Can you put Diego on the – Excuse me? Who are you?

(The band is playing full force, but CAROLINA and YESENIA are staring at ALICIA, focused on whatever the hell this other person on the line is saying. ALICIA is trying to catch everything. Her face has fallen and is Casper white.)

Can you please put Diego on the phone? What do you mean he's... Put Diego on the –

(Beat.)

Diego...baby, what's going on? Why is there a woman answering our landline?

(Pause.)

You what?

(The band hits some loud sections. The three are frozen in "oh, shitness." Lights out.)

Scene 1.2

REFLECTIONS OF A LULU #1

(Two areas. In one, LULU is bouncing on an exercise ball. She's got a couple of books by her feet and is eating something healthy from a Gladware container. She's in a bathrobe, wearing sunglasses indoors. She wears a leather belt with her bathrobe. In the second area, ALICIA is standing frozen, eating Häagen-Dazs straight from the container. She continues eating throughout LULU's interstitial.)

LULU. Love is the engine. There is proof. The things that remain from past civilizations? Expressions of Love: A temple, a tomb, a painting. Love is poetry and novels and rap songs and web pop-ups. Love is science. The same part of the brain that rules Love is the one that controls addiction. By that definition, Love becomes an addictive substance. So a breakup is the purest form of withdrawal and should be treated with the same care as an addict going *cold turkey*. With the same respect.

(Bouncing pause.)

Cold turkey. Note to self, look up the etymology of the term "cold turkey."

(She jots it down without getting off her ball. More bouncing. Lights down.)

Scene 2

CALL TO ACTION

(A few days after the Wisconsin concert. Back in Chicago, Pilsen to be exact. Doorbell. LULU runs to let YESENIA and CAROLINA in, who are carrying tons of ALICIA's stuff.)

YESENIA. ...Did he put rocks in here? Even pulling this shit with the wheels is heavy as hell.

CAROLINA. Because we're going up, so wheels are not going to help. I told you I would pull that one.

(To LULU.)

Sorry. Hi. You're the cousin! Hi.

LULU. I'm the cousin.

CAROLINA. I'm Carolina. This is Yesenia.

LULU. Carolina. And Yesenia. I'm the cousin.

YESENIA. Does the cousin have a name?

LULU. Oh. Yeah. She does. I do. I'm Lulu. Comein comein.

CAROLINA. Thank you for...

(To YESENIA, who's still at the threshold.)

Yessie, just come in already. Qué dramática.

(Back to LULU.)

Sorry. Thank you for putting Alicia up. We've heard so much about you. / I always wanted to go to UofC, it seems so Ivy League...

YESENIA. We have? I still don't know why she's not staying with me. No offense to you, but I have three bedrooms and this isn't exactly The Drake right here.

CAROLINA. Yessie!

YESENIA. You. You have Vic. I get it. I get why she wouldn't want to stay with you, but me? I got three fucking

bedrooms. / You need space when you're dealing with shit.

CAROLINA. Family is family, Yesenia. I'm sorry, we're all... You know, we're all kind of like a little crazy right now with the whole – Poor Ali. Feel so bad for her.

LULU. Aristophanes said that “One must not try to trick misfortune, but resign oneself to it with good grace.” Things will work themselves out, I think.

YESENIA. But does she have to come work them out en la punta del demonio?!

CAROLINA. Ya Yessie! Enough with all that sass today. She's a little grouchy pants right now. Sorry. Is Ali here?

LULU. Therapy.

CAROLINA. Oh, really? She's doing that again. Okay.

YESENIA. Sangano descarado, que se pudra. Pero si se me cruza ese hijo de su / puta madre...

CAROLINA. Yessie, what did we say in the car? It's not going to work if you're like this in front of Ali. You're taking it worse than she is. Aplácate.

YESENIA. I swear to God I almost threw up in his face. Couldn't stand to look at him. For how many years now...for how many years –

CAROLINA. I know...

YESENIA. Every Monday night – every Monday night I'm at this fool's house watching the game. / Every Monday night. This is my guy, you know? That's my guy. Fucking asshole.

CAROLINA. I know...I know. I know.

(Beat.)

YESENIA. I can't fucking handle this shit...

CAROLINA. Imagine how la pobre de Alicia must feel.

YESENIA. I can't. If I feel like I've been stabbed through the throat, I can only imagine.

CAROLINA. Lulu, how is she doing? I meant to check in with her yesterday but –

(LULU's about to answer.)

CAROLINA. Oooh, Yessie. I remembered what I was trying to say in the car. Vic gave in. About the house. Yesterday he woke up and was like, "Baby, let's buy that place you've been wanting." I was like, "Ohmygawd!" I didn't even mind his morning halitosis and rewarded him the way only I know how. Sorry, Lulu. Graphic.

(To YESENIA.)

Can you believe it? We're going to look in Wicker Park. And if Vic's saying get a three-bedroom, you know what that means, right?

(She stomps her left foot a few times.)

I need to keep at this. Even if all the other stuff is freaking me out, I'm going to keep at this.

YESENIA. Start the registry at Babies "R" Us, my friend.

CAROLINA. YouWillSayYESTomeYouWillSayYESTome
YouWillSayYESTome...

(She stops. Tired herself out.)

This one definitely took longer than the ring, man. He's a hard one, my Victor.

(To LULU.)

Sorry, we're talking code. Not being rude.

YESENIA. *(To LULU.)* Where's your belt? I mean the one that goes with your bata.

LULU. With my what?

YESENIA. With your robe.

CAROLINA. Yessie, que mal educada.

LULU. Oh, I guess I lost it.

YESENIA. You look like a skinny Santa Claus or something.

LULU. Oh, yeah? I guess I do.

YESENIA. What are you wearing under there?

CAROLINA. Yessie! You're just meeting the girl!

YESENIA. What the hell's she wearing under there?

CAROLINA. Eso es muy su asunto. Can you sit down, please?
You're making me nervous.

(To LULU.)

Sorry, we're not usually this...aggressive. Hey Yessie, did you think... I don't know. I didn't think that tacky little skank / would look like that.

YESENIA. Descarada. I swear to God I wanted to punch her on her fucking nose.

CAROLINA. Her?! Punch him!

YESENIA. Gringa descarada.

CAROLINA. But did you think she'd look like that? I don't know why but I thought she'd be prettier. She's got a nose like Miss Piggy.

YESENIA. Busted ass white girl. She looks like she don't shower.

CAROLINA. Why would he leave Alicia for that? There's no comparison.

YESENIA. She's white that's all. No offense Lulu.

LULU. None taken. I'm only half.

YESENIA. Hope you were raised by your good half.

CAROLINA. I will say though, Yessie. She does have a good body. Tacky little skank.

YESENIA. Please.

CAROLINA. *(To LULU.)* She's got those gringita legs like they have, you know? All shapely. / Like a Rockette.

YESENIA. Descarada / sitting there in shorts.

CAROLINA. Girl, was it me or did she look sixteen?

YESENIA. Hope that fucker gets crabs. Those kind of girls always have crabs.

(To LULU.)

Fuck, when's Ali supposed to get here? I have a showing at six.

LULU. Her session should be over.

CAROLINA. *(To LULU.)* Lulu, how does she seem to you?

LULU. "*Grief walks upon the heels of pleasure.*"

(*Beat.*)

CAROLINA. ...

LULU. She's fine, I think. Or rather, she'll be fine. Cookie?

(*She offers them the box of cookies. CAROLINA takes one. YESENIA refuses.*)

CAROLINA. Thank you.

YESENIA. What do you mean fine? Without the Sudoku, please.

LULU. I don't know. She seems fine to me. A little down maybe, but that's to be expected. Been sleeping in a lot. I come home from class and at least the past couple of days, she's just been kind of conked out.

YESENIA. She hasn't gone to work?

LULU. Not that I know of.

YESENIA. What about the whole Grace thing? She has to do the Grace thing...

CAROLINA. Ella no es así.

YESENIA. I know. She's like a geek about work. Fuck.

LULU. But not to worry. It's been nothing very dramatic. No big bawling sessions. And if she hasn't cut her own bangs, she's all good. We've just been eating a lot of falafels because I just learned to make them out of chickpeas. Oh, and soup.

(*She eats cookies.*)

YESENIA. It hasn't hit her. That shit's going to hit her like a ton of bricks. Y todo porque se le metió a Diego esta pinche gringa –

CAROLINA. You know, I'm not usually the type to hate on white girls. That's like so 1992, you know? My friends in high school were all a bunch of Beckies. I mean, in Texas, what else were they going to be, you know? And two of them even stood up at my wedding and everything. I'm not a hater. I *like* white people.

YESENIA. That's cuz you didn't grow up in Chicago.

CAROLINA. And Beckies are usually fine by me. No offense
Lulu. You're only half a Becky.

LULU. I'm half a Becky. A Hecky. (*Little weirdo.*)

CAROLINA. (*To LULU about the suitcases.*) Lulu, where do you
want these?

LULU. Just anywhere for now. When she gets back we can
ask her what's up.

CAROLINA. (*To LULU.*) So, Ali tells us that you're getting
your PhD, huh? / That's great.

YESENIA. Aaaarrgg, smug ass bitch has the audacity to
speak to me! I almost scratched out her eyes. I'm not
doing too good with this. Fuck. Do you have any Tums?

(*CAROLINA looks for one in her purse.*)

LULU. Tums taste yummy to me. I wonder if you could
make a dessert out of Tums.

CAROLINA. I just can't believe Diego. Just letting her sit
there with Bandido on her lap? Como todo una reina
on her throne.

LULU. The dog switched camps too, huh? That's going to
be tough.

YESENIA. That bitch already thinks she owns the place.

CAROLINA. Which makes me think: How long has this been
going on, you know?

LULU. The mystery thickens. Cookie?

(*CAROLINA takes another cookie. ALICIA enters.*)

YESENIA. Hey, girl. I got a workout too coming up those
stairs.

(*Just a weak smile from ALICIA. Kiss salutations
all around.*)

CAROLINA. Hey, Chiquis.

(*Pause.*)

How was the shrink?

(ALICIA shrugs. An awkward pause.)

LULU. "There is no better than adversity...every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own lesson."

(Beat.)

Malcolm X.

(Weird beat.)

YESENIA. You got yourself some lunch?

LULU. We still have the bisque. I learned to make corn
bisque.

ALICIA. No thanks, I ate a little something.

CAROLINA. We got all your stuff.

ALICIA. Not *all* my stuff.

CAROLINA. Well, we got what he packed for you.

ALICIA. Thanks guys. Thanks for doing that for me.

CAROLINA. Oh, please. Not at all.

ALICIA. Well, I appreciate it.

YESENIA. Girl.

ALICIA. Was he...

CAROLINA. He was there. He gave me some mail for you.

(Taking out some mail from her purse.)

ALICIA. Thank you.

(Beat.)

Was she?

YESENIA. Yeah, girl.

(Beat.)

ALICIA. Hmm...

(Long beat.)

Were they...

(Beat.)

Was she –

LULU. She was wearing shorts and was sitting on the throne with your dog Bandido. Did I say that right? She has nice Rockette legs but a pig nose.

YESENIA. Oye, ¡tú!

LULU. That's what she's asking. I'm just reading the writing.

ALICIA. Yes, cousin. That's what I was asking.

(Beat.)

Sitting with Bandido, huh?

CAROLINA. Yeah. On her lap.

(Long beat.)

YESENIA. And why does Diego get to stay in the apartment, huh? / You should have made his ass leave! His triflin' ass... Let's see if this little putita will put him up with her McDonald's money or whatever the fuck she does.

CAROLINA. Yessie. Yessie. Yesenia! What did we say in the car? What did we say!

(Pause.)

ALICIA. He's got no job. I'm not going to put him out, Yesenia. Please. Just...please.

CAROLINA. Did you have a good session?

ALICIA. I guess. I've gone three times this week and she just sits there not saying anything.

YESENIA. Well, might take a little longer than three days. Therapy's not magic.

LULU. Therapy's good. I've had a shrink since I was twelve. It's good.

ALICIA. I can see what she's doing and it's not helping. Talking is not what I need right now. I do need something, but talking is not it.

CAROLINA. Maybe you need a new person.

LULU. You're not liking yoga?

CAROLINA. Yoga?

ALICIA. Lulu's got me going to yoga with her in the mornings, right Lulu? It's not bad actually. It's okay. I

don't know... I just. I'm a little bit... I don't want to bother you with my – / I mean, you already have gone above and beyond here. I can't believe I sent you to get my things. I just don't want to cause any uncomfortable moments since this girl apparently...

YESENIA. Girl.

(Beat.)

Girl.

(Beat.)

Girl, please.

ALICIA. Apparently lives in my house now. If I didn't have you get my clothes, maybe she'd be wearing them too.

YESENIA. We need to find out this girl's name.

CAROLINA. For Facebook stalking? I agree.

YESENIA. No. You know what for.

CAROLINA. Oooh.

YESENIA. You and me. We're going to take care of this.

CAROLINA. Okay.

YESENIA. We go to your Señora.

CAROLINA. Nononono, we go to your Señora. My Señora right now is on some other... She's on this dark path / and I rather...

LULU. What's a Señora?

ALICIA. Guys, seriously. None of that. I'm sorry, but I need a real fix. I don't need like fantasy things that don't actually –

CAROLINA. They're not fantasy things at all, Ali.

ALICIA. Listen. I came home from Wisconsin to find her in my bed. In my bed, Caro. He knew I was coming back and he didn't get her out of there. He knew. They both knew and it's like he staged it. Like one of those model homes, he staged it. Had the fireplace going. It's not even cold. Had candles and bottles of wine and a blanket on the... God! Why can't I cry.

(Beat.)

I'm standing there with the mail, because why did I get the mail? What made me think, "Oh, we need to look at our Chase bill"? Acting like... I don't know. But I stand there and all Diego can say to me is, "I'm sorry, Alicia. I didn't plan for this to happen." And that was it.

CAROLINA. Oh, he's got the candles / and he didn't plan for this to happen?!

YESENIA. What is this, *Days of Our* fucking *Lives*? "Didn't plan for this to happen."

ALICIA. How did this happen?

CAROLINA. Girl. It's nothing you did.

ALICIA. No, I mean, HOW did this happen?! I want to know the logistics. I'M OBSESSED WITH THE LOGISTICS RIGHT NOW.

CAROLINA. I'm telling you. We go online. / Every thing is online. Her address, misdemeanors...

ALICIA. No. I mean, in my house. I want to know every detail, every moment. I want to read the schedule of events, like in a file or something. I need a play by play of the chronology. When did they meet? How? When did she first come into our apartment? What made it okay to bring her there? Fuck. I can't think of anything else. Yesterday at work, it took all of me yesterday to...let's just say it's pretty hard to pitch the concept of Grace when all I can think of is, does he pet her hair in front of the TV while they watch the Discovery Channel? Aaarrgg.

(*Beat.*)

Nine years of my life and he won't even sit down and talk to me. You guys know that's not Diego. That's not him.

YESENIA. Está embruja'o.

ALICIA. (*Beat.*) How the heck do people do this? How do people get over something like this?

LULU. "*The only cure for grief is action.*"

(*Beat.*)

G.H. Lewes

(Weird beat. LULU puts a big handful of cookies in her mouth.)

YESENIA. I'm going to tell you what action we're going to take right now. Okay? I'm going to send you to my Señora. I don't want to hear it. You going to yoga with this one, going to that therapy that's not going to help any. Sorry, but that white people shit is not going to help any. You're going to my Señora.

CAROLINA. Shut up Vic and I go to therapy.

ALICIA. The woman who can tell you your future? No, that shit is not for me, Yessie.

YESENIA. Yeah. That one.

ALICIA. I don't believe in all that. No offense to you, Yess, but I just don't believe in that.

YESENIA. Okay. Not that one, then. But just indulge me. Hazlo por mí, nena. I'll take you to one that's real good. Es una morenita, but she's real good with things. You'll see.

ALICIA. Yess, I'm sorry.

YESENIA. Ali? This bitch was in your bed.

(Beat.)

Bandido.

(Beat.)

On her lap.

(Long pause.)

ALICIA. Oh, God. This is so stupid...

CAROLINA. She'll go.

YESENIA. That's my girl.

(Taking out a bottle from her purse.)

But in the meantime, a little Jose Cuervo to get us through the day...and my closing.

CAROLINA. Yesenia, there's a lot we need to teach you about tequila. This stuff is crap.

YESENIA. I know you a tequila snob / but we all going to drink it right now. I got some cups right here in my purse.

(The next two lines overlap.)

ALICIA. I don't feel like drinking right now...

CAROLINA. Preparada y toda la cosa.

YESENIA. Yup. Always prepared.

(YESENIA hands ALICIA a cup.)

ALICIA. Oh, God, Yess...

YESENIA. Come on. You too over there, in your little batita. Come on.

(LULU comes over and takes the last of the four cups. They raise their cups.)

To the wise women.

(They all say a loud "Salud." They react to the tequila going down.)

LULU. "Better than the pain of thinking, Is to steep the sense in drinking."

YESENIA. Okay, don't give this one any more.

Scene 3

THE TWO-HEADED CAT

(A humble kitchen in the South Shore of Chicago. CAT is leading ALICIA to the kitchen table. There's some sort of construction paper project with maps on the table. It's very involved.)

CAT. Just through here, Honey. Go on ahead and sit down – How did you find me again?

ALICIA. Yesenia Rivera, she was the one who... She recommended you. She was actually supposed to come with me but she –

CAT. Hold on, Honey. Romina, come and get this shit up off of this table.

(To ALICIA.)

I'm sorry about that, my daughter always keeps this house a sty with all her shit everywhere.

(Offstage to ROMINA.)

Romina, what did I tell you about putting your mess all over my table? Romina!

ROMINA. Chill out. I was coming out to get it as soon as I heard the doorbell. / I know how you get.

CAT. Don't you sass me. Got the nerve to get your back up about it.

ROMINA. Chill out.

CAT. You better fix that face or I'll fix it for you. Alright now. Excuse my daughter, she got a attitude.

(To ALICIA.)

Go ahead Honey, sit right there. We'll get you going as soon as this girl gets her shit up off my table. Slow as molasses.

ROMINA. I was doing a project. I got a system going.

CAT. I ain't got all day here.

(ROMINA finishes and exits.)

CAT. I'm sorry about that. That's my pride and joy right there, but you have to have a firm hand with kids now days. Ooh, can I get you some water? Some juice? We got some cherry soda.

ALICIA. Aaah...

CAT. Romina! Will you get this girl some juice from the porch?

ROMINA. (*Offstage.*) What kind?!

CAT. What kind you want, Honey? We got grape and apple. You want a pop instead?

ALICIA. Water's fine, thank you.

CAT. Just bring in some iced water for the both of us!

(*Beat.*)

See, you're lucky I ain't one of them bad doctors. You shouldn't ever take anything that don't come off a can or a closed bottle from any rootworker. That's rule number one.

(ALICIA is suddenly panicked.)

Oh, don't worry, Honey. I'm not one of them swindlers. To show you, I'll drink whichever glass of water you want me to. We don't lay down those tricks in this house.

(ROMINA enters with the waters.)

Thank you, Hon. Make sure you finish your work now.

ROMINA. What you think I'm trying to do?

CAT. Is that sass?

ROMINA. No, ma'am.

CAT. Go on ahead then.

(*She exits. ALICIA's looking at the water.*)

Pick one, Honey, I'll take either one.

ALICIA. Oh, it's okay. This one's fine.

(*She takes a drink.*)

CAT. So-he-broke-your-heart, huh.

ALICIA. I'm sorry?

CAT. Some fool broke your heart and here you come looking for me to get him back.

ALICIA. Actually, I'm just here to have a kind of anthropological experience.

CAT. You said who?

ALICIA. I'm just here for fun. Hhmm...curiosity.

CAT. Some fool didn't break your heart?

ALICIA. It's a little more complicated than that –

CAT. It is never as complicated as all that. Either you want to *get* someone, or get someone *back*. That's all there is, really. You might also want to get back *at* someone. But I don't think that's why you're here. No. Vengeful eyes didn't come through my door today. You come in here looking like a wet noodle about some fool who broke your heart and you want to get him back. Is that about right?

ALICIA. Like I said. It's a little more complicated than that.

CAT. You got kids?

ALICIA. No. No, ma'am.

CAT. Then it's not as complicated as all that.

(*Beat.*)

Let me tell you one thing, sugar. Before we get started and I tell you what I **CAN** do, it's good we talk about what we **SHOULD** do. Look, I don't know your situation. But if you got no kids and he up and left and was rotten to you / I suggest you do all the bawling you have to do. Then you go ahead and get good and mad. Throw things, eat ice cream. Get yourself piss drunk, buy some – I don't know – get yourself some shoes like they wear on *Sex and the City*. Get you some good dick. Nothing better to cure the blues than some good dick. Do all the things you got to do.

ALICIA. He wasn't rotten to me...

(*Beat.*)

CAT. Then let it go. That's not magic, that's just common sense.

(Pause.)

But that's not why you're here, is it? Nope. Okay. One day you'll remember my words and you'll realize that the best thing you can do is to just let him go.

(Pause.)

But not today. Alright then. Let's have it. He yo husband?

ALICIA. No. My partner of nine years. We've lived together for seven of those years and we had just become engaged. We hadn't set a date yet, but –

CAT. He like yo husband you live together seven years –

(Loud song is heard from ROMINA's room.)

Romina! Turn that racket down! Put on your damn earphones.

ROMINA. It ain't even loud!

CAT. Romina I swear for God!

(ROMINA turns music off.)

Thank you! Lord.

(To ALICIA.)

Alright, so you want this fool back. Well, girl, first you have to have him WANTING to come back. Got to make him restless for you.

ALICIA. How do I do that?

CAT. Did he leave you for another woman?

(Pause.)

ALICIA. Yes.

CAT. Anthropological...

ALICIA. ...

CAT. What she got? Money? Big titties? Does she turn him out? Does she go down on him with ice cubes or Alka-Seltzer or something?

ALICIA. What...

CAT. Guys are into all sorts of stuff nowadays. I bet she give him the ass. They always trying to take that ass.

ALICIA. How would I know?

CAT. My ex-husband always trying to take that ass.

ALICIA. She's young. Like twenty-four. She's living with him now. In our apartment.

CAT. Ah, hell no! Alright, let's see. Alright. We're gonna do the "Intranquil Spirit" spell on him. We're going to Intranquil him until he can't help it but come back.

ALICIA. I'm sorry, is that bad? I'm actually not sure if I want to do any of this. It was my friend's idea that I come see you. I think I'm wasting your time... I'm sorry.

(ALICIA has gathered her things and stood up.)

CAT. Sit down. Sit down.

(Beat.)

You a broken li'l thang, aren't you?

ALICIA. I'm not saying I believe in any of this but if I did, I wouldn't want to get bad karma.

CAT. You don't believe, huh? Yet here you are. You must believe something.

ALICIA. Is what you're suggesting like black magic? I don't want to do black magic.

CAT. There is no black or white magic. And there is no karma in hoodoo. We don't believe in all that mess.

ALICIA. I don't want him hurt. This is the man I love, you know what I mean? He's not like a random bad guy or something.

CAT. Well, look at you. I swear I never saw nobody come in here and they man leave for another woman and they not asking, "Can you make him lose his job?" "Can you make his dick fall off?" Usually if they man cheat, they come in here wanting to do all sorts of things on him.

ALICIA. You can do that? You can make someone's penis fall off?

CAT. Girl, if you knew what people come in here asking. And yes, a cucumber and some nails will lay that trick. Why you not angry at him? Girl, you should be piss mad.

ALICIA. I don't know. When I caught them together. I wasn't angry. I was just confused. This is Diego. This is the guy I've picked. We've just made all these plans to spend our lives together and... I'm sounding like a Lifetime movie right now. Sorry. I just...I just want to make it like it was. As long as it's not something evil, I want to make it like it was.

CAT. And "like it was" was so good, huh?

ALICIA. Yes.

(Beat.)

...yes.

CAT. Hhmm... Tell you what. I'm going to do the "Intranquil Spirit" for you and I'll throw in a "Bitch Be Gone" for that little tramp. Make that bitch be good and gone forever. That still won't fix you two when he does come back, but we'll worry about that when we come to it. For that I will charge you \$125 and I like you, so I'm going to give you a spell to do on your own that will probably help more than most anything. This spell is older than almost any spell I know. This spell, it's in the Bible, girl. You ever made a honey jar?

ALICIA. No, of course not. I've never done any of this.

CAT. Write this down. Here some paper. Here go a pen. You take a jar. Any jar. You put a whole thing of honey in there, two cinnamon sticks, and some brown sugar. Then you tear off a piece of brown paper bag write his name on it, then you put your name in a circle trapping him nine times –

ALICIA. Whole name?

CAT. Yeah, his whole God-given name. Written clockwise. You close it up real tight. So tight. Then every day. Now you gotta do this EVERY DAY. You shake it. You shake that honey jar. You shake it and you think lovely things.

You think about when he used to make love to you, when he used to rub your feet and tell you nice things. You think about the times he made your leg shake like a doggy. Anything that you can feel in your body. Put all you energy into this honey jar, to sweeten him back to you.

(Dead serious, very clear.)

And no matter what. No matter what, you NEVER ever open the jar. Listen very carefully, you open the jar, the whole thing sours. You understand that?

ALICIA. Yes, ma'am.

CAT. While you do that, I'll be working on your "Intranquil" and your "Bitch Be Gone." And no, that's not a necessarily nice spell. But you leave that one to me.

(Loud music again.)

ROMINA! IF I HAVE TO TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME ABOUT THAT MUSIC –

(ROMINA enters.)

ROMINA. It ain't me. I don't even like Lil' Wayne. It's them again.

CAT. Getting on my last good nerve. I think it's time we hotfooted those two.

ROMINA. I told you. Should've hotfooted them a long time ago.

CAT. I was trying to be Christ-like and turn the other cheek...

ROMINA. Just give me the powder, I'll take it upstairs and lay the trick right now.

CAT. Can't hear myself think. Romina, go on an' bang on the ceiling will you?

ROMINA. *(Exiting.)* Oh, I'll go bang on they heads if you want. Don't be letting people study in this house.

CAT. Sorry 'bout that. What was I talking about? Oh, the "Bitch Be Gone." Ah, that noise. Honey, don't you worry none about that. I'm going to toss that tacky little

bitch in the river and drive her skanky ass away from your life. Like I'm 'bout to do to these people upstairs.

ALICIA. In the river?! No. No, I don't want her to like be hurt or anything –

CAT. Honey, I'm not actually tossing HER in the river. I make a dollbaby – a poppet with some mean herbs in there and I toss that in the river. Maker her go away.

ALICIA. Oh, my God. Like a Voodoo doll?

CAT. Yes, like a Voodoo doll only I'm not Vodoun. It's fine. It's not like they show in the movies. Don't think she going to start breaking off at the limbs or something. You want your man back, don't you?!

ALICIA. I'm just...I'm nervous! I don't...I've never done something like this before!

(The music is turned off.)

CAT. Thank you, Lord!

(To ALICIA.)

Please, everybody always says they never done something like this and they been doing things since the day they were born.

ALICIA. This is like a spell you're about to do. / I've never done a spell in my life.

CAT. Do you cross your fingers for luck?

ALICIA. Yeah.

CAT. Do you knock on wood?

ALICIA. Yes.

CAT. That's a spell. Do you wish on a star?

ALICIA. Aaah, I used to.

CAT. That's a spell. Do you find a penny on the ground and save it for good luck? When you sneeze, do you say "God bless you"? Have you ever caught the bouquet at a wedding so you'll be next down the aisle?

(Notices ALICIA's reaction.)

Sorry, we'll skip that one. You see what I'm saying though?

(Beat.)

CAT. Nothing but spells. You're doing them, you just don't realize you're doing them. Don't you be worried.

(Music starts up again.)

I swear to God...I swear they just got on my last good nerve.

ROMINA. Mama, I can't study like this.

CAT. I know, Honey. I'm about to take out the Goofer Dust.

ROMINA. Take it out Mama. You've given them warnings enough.

CAT. I do like the grandma so much, it ain't her fault her granddaughter's a mess.

ROMINA. Oh, well Mama. So mote it be! SO MOTE IT BE!

CAT. *(To ALICIA.)* Honey, we're going to have to cut this visit a little short. We 'bout to hotfoot us some hoodrats.

(Lights down.)

Scene 3.2

REFLECTIONS OF A LULU #2

(Two areas. In one, LULU is sitting on the exercise ball. She's got a couple of books by her feet and is eating Whole Foods cookies. She is bouncing less this time, rolling more. In the other area, ALICIA is carefully putting things into a jar, reading off the piece of paper with the recipe. By the end of LULU's interstitial, ALICIA gives the jar a shake. Not bad.)

LULU. If you think about it, we've been the same humans since the beginning of time. I don't think we've truly experienced much in the way of evolution...if you really think about it. Well, advances in technology, sure. Fire; the wheel; the iPhone. Sure. But in basic terms, we haven't leaped significantly as emotional beings. Still territorial; still threatened by foreigners; still irrational. We are the same primitives. That's a little depressing, that we are basically the same humans.

(She takes a bite of her cookie.)

Same concerns: Shelter. Reproduction. Sustenance.

(Bite.)

Fiber. All still necessary to us as organisms.

(Looking in ALICIA's direction.)

Only now we put it in little cookies and sell it to one another for exorbitant amounts.

(Lights down.)

Scene 4

SECRET(ito)S

(Two weeks later. We at the club. We at Ñ to be exact. The unpretentious Latinorati hangout on Elston Ave. Cute Brazilian girl DJ playing all the cuts. CAROLINA and YESENIA are decked out to the nines. The shoes are everything.)

YESENIA. Look at that situation going on over there.

CAROLINA. Pathetic.

YESENIA. I know.

(Drinks.)

We can remedy.

CAROLINA. Vinimos a lo de Ali, Yesenia. We're here for that.

YESENIA. But while she gets back, we can be here for THAT.

(She drinks from the little straw, hard. Then she starts to dance to the music in the direction of the dude.)

CAROLINA. Oh, here we go. I'm going to feel sorry for this dude by the end of the night, aren't I?

(YESENIA really brings out some good moves. It's kind of hypnotizing. Not funny hypnotizing, this shit is deep. CAROLINA lets it go on for a bit but then tries and struggles a little to get YESENIA back to the highboy table.)

Yessie, the girlfriend is giving you the stank eye. Ay, don't be chusma. Ven acá that I don't want to end up in a fight with anybody's woman tonight. Come on. I'd like to be able to come back to Ñ, thank you very much. Ven te digo.

YESENIA. Ay, what! You cock blocker. Bueno, to be continued.

CAROLINA. I want to tell you something. And I don't know if I should wait for Ali to come back from the bar cuz it's the kind of thing...**YESENIA.** Over here please? I'm saying something serious. I don't know if to wait for both of you guys to be here at the same time or to like...I don't know, tell you and you tell me if it's a good idea or not to even tell her.

YESENIA. Okay, what did they put in your drink? Didn't understand a fucking word / you just...

CAROLINA. This is seltzer water.

YESENIA. Shit. Well, then that's the problem! Let's get you a real drink! You like those fruity martinis, you want one of those?

CAROLINA. No, I can't drink. For at least nine months I can't drink. That's what I'm trying to tell you!

(CAROLINA indicates stomping her left foot a few times.)

YESENIA. Oh, shit...

(ALICIA enters, two drinks in hand. One for YESENIA, one for her.)

CAROLINA. Pero tú cierra el pico, okay? Wait till I tell her.

ALICIA. The bartender was acting like he didn't know me. I hate that.

CAROLINA. He's bitchy. I think he's on the DL. His eyebrows are too plucked.

ALICIA. They are a little too plucked.

CAROLINA. He probably goes to get them threaded. Cabroncito.

YESENIA. Look at that situation over there. She's dancing like a fool and he's just sitting on that stool bored. What a waste.

CAROLINA. I think she's a passer. A real Latina wouldn't be moving her hips like that.

ALICIA. *(Loaded.)* Moving like *how?*

CAROLINA. Exactly!

(CAROLINA mimics the rhythmless girl a little bit; a moment of levity.)

YESENIA. *(To ALICIA.)* Look at you, out and about. That's good, girl. / Can't get you out of the house lately.

CAROLINA. I know! And with the cutest top! Where did you get that?

ALICIA. Akira. It's old.

CAROLINA. So cute.

YESENIA. Oh, man she didn't just do the cabbage patch! Where is she from?!

(They react to the rhythmless girl. A moment.)

CAROLINA. Everything okay? I've been trying to call you all week.

ALICIA. I know. I'm sorry. I've been meaning to call you back. I'm in the middle of all that 2013 planning. So now I got Fear and Grace fucking up my life at the same time. I've just been having to be two steps ahead of everything, you know?

CAROLINA. Yeah, but like...after work? I mean, you don't text back? ¿Qué onda?

YESENIA. You been too busy eating soup with Lulu? /

(Back to the bumpkin.)

Look at this bitch...

ALICIA. Shut up Yessie.

YESENIA. Just saying.

CAROLINA. What are you up to? It feels weird not to see you all the time.

ALICIA. I haven't been up to anything, just...you know. Just doing things. This and that.

YESENIA. This and that?

CAROLINA. Like what? I'm not being metiche. I swear.

ALICIA. Just things.

YESENIA. Oh, you mean like "things"?

CAROLINA. Oh, I get it.

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