

OEDIPUS AT PALM SPRINGS

BY:

THE FIVE LESBIAN BROTHERS

NO DUPLICATION OF THIS MATERIAL MAY BE MADE

CASITAS BONITAS...FRIDAY EVENING

A private walled-in, women's desert resort. Several casitas -- numbered bungalows -- are decorated in faux Native-American style.

K.d. lang's "Constant Craving" plays at a level just high enough so that it can't be ignored and just low enough that you can't quite listen to it.

JONI, the hotel manager, pushes a cleaning cart upstage. Her hair is white and shorn close, except for a long braid that drops all the way to her butt and is tied off with a bell and some feathers. She is naked except for sunglasses, a full-body tan that can best be described as "desert crinkle" and a cell phone that is strapped around her waist.

Her keys jingle as she works quickly, unlocking doors and dropping off clean towels and welcome baskets.

After a few moments, a BUZZER RINGS.

JONI

Mother! Fuck!

She turns crosses to the intercom. For the first time, we see that she is blind.

JONI

(into intercom)

Yeah?

A woman's voice responds through the speaker.

CON (O.S.)

(over the intercom)

Hey, Joni, it's Con.

JONI

Who?

CON (O.S.)

Con! Con and Fran!

She buzzes them in then grabs a gauzy dress from a pile of dirty towels and pulls it over her head.

Con and Fran enter with tons of baggage.

CON AND FRAN

Oh, it so beautiful. Isn't it?  
(then)

Joni. Hi.

JONI

Greetings.

CON

Look at this place! We got here at the perfect time. The light is magical. Isn't it beautiful, Fran.

FRAN

Looks great. Did you do some renovating?

JONI

Time passes. Some things fall away. Others take their place.

CON

I don't know what it is about walking through that gate.

FRAN

I know! Palm Canyon Drive is right out there. But this side of the wall feels like another world.

CON

It's so great to be somewhere we can just be ourselves.

FRAN

Yeah.

Con gives Fran a peck and a little squeeze.

CON

Are Prin and Terri here yet?

JONI

No.

CON

Really? Good.

FRAN

I've got to pump. My breasts are killing me.

CON

We have a kid now, Joni. He's three and, believe it or not, this is the first time we've been away from him.

FRAN

You'd love him. He's a pisser. He's so smart.

CON

He can count to eleven...

CON AND FRAN

(together)

...in Spanish.

JONI

Don't like children anymore

(then)

You're in the Jacuzzi room.

CON

(psyched)

That is very good news.

They follow Joni to the room.

FRAN

Prin got us the Jacuzzi room?

CON

She said she wanted this weekend to be really special.

They follow Joni to their casita. Joni opens the door and they enter.

Fran does the heavy work of moving the luggage while Con unpacks a few frills to add ambience to their room -- a sexy fabric for the bed, candles, incense, etc.

CON

Fran. Fran. It's like a honeymoon hideaway.

JONI

Check out the services binder. There's some new spa treatments we're offering.

CON

Do you still have that German lady who does the facials?

JONI

Belgian. No, she goes back to Europe during the off-season. But I'm doing key readings.

FRAN

Key readings?

JONI

I toss your keys then read the energy. It's very effective.

Con emerges from the casita.

FRAN

Maybe we should try it, hon. Figure out what the fuck is wrong with us.

CON

(nervous laugh)

Fran!

FRAN

(to Joni)

Nothing's wrong with us.

CON

Nothing's wrong with us.

Joni stares at them, inscrutable.

Con gets increasingly uncomfortable as Joni remains mute.

CON

We're having a little sexual dysfunction, but that's very normal for a couple after their first child. Maybe our lack of sex -- that's our problem, lack of sex -- maybe it's gone on a little long. Longer than usual.

FRAN

This weekend's really going to help.

CON

Yeah.

JONI

I'll get your muffin basket.

Joni leaves.

CON

Why did I say all that? God, she's so inscrutable.

FRAN

Shh. She's blind, not deaf.

CON

I said inscrutable, not rude and bizarre. And please can we not broadcast all our personal business.

FRAN

Me? You were the one blabbering on.

CON

Yeah, I know. But you just stood there. You could've stopped me. Hey, I really don't want you talking with Prin and Terri about our sex life this weekend, okay?

FRAN

Okay.

Fran gets a beer from the mini cooler they brought and heads for the door.

CON

Where are you going?

FRAN

The girls are going to be here pretty soon. I want to meet them.

CON

Is that a beer?

FRAN

Yeah.

Fran goes out to the courtyard.

CON

Fran?

FRAN

What?

(then)  
Is it the beer? I just thought since we were away I might have a few.

CON  
Honey, I need you not to disappear on me this weekend.

FRAN  
Alright, then. I won't drink the beer.

CON  
That would be good. And I won't drink either. That way we'll be able to show up for each other this weekend and work on what we discussed with Devra.

FRAN  
Totally.

CON  
Refocusing.

FRAN  
Refocusing.

CON  
On what?

FRAN  
On our sexual connection?

CON  
Yes, that. But mostly on each other. On being in our relationship, prioritizing that.

FRAN  
I was close, though, right?

CON  
So that's what we're going to do?

FRAN  
That is totally what we're going to do. So. Should we do our exercises now?

CON  
Out here?

FRAN  
Sure. No one else is here. We can do the one.

CON  
Okay.

They hug stiffly.

CON  
Are you doing the breathing?

FRAN  
Yeah.

They hug in silence someemore.

CON  
I don't know if you're supposed to be resting your head on my shoulder like that.

Fran lifts her head and tries to figure out what to do with it. She leans it against Con's head.

CON  
Didn't Devra say that we're supposed to each be leaning "into" each other but not "on" each other?

FRAN  
Am I leaning?

CON  
A little bit.

FRAN  
I'm just hugging you.

CON  
Okay.

(then)  
Ow.

FRAN  
What?

CON  
Nothing. Just keep hugging until we're relaxed.

The Main Gate opens and PRINCESS enters. She is a 52 year-old, handsome stone butch.

PRIN  
Caught cha!

Con and Fran break their hug.

PRIN  
Easy on the nookie, you two. The weekend's just getting started.

FRAN  
Hey!

Prin goes over and gives Fran a big bear hug.

PRIN  
You beat me, you dog. You hit that traffic around Corona?

FRAN  
Yeah. I was going to take the 15 up to the 60, but Con was like, no, let's stay on the 91.

PRIN  
Fucking 91. Backed up to Riverside.

While still talking to Fran, she goes to Con and takes her in her arms.

PRIN  
And how is the most gorgeous mommy in Rancho Mission Viejo?

She dips her.

CON  
(fanning herself)  
Hot.

PRIN  
I'll say.

CON  
(then, concerned)  
Better not let Terri hear that.  
Is she doing okay?

PRIN  
Yeah, she's okay. She's a trooper. I've got a fantastic weekend planned.

CON  
It's good we're here. It's always hard -- the first birthday without your mom.

PRIN  
Don't make a big deal though, okay? She just wants to have a good time.

FRAN  
Oh sure.

CON  
Oh, we wouldn't.

Terri enters

TERRI  
Hi you guys!

CON  
(all super sympathetic)  
Hey, kiddo.

Con and Terri hug.

FRAN  
How you holdin up, Ter?

TERRI  
(big sigh)

I'm okay.  
(beat)  
I'm really okay, you guys. How are you? I'm so glad to see you.

CON AND FRAN  
(still focused on Terri)  
We're fine. We're good.

TERRI  
We're going to have a fantastic time. Okay? That's what I want for my birthday, okay?

(changing the subject)  
Con, when did you do that to your hair? You look amazing.

CON  
You've seen this.

TERRI  
No, I haven't.

CON  
I had it done three months ago.

PRIN  
We haven't laid eyes on you since what - the Rusty Pelican?

FRAN  
No way, that was around Easter.

CON  
I think she's right. We were going to do that Sparks thing but we had to back out.

FRAN  
Basil had that reaction to kiwi.

CON  
She gave him kiwi. She gave a three year-old kiwi!

FRAN  
I didn't know it was on some list of reactive foods.

PRIN  
Yeah, whatever. The point is it's not easy getting you two out of that hermetically sealed nursery.

TERRI  
Prin, stop. You both look beautiful. Fran, you look so voluptuous and gorgeous.

Fran shifts from foot to foot uncomfortably.

TERRI

How's B?

FRAN

I miss him so much already.

CON

He's good. He's at his grandma's.

FRAN

I can't believe you got us the fucking Jacuzzi room.

PRIN

Jacuzzi room? No, that's some kind of mistake. I didn't get you the Jacuzzi room.

Con and Fran look at each other awkwardly.

FRAN

Oh, we...Joni said...

PRIN

I hope you didn't stain the sheets yet.

FRAN

No, we...

PRIN

I'm just kidding you. I got you the Jacuzzi room.

CON

Jesus! Prin!

FRAN

Next time's on us.

PRIN

Hey, I like the new Saab. Very nice.

FRAN

Yeah, Con let me have it.

CON

I drive the minivan.

PRIN

Job treating you okay? Ketterwelter busting your ass?

FRAN

Oh yeah. Doug's great. It's good. Good.

CON

Are you kidding? The whole department worships her.

PRIN

I got a great deal going down in these condos in Phoenix. Sure you don't want to jump in with me?

FRAN

Can't do that anymore. I've got enough ups and down with the kid and all.

PRIN

Fen Yan is giving me a 30-year fixed rate at 3.5.

FRAN

3.5? Really?

Con and Terri share a look.

TERRI

Hey! Woo-hoo! Masters of the universe! We're on vacation, remember?

CON

First rule of the weekend--no business talk after sunset.

PRIN

Con has spoken.

FRAN

Sorry, babe. You're right. I'm here to leave all that behind.

Joni enters.

JONI

Princess. Good to have you back. My oldest customer.

She holds out her hand. Princess shakes it.

PRIN

Aw, come on. 52's not that old. What are you doing here this time of year? Aren't you usually on a treasure hunt or...what are those things you do?

JONI

Vision Quest. No, I couldn't go this year because Jorel and Tiny are in Guatemala on a buying trip so they asked me to stay through August. So, here I am. Casita 26, right?

Joni pulls out her keys. Then when she senses Terri, freezes. There is a pause.

TERRI

Hi. My name's Terri.

CON

She knows you, Terri.

TERRI

No, we've never met.

CON

You've never met Joni?

PRIN

She wasn't here when we came before.

Terri extends her hand. Joni doesn't take it.

JONI

Is she your...

PRIN

She's my girlfriend.

Terri drops her hand.

JONI

No. This is someone else.

PRIN

Nope. I'm pretty sure this is my girlfriend.

JONI

Hm.

FRAN

She's brought so many girls here over the years you're probably just confused.

PRIN

Terri and I have been together for seven years. It's her birthday. Remember, I told you that over the phone?

JONI

Today is her birthday?

TERRI

Sunday, actually. Sunday's my birthday.

Joni laughs.

TERRI

What's so funny?

JONI

Birthdays are funny things. How sometimes you can forget your own birthday.

PRIN

I do that. I forget if Terri doesn't remind me.

JONI

It looks like you four have the place to yourselves this weekend.

CON

Yeah. We're the only ones crazy enough to come to the desert in the middle of August.

JONI

I think it's the best time to come. Only the strong remain.

TERRI

Joni, I was wondering if you had some information about the Painted Canyons?

JONI

The painted canyons can never be fully known.

TERRI

I just meant, the hours and stuff.

JONI

There is a brochure in your binder.

TERRI

Oh. Thanks.

JONI

What are you looking for?

TERRI

Um, looking for?

JONI

You're looking for something...

TERRI

I...

JONI

A roadrunner?

TERRI

Well, yes, I'd like to see a roadrunner.

JONI

(laughs)

You won't find it there. Here. Take your muffins.

Joni exits.

Fran makes a space ship sound.

TERRI

What was that?

CON

You'll get used to her. She does readings and stuff. It can be kind of fun.

FRAN

Isn't she like 1/38th Blackfoot or something?

PRIN

How can you be 1/38th anything?

TERRI

I just asked her a simple question.

PRIN

Readings, predictions. You make your own bed and you lie in it, that's what I say. What say we hit the pool and drown ourselves in some margaritas? I got the good stuff.

FRAN

Sounds great!

CON

Fran?

FRAN

Oh. Okay, well.

CON

I think we're going to turn in early. It's been a long week.

PRIN

You're kidding me? It's only 8:30!

CON

We're on "mommy time".

PRIN

Oh, I get it. These two get five minutes away from the kid and BANG! (to Fran, wink, wink) No worries, pal. Have a good "rest".

Terri grabs Prin by the hand.

TERRI

Come on, baby. I'm feeling a little "tired" myself.

CON

See you in the morning.

PRIN

Right! Morning. Fran, we have tee-off at 7:30. You girls have the whole morning at the outlets. Don't spend too much. Back here for BBQ. Then Sunday is birthday, birthday, birthday. Dinner at Shame on the Moon.

CON

Wow! You really do have the whole weekend planned.

PRIN

That's just the beginning. 'Night folks!

INSIDE PRIN AND TERRI'S CASITA

Prin and Terri enter. They kiss, deeply. Terri breaks it off.

TERRI

I can't believe it's been so long since we've actually seen Fran and Con.

PRIN

Who?

Terri pushes Prin off.

TERRI

You devil.

PRIN

I can't get used to that rack on Fran.

TERRI

Go easy on her, Prin. She's a little fragile, I think.

PRIN

The mommy thing's makin' her all soft.

TERRI

You love your friend, Fran.

PRIN

Do not.

TERRI

You've missed her.

PRIN

Have not.

TERRI

Be sweet with her. She thinks you don't approve of her life with a kid and a desk job.

PRIN

I don't.

TERRI

I'm just saying. You be sweet.

PRIN

Okay, I'll be nice. I'll be like -- No, tell me again? How many times did Basil poop today? I'm really interested.

TERRI



You know what's insane?

PRIN

What?

TERRI

That kid is crazy for you.

PRIN

What can I say?

(grabbing Terri's ass)

The youngsters love me.

TERRI

Yes we do.

Prin pushes Terri on to the bed. They kiss. Then...

TERRI

Before I forget I need to call this guy back.

PRIN

Which guy?

TERRI

That detective who found Antonia's mother.

PRIN

I don't know who that is.

TERRI

Yes you do. Antonia, from that group. She's been looking for her mom for like 12 years. This guy is amazing and he found her in, like, a couple of weeks and Antonia flew to Houston and met her mother. She has a brother and two sisters now. When she came back she was so changed. She said she felt whole for the first time in her life.

Prin gets up and goes to the fridge.

TERRI

I'm sorry.

PRIN

For what?

TERRI

You're so irritated with me.

PRIN

I'm not irritated with you. I'm just getting some ice.

TERRI

I know you think it's a bad idea for me to look for my birth mother.

PRIN

I don't have an opinion about it, sweetheart.

TERRI

But you think I'm too focused on it.

PRIN

I think you had a great mother.

TERRI

I know. I did. I had a wonderful mother. But when Betty died -- I can't explain it. It feels like it opened up this hole in me that nothing can fill.

(heading Prin off)

And don't go making one of your jokes.

PRIN

Do you think maybe you just need to give yourself some more time to deal with Betty's death?

TERRI

It's been six months. It's not getting better. I feel like I'm not attached to anything. Like I don't belong anywhere. What have I done with myself? I pissed away my twenties.

PRIN

Who didn't?

TERRI

You didn't. You started how many businesses? And Con and Fran didn't.

PRIN

You're gonna get your degree in a few months.

TERRI

But does the world really need another communications major?

PRIN

Baby -- look at me. How 'bout giving yourself a little break? Huh?

TERRI

You're right. You brought me out here for a beautiful birthday weekend and I'm going to have one. I'm putting away my cell phone and I'm focusing on you and our friends. But mostly I'm going to focus on you.

PRIN

That's my girl.

TERRI

Oh, Prin, was I always this touchy?

PRIN

I don't know. Let me touch you.

TERRI

Come on, I didn't used to be like this. Did you see how I was with that crazy Joni? She totally spooked me.

PRIN

Yeah, well. She's spooky.

TERRI

Prin. What would I do without you?

PRIN

Perish.

TERRI

I would.

(then)

God. How do you do that to me? Is this my birthday present. Because it's really good what you're doing right now.

PRIN

No, it's even better.

TERRI

Better than this?

PRIN

Yeah, I'm going to go to the mall and get you some socks or something.

TERRI

You beast! Just for that I'm going to go sleep in Fran and Con's room.

PRIN

Oh, don't interrupt them. Now that they're away from that kid, those two are going at it like porn stars just finishing a prison sentence.

Prin throws Terri on the bed and climbs on top of her like a porn stud. Terri squeals with delight.

IN FRAN AND CON'S CASITA...

Con is lying on the bed and Fran is sitting next to her and stroking her lightly with one hand.

FRAN

How does that feel?

CON

Nice.

A timer goes off.

FRAN

So that was nice?

CON

Yeah. It's interesting that you just use the one hand.

FRAN

Good interesting or bad interesting?

CON

Neither. Just interesting. Feathery.

FRAN

Feathery, yeah. That's what I was going for.

CON

Oh. Well, it was good then. It was really feathery.

FRAN

Did you not like it? I'm not clear on what you're saying to me.

CON

It was good. It was fine. It was really nice. It's just interesting to me because I use both hands and massage more but you're doing something different. It felt a little like you weren't paying that much attention but now that I understand you're doing the feather thing it's fine.

(she gets up)

Want some water?

FRAN

Sure.

CON

Prin and Terri seem good.

FRAN

Yeah. Always at it.

CON

It's almost too much, you know? Like, if you have to flaunt it, you haven't got it.

FRAN

Oh, I think they have a pretty good sex life.

CON

Yeah.

FRAN

They have some connection.

CON

Well, they're still getting to know each other.

FRAN

After seven years?

CON

Yeah. Give them another decade and we'll see how hot they are.

FRAN

Oh, totally.

CON  
(then)  
Okay. So, your turn. I do you.

FRAN lies down on her stomach.

CON  
Honey?

FRAN  
Umhm.

CON  
I think you need to turn over. This is the part where we add in the breast touching.

FRAN  
Oh, no. I don't think I can do that.

CON  
I won't do it in a sexual way. I know it's hard to feel sexual when you're nursing.

FRAN  
Yeah. I'm more comfortable this way.

CON  
Honey. That's hard for me. Honey? It feels really rejecting to me.

FRAN  
I'm not rejecting you, honey. I just don't want to have my tits touched in that way.

CON  
I'm not going to inappropriately sexualize you but I want to be close to you. I want to share this experience with you.

FRAN  
Okay.

FRAN turns face up. Con touches her breasts through her clothes.

CON  
How is this for you?

FRAN  
It's so uncomfortable.

CON gives a deep, irritated sigh.

FRAN  
What? I'm sorry. It is.

CON  
No, I know.

CON gets up and starts straightening up the room.

FRAN  
Con.

CON  
What?

FRAN  
Con. Come on. Come over here and let's talk about this.

CON  
What? I love your tits and I'm not allowed to touch them and it makes me really sad!

FRAN  
Oh, honey. I'm so sorry. I do understand. I just don't know what to do. I mean, it is really intense while I'm breast feeding. It's like my breasts aren't for sex. They're for food.

CON  
Do you think we should try again to wean Basil?

FRAN  
Really? You think so?

CON  
No, never mind. I'm the bad mommy.

FRAN  
Con, don't do that. You're not the bad mommy.

CON  
I'm the bad, selfish mommy. He is three, Fran.

FRAN  
Yeah, but I think he's still really... It's a big thing for him still.

CON  
You're right.

FRAN  
Don't be mad.

CON  
I'm feeling a little desperate. Do you understand that?

FRAN  
Of course I do, honey. I love you so much.

CON  
Then kiss me, Fran.

FRAN gives her a kiss.

CON  
Kiss me like you mean it, Fran.  
Fran kisses her a little deeper.

CON  
Make love to me, Fran.

FRAN  
Oh, Con. I can't. Not right now.  
Con pulls away.

FRAN  
Honey, I'm just not in that place.

CON  
It's been four years, Fran.

FRAN  
I know, honey. We'll work on it. We are working on it.

CON  
No, you're not listening to me. Four years. Four. Four. Four. Four. Four. Years since we last had sex --

FRAN  
We'll work on it, honey.

CON  
We've been in couple's counseling for six years. We've been in sex counseling since last November. No, Fran, no. No more processing. It's not working. You need to figure out how to give me some sex.

FRAN  
Okay, okay. I'll go into individual counseling. I can wean Basil. You're right. It's time. I'll figure it out, honey. Just give me a little more time.

CON  
You have till Sunday.

FRAN  
Sunday?

CON  
I'm not kidding.

FRAN  
Not kidding about what?

CON  
This weekend, Fran. You have this weekend to figure it out and give me some sex.

FRAN  
But Con...

CON  
Figure it out.

FRAN  
Honey?

CON  
I'm going in the bathroom and I'm going to jerk off. That's the other thing that's going to change. I'm not going to keep sneaking around. We both know I masturbate all the time. I'm desperate for sex. I know I seem insane. I can't help it. I can't keep pretending that I don't have any needs. I cannot continue in this relationship the way it is. I love you, Franny and I love Basil but I just can't do it.  
She goes in the bathroom and shuts the door.

CASITAS COURTYARD...

Late night. Fran is awake in her casita. She steps out into the night. She dips her toe in the pool.

PRIN  
So. Did you get any?

FRAN  
Prin?

Fran turns to see Prin's cigarette glowing in the dark. Prin gets up out of a chaise and walks into the light. She carries a cigarette and a tumbler full of amber booze.

PRIN  
I love this time of night. My mother would give me beer sometimes. In my bottle.

FRAN  
No shit?

PRIN  
When I cried too much.

FRAN  
That's funny 'cause you don't like beer now.

PRIN  
Ah, that's kid stuff. You and Con settle in okay?

FRAN  
Oh yeah. Yeah. Real nice.

PRIN  
So, how you been since the playoffs?

FRAN  
Oh you know. Pretty good. I'm tired, is all. Tired of being tired too.

PRIN  
The little bruiser keeps you busy, huh?

FRAN  
Yeah, he does. But I wouldn't trade it Prin. He can catch a hardball now, I told you that right?

PRIN  
Thought he liked tennis.

FRAN  
He does. I'm trying to discourage him. Like you said, who watches tennis?

PRIN  
That's the spirit. If he has a shot at really doing anything, team sports dude.

FRAN  
So, how you been?

PRIN  
Pretty good, pretty fucking good.

FRAN  
Yeah, sounds like business is going great?

PRIN  
Business is always just business at the end of the day. After a certain point, how much shit can you buy with all the money you make. There's more important things in life.

FRAN  
Who are you? What have you done with my friend Prin?

PRIN  
Can I show you something Fran?

FRAN  
Am I going to have to show you mine too?

PRIN  
No, no. Hold my cig.

Fran takes Prin's cig and takes a drag off of it while Prin fishes in her pocket. She pulls out a small jewelry box and opens it.

FRAN  
Wow, that is nice. Really nice. Terri's gonna love it. Con and I... I hope Terri likes what we got her. We took a bit of a risk.

PRIN  
Got one for myself, too.

FRAN  
Oh.  
(then, getting it)  
Oh... Prin. Does that mean what I think means?

PRIN  
I'm giving it to her, man. To Terri.

FRAN  
Are you shitting me?

PRIN  
If the pope falls in the woods, does he make a sound?

FRAN  
Are you having a wedding? This is blowing my mind.

PRIN  
No wedding. No public thing. Just -- I just -- I love her.

FRAN  
You always love 'em pal.

PRIN  
No, I don't think so. I don't think I really knew what that meant before.

FRAN  
When did you decide this?

PRIN  
I started thinking about it when her mom got sick. You know I wondered if I could hack it. I just loved her more. I didn't expect that. I figured, if I can get through this and still be crazy about her, then maybe it's time to make it official.

FRAN  
Wow, that is great. That is fucking great.

PRIN  
Think she'll have me?

FRAN  
Oh god. Totally.

PRIN  
I'm giving it to her Sunday night, at dinner. I'm going to be an old married lady, just like you.

FRAN  
Ugh. God, I hope not.

PRIN  
Rough night, huh?

FRAN  
Huh?

PRIN  
Come on, Fran, something's up. You've got that twitch under your eye.

FRAN

I don't know.

PRIN

I told you my secret. It is a secret, by the way. No telling anyone. Not even Con.

FRAN

Con's pissed at me, I guess.

PRIN

Okay. Have a schnort.

Fran's hand shakes as she pours herself a shot.

PRIN

You're fucking shaking like a leaf.

FRAN

It's totally fucked up.

PRIN

Sit back. Here's a smoke.

She hands Fran a lit cigarette.

PRIN

Now, speak my friend, what's up?

FRAN

Oh man. Well, aside from Con threatening to break up with me. Nothing much.

PRIN

So Con is upset.

FRAN

Fuck yeah, she is. Oh man, Prin. It's intense. I don't know how to say this. She says if we don't have sex by this weekend...she's going to...well, she didn't say exactly. But the implication was that she's going to leave me? Is that possible?

PRIN

Just give her some time to cool off. She'll be sweet as can be tomorrow. Hell, make-up sex is the best anyway.

FRAN

That's kind of the problem. She wants to have sex, you know? But I don't feel like it.

PRIN

I don't understand.

FRAN

I'm serious. I mean, being pregnant was weird, I've got hormones now and shit and I'm all --

PRIN

Easy, Fran. Everybody goes through these dry spells, even me.

FRAN

(incredulous)

Yeah?

PRIN

Yeah. That year I was having the change of life. Sometimes I'd go weeks. I just couldn't think about it.

FRAN

(despondent)

Weeks.

PRIN

How long's it been for you and Con?

FRAN

Four years.

PRIN

Holy Mother of God. I'd be dead.

FRAN

It's my fault. Con wants to.

PRIN

How come you didn't talk to me about this?

FRAN

I don't know.

PRIN

Man, if you told me sooner, we could have figured something out. Four years. Jesus Christ.

FRAN

What am I going to do?

PRIN

Well, what's the deal? You love her, right?

FRAN

More than anything. Except Basil.

PRIN

But you don't want to fuck her?

FRAN

I don't want to fuck anything right now. And then there's all this pressure.

PRIN

I think Con's right. I think you've got to fuck her.

FRAN  
When I don't feel like it?

PRIN  
You gotta prime the pump when it's dry.

FRAN  
Oh, okay. I guess.

PRIN  
Who knows you better than me?

FRAN  
Nobody.

PRIN  
You and Con are going to be fine.

SATURDAY, THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON...

Joni sits facing an easel. We watch her blind face as she dips her fingers in to pots of paint and decorates a CERAMIC ROOF TILE.

JONI  
What we're talking about here is 'predetermination'. Fate. The belief that one's destiny is sealed from the moment we're born. There's nothing we can do to change it.  
(then)

No. Thomas Aquinas is "order of determination". That's different.

The Main Gate opens.

JONI  
Oh shit. I gotta go.

Joni removes the ear-bud of her cell phone and starts cleaning up.

Terri and Con enter, carrying large OUTLET SHOPPING BAGS.

TERRI  
I'm serious, Con. They're gorgeous on you!

CON  
You don't think forty-four is a little old for low-riders?

TERRI  
Honey, not your forty-four.

CON  
Really?

TERRI  
Hot! Very hot!

CON  
Oh you! I'm gonna go change. Meet me back at the pool.

Con goes into her casita.

The front gate opens. Prin and Fran enter carrying their golf bags.

FRAN  
I don't know what it is. My swing is just fucking gone.

PRIN  
I'm telling you, Franski, we're going out again and I'm giving you a bloody mary to prove my theory.

TERRI  
Hey! How was golf?

PRIN  
Great.

Fran plops down on a chaise, exhausted.

FRAN  
Hot!

TERRI  
You two missed a great time at the outlets.

Fran and Prin exchange looks.

TERRI  
Con and I had a blast. She got the hottest pair of jeans, Fran. You should check them out.

FRAN  
I will. Definitely.

Fran doesn't move.

TERRI  
(sympathetically)  
You tired, Fran?

FRAN  
Pooped.

Terri kicks off her sandals and unzips her shorts.

TERRI  
The sun is really hot. I can't believe this whole 'no nudity' thing. It's so stupid.

JONI  
I don't make the rules.

Startled, Terri zips up.

TERRI

Oh, Joni. I didn't see you there.

JONI

I didn't see you, either.

TERRI

What? Oh, ha ha.

PRIN

Hey Joni, what are you painting?

Prin walks over and looks at Joni's painting.

PRIN

Looks like someone's been messing with your paint pots.

JONI

If so, then it was meant to be.

TERRI

Honey. How about a swim?

The painted tile grabs Terri's attention.

TERRI

Wow. That's so...powerful.

PRIN

Is that a potato?

TERRI

I think it's a baby. Right?

JONI

I just paint what I see.

TERRI

I don't know why but...it so moves me.

JONI

You should take it.

TERRI

Oh, no. I couldn't. I mean, I would have to pay you for it.

PRIN

Whatever you like, baby.

(then)

What's the asking price, Joni?

JONI

No, no. I insist. A belated birthday present.

TERRI

My birthday's not till tomorrow.

JONI

Of course. I meant to say 'early'.

TERRI

Really? I don't know what to say.

Joni hands Terri the tile. More than bad art passes between them.

Terri gives Joni a quick hug and takes the painted tile.

TERRI

I'm taking it before you change your mind.

Terri exits.

Prin sits on a chaise lights up a cigarette and smokes.

PRIN

You just made my girl very happy.

JONI

Pleasure is fleeting. All life is suffering, the Buddha says.

Her cell phone rings. She puts her ear-bud back in and answers, nonchalantly.

JONI

Casitas Bonitas. Speak.

Prin watches Joni go into the office, then takes off her shoes and puts her feet in the water.

INSIDE PRIN AND TERRI'S CASITA

Terri has hung the painted roof tile on the wall behind the bed.

The ugly painting is a madonna and child portrait in bizarre relief, almost like a negative of a painting. Prin is right...the child does look like a potato.

Terri stares at it while she strips down to her bikini.

CASITAS COURTYARD...

FRAN

God, it's hot.

PRIN



Go inside with your girl. Take a "nap".

FRAN

A nap. That sounds great.

Fran goes into her casita.

IN CON AND FRAN'S CASITA...

Con is trying on her new lowriders. Fran enters.

FRAN

Hey! How was the outlets?

CON

Fine.

FRAN

Those your new jeans?

CON

Yep.

FRAN

I like them. They're cute.

CON

Really?

FRAN

Yeah. Turn around.

Con spins.

FRAN

Nice. Is your crack supposed to be hanging out like that?

Con slams the bathroom door.

Fran flops down on the bed.

IN THE COURTYARD...

Terri re-enters from her casita, climbs on top of Prin and kisses her.

TERRI

Where's Fran?

PRIN

Inside.

TERRI

Oh, that's good.

Prin and Terri kiss. Prin nuzzles Terri's neck.

PRIN

This little spot right here is one thing I could not live without.

TERRI

That's right.

Con exits her casita, now wearing her swimsuit, book in hand. She watches Prin and Terri, who don't see her.

PRIN

And no matter who else loves you, this will always be mine.

TERRI

No one is ever gonna love me like you.

PRIN

Behind the ear will always be mine.

Con takes a deep frustrated sigh. She considers going back into her casita, both options look equally unpleasant.

Terri sees Con and sits up.

TERRI

Oh...hi, Con.

CON

Hi.

TERRI

Did Fran see your new jeans?

CON

Yep.

TERRI

What'd she say?

CON

Nothing that I can repeat in mixed company.

TERRI

See? I told you they were hot.

Prin laughs.

PRIN

Two o'clock. Time to rev up the blender.

Sounds great, babe. TERRI

Prin exits.

Is that the new Harry Potter? TERRI

Yep. CON

The sun feels great, doesn't it? TERRI

Hot. CON

You should definitely go back and get those shoes at Cole Haan. TERRI

MmHm. CON

You're not mad at me, are you? TERRI

No. Why would I be mad at you? CON

Oh, the last six months have been so shitty. I know I haven't been a very good friend lately. TERRI

Please, with all you're going through. CON

And you've been so good to me. All those late-night phone calls about my mom and my adoption and my search. I must drive you crazy. TERRI

Terri, you're my friend. CON

I've missed you and Basil so much. TERRI

Well, you have come over more. He misses you, too. He's getting so big you won't recognize him. CON

I should. Hey, you never finished telling me about that meeting. TERRI

Same as always. The City keeps threatening to close the hospital down and we keep fighting like hell to keep it open. CON

You help so many people. TERRI

Doctors help people. Administrators exasperate them. CON

And you and Fran? TERRI

We're good. CON

Are you two still in counseling? TERRI

Yep. CON

How's that going? TERRI

Good. CON

So things are good? TERRI

Things are good. CON

Prin re-enters with drinks.

Drinks are on. PRIN

Prin pours one for Terri.

Mmm. Icy cold. Delicious. TERRI

Sure I can't help you out, Con? PRIN

I'm staying hydrated. CON

Smart lady. PRIN

Prin gets in the pool with her drink. Con goes back to her book.

(to Prin)  
TERRI  
How's the water?

PRIN  
It's perfection.

TERRI  
Con? Want to go in?

CON  
I don't feel like getting wet.

Terri gets into the pool.

PRIN  
God, this jet of water feels good on my back.

Terri crosses to Prin. She puts her drink down next to Prin's and kisses her.

TERRI  
And how does this feel?

We can't see what Terri is doing to Prin under the water, but from the look on Prin's face, it's pretty damn good.

PRIN  
Mmm. Nice.

Con drops her book a little and watches them while they make out. After a moment, they stop kissing.

PRIN  
I think we better take this inside.

Terri dunks under the water then walks out of the pool.

Con's eyes follow Terri's dripping wet body as she disappears into the casita.

Prin carries their drinks inside and closes the door behind her.

Con sits there. No longer able to read her book. She looks at the margarita pitcher, longingly.

She looks around then takes a long gulp out of the pitcher.

She goes into the pool and stands where Prin was, using the pool jet to massage her own lower back.

After a moment, she turns around, facing upstage, the jet now massaging a totally different muscle. She writhes in pleasure as...

SATURDAY NIGHT...

Prin enters. She hums, carrying a plate of steaks. She knocks on Fran and Con's door. She's in a totally jovial mood.

PRIN  
Awake! The hour of barbequing is upon us.

She goes into her own casita.

PRIN  
Hey, sleepy head.

TERRI  
(sleepy)  
But I'm having such a nice nap.

PRIN  
And now you're going to have a nice dinner. Come on. Do I have to come in there and get you?

TERRI  
Yes.

PRIN  
No. Enough of that for now.

TERRI  
Okay, coming.

PRIN  
(knocking again on Fran and Con's door.)  
Ladies! Rise and shine!

Fran comes stumbling out, totally groggy.

FRAN  
Hey.

PRIN  
Well, hello, Casanova. How'd it go in there?

FRAN  
I think I could sleep 'round the clock.

PRIN  
Sexy. Very sexy. Where's Con?

FRAN  
(realizing she's not there)  
I don't know.

Con enters from the front gate in an overly cheery mood carrying a couple of small bags.

CON  
Hello!

PRIN

Hey, where've ya been?

CON

Oh! I went for a walk. Hot but nice.

FRAN

Hey, honey.

CON

Hey.

FRAN

Did you walk downtown?

CON

Yep.

Terri enters from her casita.

TERRI

Hey, everybody.

CON

Hey, Terri. That skirt looks great.

TERRI

Thanks.

Prin feels her up.

FRAN

I thought we were going to walk downtown later.

CON

You wanted to sleep. I let you sleep. What's up with your hair?

FRAN

I don't know. What?

CON

You've got Bozo hair. Would you go fix it, please?

Fran messes with her hair, only making matters worse.

CON

Go inside and look at what you're doing.

FRAN

I just sat down.

CON

Okay, sit there like that then.

Fran drags herself up and into the casita.

TERRI

Honey, what can we do?

CON

Yeah. How can we help, Prin?

PRIN

Just sit there and look sexy.

CON

I'll do what I can.

PRIN

That will be more than enough.

CON

Ha.

PRIN

Margaritas, ladies?

TERRI

Sure.

(taking in the atmosphere)

Oh, it's going to be a beautiful night. It's going to cool all the way down to 90.

PRIN

(offering her a margarita)

Con? Can I interest you?

Fran enters wearing a baseball cap over her bozo hair -- OR -- hair completely wet down and parted in the middle.

FRAN

How's this? Better?

CON

(looks at Fran and then back at the margarita pitcher)

You know what? Yes, give me a margarita.

PRIN

(handing her a drink)

Your wish is my command.

CON

Thank you.

(sips)

Hoo! I'd forgotten how strong your drinks are!

Strong, like bull!

PRIN

Oh. Are we drinking?

FRAN

I'm having a drink.

CON

Does that mean it's okay if I have one?

FRAN

Well, that's up to you, isn't it? What do you want, a permission slip?

CON

Well --

(totally confused)

FRAN

Oh, for fuck's sake, Fran.

PRIN

Prin pours her a drink.

PRIN

Alright. Now that we all have a beverage, I'd like to propose a toast. To Terri on her 37th birthday!

ALL

To Terri.

TERRI

Thank you. I feel very happy right now. I haven't felt this way in a while. Thanks, you guys, for being here.

(she gives Prin a kiss.)

Thank you, baby.

PRIN

You're welcome. Okay. How do people want their steaks?

TERRI

Medium.

CON

Medium rare.

Prin puts an apron on Fran and hands her barbecue fork.

PRIN

And you know I want mine bloody. I'm counting on you pal. The success of this barbeque is all going to come down to Francesa Cancellaro, maestro of the grill.

FRAN

You've prepared them with the Dr. Pepper marinade?

PRIN

You know it.

FRAN

Then sit back and relax. The maestro is in!

PRIN

Beautiful!

TERRI

You're so silly.

PRIN

Life's too short to be serious!

CON

She's just excited about your present, Terri.

TERRI

What present?

PRIN

Fran?

FRAN

Huh?

CON

Oh, she told me this morning.

TERRI

What is it?

PRIN

I said don't tell anybody!

FRAN

Anybody! Con's not anybody.

TERRI

Prin, what have you done? You didn't buy me a boat, did you? You guys, please tell me she didn't buy a boat.

CON

No, it's not a boat.

TERRI

Because I don't want a boat, Prin. If you want to buy one for yourself go ahead but I don't need a boat.

CON

(pointedly)

It's really quite amazing what she got you.

FRAN

Con got you an amazing present, Terri. Really. Amazing.

CON

Fran! Shh!

FRAN

What?

Con sighs impatiently.

TERRI

It's okay, you guys.

PRIN

Not another one of Con's "original" gifts.

CON

What? I don't like generic gifts.

PRIN

I'll say. I love my "dubloons"

CON

You know what, Prin?

PRIN

"Authentic pirate treasure."

CON

Next year I'm getting you gift soaps.

PRIN

Ahoy, maties. That's an original gift!

CON

I'm getting you scented candles from now on. Or a picture frame. You'd like that.

FRAN

Oh yeah, scented candles. She'd love that.

CON

Worse yet, I'll send Fran out to get your present.

FRAN

Hey.

CON

What? I'm joking. It's a joke.

TERRI

Hey, have you talked to Fran's mom? How's B doing?

CON

He's having the time of his life. He's on the sugar cereal and dairy diet. Maria can't say no to him. It's going to take us months to undo the damage.

FRAN

You were the one who wanted to leave him.

CON

What?

FRAN

I'm just saying.

CON

What were we going to do? Leave him in the car? They don't take kids here, Fran. This is a lesbian resort. Where you come to ...be lesbians. I miss him too.

FRAN

I know that.

CON

No, I know. Those two have their special thing.

TERRI

What do you mean?

CON

Terri, you know how they are. Melded. A unit. They have this mystical connection. It's beautiful.

PRIN

Kind of like us, babe.

CON

No, Prin, not like you.

TERRI

Fran, do you think that's true?

FRAN

I don't know.

CON

Oh, come on, Fran. You say to me, "I feel like he's -- me. It's like his shit is my shit. When he pukes it's the same as my puke."

PRIN

Yeah, you're right. Not like us.

FRAN

Did we need to share that?

CON  
It's biology. You can't get around it. You and Basil just have this...thing between you.

FRAN  
You and Basil have a thing.

CON  
Of course we do. He's my guy. That's not my point, Fran.

TERRI  
Hey, are we all doing okay here?

CON  
Yeah. We're great.

PRIN  
How about a little dividend?

CON AND FRAN  
Yes. Definitely.

Prin refills Fran and Con's glasses.

TERRI  
Oh, you guys. Don't stress. It's all going to be okay.

CON  
What are we even talking about?

TERRI  
It's your first time alone in a long time. It's not surprising if you're a little...out of sync.

CON  
We're in sync. We're fine.  
(then)  
Fran, do you need to pump?

FRAN  
I'm okay.

CON  
I don't know if you guys have noticed. But underneath those baggy polo shirts she wears her tits are amazing.

FRAN  
Con.

CON  
What? And the milk is incredible. The taste of it is really surprising -- like a combination of pineapple and love. Pure love.

FRAN  
I think she's getting a little drunk.

TERRI  
You've tasted her milk?

CON  
When I bottle feed him. Ingrid, our doola, said it was a way for me to feel more a part of the process.

PRIN  
Weird.

CON  
Weird. Right, Prin. You wouldn't know a mothering instinct if it hit you in the face.

PRIN  
True. I can't recall a mothering instinct hitting me in the face, although my mother did on many occasions.

TERRI  
Oh, honey.

PRIN  
What? It's the truth.

TERRI  
I know. But it's so brutal.

PRIN  
It was brutal, Kitten. She was mean. I'm just stating a fact. Motherhood is overrated in my opinion.

FRAN  
I just hope I can be a good mom to the kid.

TERRI  
You're a great mom, Fran.

FRAN  
I've never loved anyone the way I love him.

CON  
Oh yes, totally. It's like this instinctual thing that happens where you would just die for him, you would kill for him.

PRIN  
I think that's just love.

CON  
A very particular kind of love.

PRIN  
I feel that way about Terri.

TERRI  
You do?

CON

You would tear someone's jugular out with your teeth for Terri? Because that's the kind of feeling I'm talking about.

FRAN

Well, I don't know if I could do that.

CON

Do you have to disagree with everything I say?

FRAN

Well, yeah, when it's something ridiculous like that.

CON

You just have to agree with whatever Prin says.

FRAN

No, I just don't think we're like wolves.

CON

I didn't say wolves. How did you get that out of what I said? Jesus!

PRIN

So. You two have sex yet?

CON

What?

PRIN

If you went at each other in bed the way you're going at each other right now, you wouldn't have any problems.

CON

What?

PRIN

Listen, Con. I'm on your side. If I went without sex for four years I'd be a way bigger bitch than you.

CON

(to Fran)

Tell me you didn't do what I think you did.

TERRI

Honey. That's just not helpful.

PRIN

I told Fran straight out--

CON

Fran, how could you?

TERRI

Fran just needs to talk.

PRIN

Fran just needs to fuck you.

CON

Unbelievable!

PRIN

But true!

CON

I can't believe you told them, when I specifically asked you not to.

FRAN

It fell out.

CON

What's your damage, Fran. Is nothing private?

PRIN

Give her a break, Con. You scared the shit out of her.

CON

I will not allow you to gang up on me.

PRIN

It's only because you're so formidable.

CON

This topic is not up for discussion.

TERRI

Maybe talking about it will help.

CON

Don't psychoanalyze me, Terri.

PRIN

That's what I said, Con. The time for talk is over.

CON

Excuse me, Prin, if I don't want to take relationship advice from someone who thinks a lap dance is intimacy.

PRIN

Have you ever had a lap dance?

CON

You think you've got it all figured out now, as usual. Well, I will believe it when I see it.

PRIN

Watch and learn, Con.



CON  
Learn from you? Based on your illustrious track record the best thing for me to do right now is to dump Fran, find some other woman, run off with her and start all over again.

FRAN  
Hon --

CON  
What? Are you going to tell me that's not true? I believe you were the one who dubbed your friend Prin "The Master of Escape".

FRAN  
Con. Don't go there.

CON  
First, you used, what was her name? Charlotte, to escape from Michigan.

PRIN  
We were talking about your sex life. But keep going, Con, this is good.

CON  
Then there was Ellie. She lasted a year. When she wanted to move in with you, you took off to Europe. Andrea fell in love with you. How'd you get out of that one? Oh yeah. You went bankrupt!

FRAN  
That's absurd.

CON  
She was back in business two weeks later, without so much as a hiccup.

FRAN  
Yeah, okay.

CON  
Then there was Nicole. Then there was Dierdre.

TERRI  
That's enough.

CON  
No, you're right. If I included all the one-night stands and mistresses we'd be here all night. I actually thought you had something with Carol. Who we loved. But of course you had to go and dump her when you met...

TERRI  
...me!

PRIN  
I was just working my way up to the right girl.

CON  
I was just trying to point out a pattern.

Joni enters the courtyard without anyone noticing and quietly cleans up.

PRIN  
That's all well and good, Con, but I'm not your problem.

CON  
I wish somebody could tell us what our problem is.

TERRI  
You two just need more time alone.

CON  
This is it. This is our time. We're wasting it.

FRAN  
The weekend's not over.

CON  
What's going to change, Fran? You have zero interest in me, in sex, in ever having sex again.

FRAN  
Honey, I'm just exhausted.

CON  
I'm exhausted, too.

TERRI  
Have you two tried different things? Like, I don't know...like sensual massage.

CON AND FRAN  
Yes.

TERRI  
Role playing?

CON AND FRAN  
Yes.

TERRI  
Have you tried porn?

CON  
Tried it? I don't know if there's any left we haven't tried.

FRAN  
You haven't tried.

CON  
I like erotica. So what?

PRIN  
Penthouse letters. Very hifalutin.

CON  
Terri, we've done every exercise in the book. Nothing makes you feel less sexy than trying to make love "paint-by-numbers" style.

FRAN  
I'm so glad you said that. I thought it was only me.

CON  
Those exercises are bullshit!

JONI  
It all comes down to the phantom penis.

PRIN  
Joni's right. If you want to keep it going you've got to have some butch/femme sustaining energy.

FRAN  
What?

CON  
We've used dildos...

PRIN  
It's not the dick, it's the attitude. That's what's missing. You need a little testosterone in the relationship. The yin and the yang.

CON  
We've never had testosterone in our relationship.

PRIN  
Not true. Fran wasn't always such a femme.

FRAN  
Who're you calling a femme?

TERRI  
What's wrong with being a femme?

FRAN  
Nothing, except I'm not one.

CON  
I don't believe in butch and femme.

PRIN  
No wonder you're up shit's creek.

CON  
What's the point of being a lesbian if you're just aping some heterosexual paradigm?

PRIN  
It's the attitude, I'm telling you. You want Fran to take you like a caveman.

CON  
Unlike you, Prin, I've had sex with actual men, and I had enough to know that is not what I want.

PRIN  
Your 1970's politically-correct-no-penetration-bullshit is just a fast track to lesbian bed death.

CON  
So according to you the ghost penis or whatever you call it is the only way to keep the spark.

TERRI  
I don't think we ever had a spark, really.

FRAN  
What, are you kidding?

TERRI  
It's more like a slow burn. We just -- know each other somehow. We just read each other. Right, honey?

PRIN  
Something like that.

CON  
That's beautiful. It'd be a lot harder to maintain, though if you had a kid sleeping between you.

FRAN  
Sideways.

CON  
Sideways.

TERRI  
Well sure.

PRIN  
I told you that kid was gonna fuck everything up.

CON  
Before the baby, I used to have to fight Fran off.

FRAN  
As I recall, you didn't fight all that hard.

PRIN  
As I recall, you two were arrested in La Jolla for public indecency.

CON  
Gone are the days, my friend...

TERRI  
But you're happy you had Basil.

Oh yeah. FRAN

Totally. CON

(priming the pump)  
TERRI  
I mean think about your lives with him. Isn't it worth all the hard parts? Remember when he was born?

FRAN  
Remember? I remember thinking somebody please kill me right now and put me out of my misery.

CON  
Well, you did it without anesthesia.

TERRI  
Oh, tell that story!

FRAN  
Oh haven't you heard that story a million times?

PRIN  
A million and one.

TERRI  
Oh, tell it for me. For my birthday.

Fran looks to Con, who is still sulking. Fran launches anyway. She is a bad story teller.

FRAN  
So, I was holding onto the shopping cart, and the contractions started coming, and Con was ignoring me--

CON  
I was not ignoring you.

FRAN  
This one contraction came and it was really painful, and I was screaming, and Con was, like, doot-de-doo, where's the jumbo sized toilet paper?

CON  
She was screaming, but she wasn't making any noise.

FRAN  
Yeah, I was like--

Fran does a breathy, voiceless scream.

CON  
So I didn't hear her.

FRAN  
And I was like, "Con? Con? Con? Con? Con? --"

CON  
So I noticed she was gone and I turned around and she was holding onto the shopping cart, and she was, she looked terrible. She was white as a ghost. My heart stopped and I was like, "I'm going to get the car."

FRAN  
And I was like, "Honey, the baby..." And she was like...

CON  
I was like, "Honey, you're having a contraction. Hang on, I'm gonna get the car." So I'm running to the car and I'm looking for my keys in my purse and I can't find them and trying to rush and all like, "shit, shit, shit" and then I heard this screaming. All these young men were screaming and I turned and there was Fran on her hands and knees in a huge puddle and I nearly passed out and...

FRAN  
You! Those stock boys will never recover.

CON  
And I was like, "Honey, your water broke!"

FRAN  
And I was like, "No! No! The baby!"

CON  
And I was freaking out. I thought something terrible had happened. I said, "The baby's fine." And she said...

FRAN  
I said, "The baby is out! There's a baby in my sweatpants."

CON  
I thought she was hallucinating. But then I saw this big bulge.

PRIN  
Is that a baby in your pants or are you just happy to see me?

CON  
And it was Basil. And somebody called an ambulance. And we just sat there in aisle four of the Costco holding Basil and crying.

FRAN  
Con held him. I was afraid to touch him. I wanted to make sure we were doing the right thing. I wanted to leave him in my pants until the ambulance came but Con said... oh, I'll never forget. She said, "Of course we can hold him. He's our son. We can hold him forever."

(then)  
God he came fast. I'll say that for him.

CON  
Basil loves hearing that story.

PRIN  
Because it puts him to sleep?

FRAN  
(affectionately)  
Shut up.

Terri has teared up.

TERRI  
I love it. So beautiful. I always wished Betty could tell me my birth story. You guys are so blessed.

FRAN  
He is a cute kid.

CON  
Yeah. He is.

Con starts to cry.

TERRI  
Honey?

CON  
What's wrong with me?

FRAN  
Nothing!

CON  
I am so tired of having to be the bitch!

TERRI  
Oh, honey.

CON  
I know you guys are trying to help and I know you care about us, but it is so different with a kid.

TERRI  
It's an awesome responsibility.

CON  
And Fran, forgive me, is just out to lunch sometimes.

FRAN  
It's easier to be out to lunch. You should try being out to lunch sometimes.

CON  
Yeah, maybe I should.

FRAN  
And I'll try being the bitch.

CON  
(laughs)  
Yeah, right.

TERRI  
I don't think you have it in you, Franny.

FRAN  
I could surprise you all.

CON  
Oh, God. What a night.

PRIN  
Feel better?

CON  
I feel drunk is what I feel!

FRAN  
I feel not drunk enough! Fill 'er up, Dr. Cuervo!

Prin starts refilling glasses.

JONI  
Fire.

They all look at her, perplexed.

JONI  
Fire.

Then...

CON  
The steaks! Prin, the steaks!

Con jumps up. Fran falls.

FRAN  
Whoa, I'm drunk!

Terri and Con help Fran up, while Prin rushes to the smoking grill and opens it.

PRIN  
Steaks well done.

TERRI  
Oh no!

CON  
All that expensive meat!

FRAN  
Shit! I fucked up!

CON

No you didn't, honey.

PRIN

No, no! No problemo. Just think of it as a sacrifice to the gods. Now, if you'll excuse me, I think I'll retire to the "blendatorium" to see what I can improvise.

Prin grabs blender and exits.

TERRI

Wow. This is a lot of booze with no food.

CON

I know. It's kinda good, isn't it?

TERRI

Con. You are adorable when you're drunk.

CON

Really? You don't think I'm just mean?

TERRI

Never.

CON

Oh, Terri, we love you. Fran, come over here and tell Terri how much we love her.

FRAN

We fucking love you, Terri.

TERRI

I love you, too.

CON

We all love each other so much!

Prin re-enters carrying a bag of corn chips, a container and a bottle of tequila.

PRIN

Corn chips and fat-free sour cream. S'all I got.

CON

What happened to corn on the cob?

PRIN

Never made it to the grill. We got plenty more tequila, though.

Fran pours herself a shot. Drinks it. They start eating the chips.

CON

God, I am so much hungrier than I realized.

FRAN

(nibbling on Con's arm)

I'm just going to snack on this.

CON

What's gotten into you?

FRAN

I don't know. I think it might be a little (whispering right into Con's ear) tequila.

CON

Tequila, that must be it. I haven't felt this relaxed in months.

FRAN

Years.

CON

All that therapy, who knew we just needed tequila?

Prin pours Con a shot.

PRIN

I did!

Con downs the shot.

CON

Of course you did. This reminds me of college.

TERRI

What do you mean?

CON

How many shots it'd take for me to fake heterosexual feelings.

TERRI

Was it a lot?

CON

Honey, I'd have to drink a whole bottle before you could get me to eat the worm, if you know what I mean.

FRAN

I think under the right circumstances I could be with a guy.

CON

Oh, here we go.

TERRI

You, really?

CON

She fucks one gay guy in 1981 because she's tripping on Ecstasy and she thinks she's bi.

FRAN  
I don't believe in labels.

TERRI  
I never tried it but I don't think I'd like it.

CON  
Prin is man enough for you.

PRIN  
Terri's our only virgin.

CON  
(to Prin)  
Well, besides you.

(laughing)  
The uber-homosexual.

FRAN  
(going back to her story)  
I wonder whatever happened to that guy. What was his name?

PRIN  
I am not a virgin.

CON  
Huh?

PRIN  
I am not a virgin.

CON  
Am I super drunk or did you just say you fucked a guy?

PRIN  
It depends what you mean by "fucked".

CON  
Okay, President Clinton, what the hell are you talking about?

TERRI  
You never told me about this.

FRAN  
You never told *me* about this.

PRIN  
What's to tell? I was young, I was stupid, he had a hot girlfriend.

FRAN  
Ugh, now I've got that picture in my mind.

PRIN  
It was just a dick. What's the big deal?

CON  
Me, Fran, Terri fucking a guy, no big deal. You? Big deal.

TERRI  
It only makes me love you more.

PRIN  
Yeh. I gotta pee.

Prin exits to the Casita

CON  
Well, now my mind is officially blown.

FRAN  
You think you know someone.

CON  
Well, if Prin can fuck a guy, maybe we can have sex this weekend.

FRAN  
Kinda makes you believe in the impossible.

Con and Fran kiss.

TERRI  
Here's to Con and Fran. May the magic of the desert stars shine on them tonight.

CON  
To Con and Fran!

Joni starts drumming.

The three of them watch her, mystified for a moment. Then...

CON  
Hey Joni, read our keys.

FRAN  
Yeah!

Joni continues drumming.

JONI  
Now is not an auspicious time.

CON

Come on. Fran and I are treating Terri for her birthday.

Joni puts down her drum. She ritually bows to it and quietly says...

JONI

Scraboo.

Con guides Joni to a chair at the table.

TERRI

Guys. You don't have to do this.

FRAN

Yeah, we do!

CON

How does it work?

JONI

First. Toss the keys on to the table.

TERRI

I don't have any keys.

FRAN

Can she use mine?

TERRI

I doubt it.

JONI

Yes.

Fran hands Terri her keys.

TERRI

Okay, but only good news. It's my birthday!

CON

I'll throw in an extra ten bucks if you don't tell her any bad news.

JONI

It is the keys that speak, not I.

TERRI

I just toss them?

Joni nods.

CON

Does she rub them or anything?

JONI

No.

Terri tosses the keys. All gather around while Joni feels the keys.

PRIN

Why'd it get so deadly quiet around here?

CON

Joni's giving Terri a key reading.

Prin goes to Terri's side.

JONI

Aaahhh... The house key. Your heart key. It points toward the north. The north is orientation, the guiding star.

FRAN

Who knew?

CON

Shhh!

JONI

Your house key is sideways which can mean ambivalence or doubt. Most likely, you are a soul still searching for a home -- your true home.

Prin puts an arm around Terri's shoulder.

PRIN

Not for long..

JONI

This key is travel.

FRAN

(proudly)

The Saab.

JONI

Your toss left the key pointing straight up.

FRAN

That sounds like a good sign.

JONI

It means you have a rough journey ahead.

Fran laughs at the irony. But Terri is quiet, taking this seriously.

JONI

Is this...

FRAN  
The mailbox key.

JONI  
The key of letters -- the messenger key. You will receive something in writing. Something that will transform you.

Con gasps.

JONI  
This key is a lock. A mystery.

FRAN  
That's the key to my locker at the club.

JONI  
The lock key is crossed with the heart key. You are puzzling over something? You have a question...about your mother. Is there something you want to ask?

After a long silence.

TERRI  
She knew how much I loved her, right?

JONI  
No.

TERRI  
No?

JONI  
Your mother is coming closer to you.

TERRI  
Are you talking about my birth mother?

JONI  
Traveling very fast.

CON  
Oh my God. Oh my God.

JONI  
You cannot change what has been set in motion.

TERRI  
I haven't set anything in motion.

CON  
I'm no psychic but this makes so much sense.

TERRI  
It does?

CON  
Trust me! All will be revealed.  
(to Fran)  
On your birthday...

FRAN  
Shush, shush, shush.

Fran and Con are amazed.

PRIN  
This is a little oogly, boogly for me.

Prin abandons Terri's side, takes her drink and gets in the pool.

TERRI  
What do you mean my mother's coming closer?

JONI  
If you are squeamish, don't prod the beach rubble.

Joni stands up and downs a margarita.

JONI  
That's all I got. No glass by the pool, please. 'Night, ladies.

Joni shuffles off, exhausted.

FRAN  
That was freaky!

CON  
Intense, right? Did it make the hair stand up on the back of your neck?

Con feels Fran up.

FRAN  
God, that feels good.

PRIN  
Come on in, girls. The water's fine.

FRAN  
Yes! Let's go swimming.

CON  
That sounds delicious.

PRIN  
I want to see some wet lesbians.



Fran and Con grab their drinks and ease into the pool.

FRAN

(reacting to the water)

Eee!

CON

I can see by your erect nipples which point towards the east that the water is cold tonight. Scraboo.

FRAN

No, it's great. Ah!

Con peels off her wrap.

FRAN

Woo woo, baby.

Con does a little dance and gets into the pool, holding her drink. She walks over to Fran and gives her a big, sloppy kiss.

Terri quietly starts cleaning up.

CON

Oh, man! This is so nice! I wish I could be naked.

PRIN

Go for it.

CON

Remember what happened last time? Jorel almost forbade me from ever returning.

PRIN

Fuck her. She's in Guatemala.

CON

Yeah, but I don't trust that Joni. She'll fucking call them.

FRAN

(shushing her)

Sh! Sh! Sh!

Con jumps on Fran. They wrestle playfully.

CON

No fair! I can't take off your bra, you'd flood the pool.

PRIN

Ter, hand me the booze, will ya.

Terri hands Princess the bottle of tequila.

TERRI

You guys better take it easy.

FRAN

Why? No kid, no work. Shit. We should've done this a year ago.

She takes the bottle from Prin and swigs.

PRIN

(to Terri)

Baby, come in.

TERRI

I don't know.

FRAN

What do the keys say?

CON

Magic eight-ball, will I get laid tonight?

TERRI

I think I'm going to go inside.

PRIN

No.

TERRI

That reading kind of got to me. I feel like all my life I've been waiting--

CON

Look! My tits are floating!

Princess and Fran laugh.

TERRI

(trying to conceal her hurt)

Anyway, I'll see you guys tomorrow.

PRIN

You must kiss me first.

Princess tries to grab Terri's ankles but she gets past. She exits to her casita.

PRIN

Shit. She's too fast for me.

FRAN

She's a fast one.

CON

I bet she is.

Prin, she's got a nice ass. FRAN

My ass used to be like that. CON

Your ass? You have a baby, see what that does to your ass. FRAN

Fran's body is a fucking miracle. Look at her, Prin. She is a giver and a nourisher of life. What are we? We're like...empty paper sacks. CON

I'm good in the sack. PRIN

I gotta pump soon. FRAN

Your milk's probably 80 proof. PRIN

Kahluah and cream. FRAN

Seriously, I'm telling you. You should totally try her milk, Prin. It is incredible. It's like, what did I say, like pineapple and uh... CON

What are you talking about, pineapple. Oh! I gotta take this bra off. Is Joni around here? FRAN

She's probably asleep. CON

She's probably on the astral plane. PRIN

Ah! Be free, my children. FRAN

Look at them. My God. Aren't they beautiful, Prin? CON

Beautiful, Fran. Congratulations. PRIN

Thanks. FRAN

Of woman born... Didn't Adrienne Rich write a poem about that? CON

Like the cover of Jugs magazine. PRIN

See, Prin, you have to mock what you don't understand. You can't just admit, "I don't understand this. This is a mystery that I cannot understand." CON

Con, shut up about my tits, please. You're making them embarrassed. FRAN

Shut up? CON

I'm sorry. FRAN

Shut up? CON

(to Prin)  
We're not supposed to say 'shut up'. FRAN

Oh, I'll shut up. I'll shut up when Miss Mockety-Mock here admits that she doesn't know what she's talking about because she's never even tasted the milk. CON

All right, I'll taste it. PRIN

I'll get the pump. And you'll see that-- CON

As Con starts to pull herself out of the pool, Prin floats over to Fran and suckles at her breast.

Fran moans.

Not bad. I prefer a well-made scotch, myself. PRIN

INSIDE PRIN AND TERRI'S CASITA

Prin enters. Terri is not in the bed.

Baby? PRIN

Here I am. TERRI

Terri turns on a light. She is sitting in a chair in the corner.

Prin lays on the bed. She pats the bed for Terri to join her.

PRIN  
What a night, huh? I think Con and Fran are shaken up a bit.

TERRI  
With the margaritas?

PRIN  
No, I sucked on Fran's...uh...oh, shit. I sucked on Fran's tit.

TERRI  
You did? Why?

PRIN  
I don't know. Con was going on about Fran's breast milk and how holy it is and I guess it was an ounce of curiosity and a pound of shut up. I guess I had a little too much to drink.

TERRI  
Wow, I've never heard you say that.

PRIN  
Where are you? Why aren't you in bed with me?

Prin sits up and sees Terri, crying quietly.

PRIN  
What's wrong, baby?

TERRI  
(small)  
I'm scared.

PRIN  
Why?

TERRI  
She said my mom is coming.

PRIN  
Aw.

TERRI  
What if it's not right? What if she comes, and I meet her, and nothing's different? I'm still lost?

PRIN  
You're not lost.

TERRI  
Yes, I am. I don't know this woman. She's a complete stranger to me. What if she's a waste case? Some Christian freak and she hates me...she hates you? Why do I even want to see her? She didn't want me. Why should I want her? I need my mom. I need a mom who wanted me. I am lost, Prin. I'm lost and I'm all alone.

PRIN  
You're not alone. You've got me.

Prin holds her arms out to Terri. Terri comes to her.

PRIN  
You're my baby. You're my baby now.

TERRI  
Maybe I don't need to find her.

PRIN  
You should do what you need to do.

TERRI  
It scares you too, doesn't it?

PRIN  
Yes.

TERRI  
Why?

PRIN  
I don't want you to find someone you love more than me.

TERRI  
That is not possible.

She kisses her.

TERRI  
Your body, Prin. I know your body. I know it. This is my home. I love you. I love you. God, I love you.

Terri pushes Prin down on her back. She kisses her way down Prin's body until she is between her legs.

TERRI  
Sometimes I wish I could just crawl up inside you and live there forever.

The light flickers. A loud rumbling sound is heard. Things begin to shake. It's an earthquake.

PRIN  
Oh baby. See what you do to me?

The shaking gets more violent until...

Terri's PAINTED TILE falls and shatters into pieces.

SUNDAY -- WEE HOURS

Prin sits in the courtyard smoking.

PRIN  
Shit! I didn't see you there.

JONI

I am adding the chlorine. I do it now so that it will be at a good level by the time guests are ready for a swim.

PRIN

You're on top of this place, Joni.

JONI

Mm hm.

PRIN

Jorel and Tiny are lucky to have an employee like you.

JONI

I tell them that.

PRIN

How long you been here? Eight? Ten years?

JONI

As long as you've been coming.

PRIN

Has it been that long? I am getting old.

JONI

We are all of us.

PRIN

You've seen me with a few different women.

JONI

Not seen, but yes. There have been a few.

PRIN

So what do you think of Terri? Pretty great, huh?

JONI

You love her a bunch.

PRIN

See, I knew you were perceptive. You're a good judge of character, I can see that.

JONI

I'm just a blind seasonal resort manager. Nothing more.

PRIN

This is the one, Joni. She's a keeper.

JONI

You shouldn't say things like that unless you really mean them.

PRIN

I do. I mean it. I got her a ring.

JONI

The pool is especially murky this morning.

PRIN

Well, aren't you going to congratulate me?

JONI

Congratulations.

PRIN

Oh, by the way, that tile that you gave Terri? It fell and broke during that tremor. Terri's heartbroken about it. Any chance you could make her another one?

JONI

Sorry. I've given up painting.

PRIN

As of when?

JONI

Sometime earlier this evening.

PRIN

I've known you a lot of years and I still cannot figure out what makes you tick, Joni.

(then)

Hey, what'd you think about giving me one of those key readings?

JONI

Nope. Gave that up, too.

PRIN

Just now?

JONI

That's right. Okay. You should go back to bed. The shit's gonna hit the fan tomorrow and you're gonna need your sleep.

SUNDAY, AFTERNOON

The courtyard is empty.

Con enters from her casita. She is supremely hung over. She carries her her Harry Potter. She settles into a chair and reads her book.

Fran enters, sneaks up on Con and gives her a kiss on her neck.

CON

Don't you dare. Don't you even dare flirt with me.

FRAN

What? I thought that's what you wanted.

CON  
Not after what you did last night.

FRAN  
Excuse me?

CON  
Don't act like you don't know what I'm talking about. You were drunk, but you weren't that drunk.

FRAN  
Look, all I know is when we went to bed last night I couldn't keep my hands off you and you pushed me away. I was ready last night, sweetheart. Where were you?

CON  
Gee, I don't know. Maybe I was lost in the thought of Prin sucking on your tits.

FRAN  
Yeah? Well, maybe I was lost there, too.

CON  
You bitch!

FRAN  
I'm sorry. That's not what I meant.

CON  
Yes, it is. It's the first honest thing you've said all weekend.

FRAN  
Oh, come on.

CON  
I saw your face, Fran. I was there, remember?

FRAN  
Con, she was...

CON  
That face is for me, Franny. You used to make that face only for me.

FRAN  
Maybe I got a little carried away. But, yes! I mean, it felt good. But--

CON  
Fran, I am so upset and freaked out by you I can barely look at you. You crossed such a line last night.

FRAN  
Me? You practically forced us to--

CON  
I have hives. Do you see this? Here? On the inside of my elbows. You let Prin... You let her... I can't even say it. All these months and you're so sensitive I can't even touch you and you just let Prin grab you and have her way?!

FRAN  
Well, maybe next time you'll think twice before pimping my milk in front of the whole world.

CON  
I wasn't the one flashing my tits in Prin's face.

FRAN  
So shut the fuck up about my tits then! I am so sick of you putting my tits on a pedestal.

CON  
I'm not going to apologize for loving your tits! I'm your lover. I love your tits! Deal with it!

FRAN  
No, you don't! You don't love my tits. You never even talked about my tits until we had Basil and after that...that's all I am to you. I never even liked having tits. If I had it my way I'd cut them off to improve my golf swing.

CON  
That's sick.

FRAN  
Face it. Your tit obsession has nothing to do with loving me or wanting me. It has everything to do with the fact that you couldn't get pregnant and you can't nurse Basil and you feel left out! You hate my tits, you're mad at my tits and you're mad at me for having a baby -- which I did for you because I love you -- and I'm tired of it. I'm sick of being blamed for everything!

CON  
That's not true. That is not the least bit true. You're just saying those things so you have an excuse not to fuck me.

FRAN  
You know what, Con? Why don't you just go fuck yourself?

CON  
Believe me. That's what I've been doing!

Terri enters the main gate, wearing a backpack, dressed for hiking.

TERRI  
Hey, you guys.

CON AND FRAN  
Hey.

TERRI  
The painted canyons were spectacular. And I did see a roadrunner. Can you believe it? What a great way to start off my birthday.

After a beat.

CON AND FRAN  
Happy birthday, Terri.

TERRI  
(suspecting something)

What's going on?

CON AND FRAN

Nothing.

TERRI

This doesn't have anything to do with last night, does it?

CON

What do you mean?

TERRI

Breastmilk...?

Fran perks up, suddenly interested.

FRAN

Did Prin say something to you?

TERRI

She just...mentioned it...casually.

CON

Oh crap.

FRAN

Casually? What did she say?

CON

What do you mean 'what did she say'?

FRAN

I just want to know Prin's side of it.

CON

Side? There are no sides.

Prin enters wearing a white bathrobe.

TERRI

Hi, baby.

PRIN

Hi, baby.

(re: Con and Fran)

Am I just hung over or do you two look especially sour this morning.

TERRI

Honey, they're not feeling too well.

PRIN

Well, I know how to fix that.

She pulls a silver flask out of her robe pocket and pours the liquor into her coffee. She offers it to Con.

PRIN

Con? Hair of the dog?

CON

(cold)

No, thank you.

PRIN

Franny? How about you?

Fran comes to the edge of the pool.

FRAN

It's gotta be better than I how I feel now.

She takes the flask and sips.

PRIN

Shoot. I forgot the milk. Fran, can you help me out?

Prin holds out her mug to Fran. Con jumps up.

CON

(to Fran)

I'm going in!

TERRI

Do you want me to come with you?

CON

No.

Con exits. Fran tries to follow.

PRIN

What? What did I say?

SHAME ON THE MOON (A RESTAURANT), SUNDAY EVENING

Prin is leading Terri into the special room she has reserved. She has her hands over Terri's eyes. Fran and Con follow behind.

TERRI

I'm going to trip!

PRIN

No, you're not. I've got you.

TERRI

Where are you taking me?

PRIN

Just be patient. And...open.

TERRI

(opening her eyes)

Oh! It's so beautiful! Did you do this?

PRIN

Yep.

TERRI

Oh, I love it. You didn't really do this, did you?

PRIN

Sure, I did. I paid the fags who own the party company, anyway.

TERRI

Oh, it's so special. I feel so special.

Prin holds out Terri's chair.

PRIN

Birthday girl.

Terri sits. Prin pulls out Con's chair.

PRIN

Ms. Lerner?

CON

(tight-lipped)

Thank you.

PRIN

You alright, Con?

CON

Yeah, fine. I'm just a little distracted by the sound of my skin crawling.

Con sits. Prin starts to pull out Fran's chair.

FRAN

Thanks, Prin. I can do it.

PRIN

I'm just trying to make it special for everyone. Tonight's a special night.

TERRI

It's just my birthday.

PRIN

Oh, it's that and so much more.

Prin picks up the wine list.

PRIN

Now, I thought we'd start with an Oregon Pinot noir. That's your favorite, right Con?

CON

I'm having soda.

Prin puts down the menu.

PRIN

I need to say something. Last night, I did a dumb thing. I thought it didn't mean anything, but it obviously did. Besides Terri, you two are the most important people in my life and I want you to know that. I hurt you, and I'm sorry. It's the very last thing I'd ever want to do. Will you forgive me?

FRAN

Yeah. Of course.

Prin reaches for Fran's hand who gives it to her. She holds her hand out to Con.

PRIN

Con? I'm a fuckhead, you know that.

Con takes Prin's hand.

CON

Well, since you put it that way.

PRIN

I love you both, very much.

FRAN

(moved)

I love you, too.

CON

Me, too.

PRIN

Okay. Now let's party.

They all start reading their menus.

CON

(looking around)

It really does look great in here.

PRIN

Leave it to fags.

I'm getting the turkey picata. TERRI

Oh, big surprise. She always gets the turkey picata. PRIN

What's that, picata? FRAN

It's like lemons and capers and yum. It's so tasty. TERRI

Hey, should we do presents now? I mean, our present. CON

You want to do it now, hon? PRIN

I guess so. (excited) TERRI

Okay. Because Fran and I-- CON

Con, mostly. FRAN

No, you helped. Well, we've been working on this for a while now. CON

Oh, god. I'm nervous. TERRI

Now, it's not your typical kind of present... CON

Here come the dubloons. PRIN

But I think, I hope, you're really going to like it. CON

She pulls a large, stuffed manila envelope from her bag and places it on the table.

What is it? TERRI

Okay. So, as you know I've been working on Basil's second parent adoption, which just annoys me to no end. I cannot believe I have to jump through all these hoops and pay all this money just to adopt my own son. But, in the process I got into a conversation with this guy from work, who, it turns out, is an adoptee and an adoption activist. CON

Oo! TERRI

And he has all these special underground ways to get information and he found your birth records. Happy birthday. We got you your birth records. CON

What? TERRI

We haven't looked at them. You don't have to open it, either. Or if you want to put them away and open them later, that's fine too. CON

I don't know. It's so big. It's so big, honey. TERRI

Terri, I hope it's not too weird. FRAN

No. I just didn't expect it. It's amazing. TERRI  
(turning to Prin)

Should I open it?

It's your call, babe. PRIN

I can't do it. Will you read it for me? Tell me what it says. TERRI

Terri hands Prin the envelope.

They all watch as Prin opens the envelope and reads. Silence.

What's it say? CON

I can't stand it. Give it to me. TERRI

Terri takes the file from Prin.

My hands are all sweaty. OK, I was born in Michigan, not Wisconsin. TERRI

You're kidding. CON

A place called...Es CAN aba? TERRI



PRIN  
(saying it correctly)  
Escanaba.

TERRI  
(repeating)  
Escanaba.

CON  
Imagine that. A whole different state.

TERRI  
And...oh wow. Today's not my birthday. I was born on February 28th. It's amazing. Oh my god. That's my birth mother's name.

CON  
What is it?

TERRI  
Laura Campbell. My birth mother's name is Laura Campbell. It's soÉregular. You guys, thank you. This is just incredible. I think I'm going to cry.

FRAN  
I hope it helps you. We didn't want to make things difficult.

TERRI  
No, it's great. I've been wanting to do this but it's been hard to really take the steps and get going with everything. This is really going to help me. Though I don't really know what to do with it. It's scary and great at the same time.

CON  
I'm so glad, Ter. I know how much this means to you.

Terri snuggles up to Prin.

TERRI  
Honey, are you alright?

Prin pulls away from Terri.

PRIN  
I'm fine.

Prin puts her hand to her forehead.

CON  
No you're not. You look horrible.

PRIN  
Too much sun, I guess. Let's get some drinks. Where's that waitress? Jesus Christ, haven't we been here like an hour?

TERRI  
Calm down, Prin. We've only been here like a minute.

PRIN  
Well, we don't fucking have our drinks and we've been here long enough for that.

TERRI  
All right. Geez, you bear.

PRIN  
It's your birthday dinner. I paid a lot of fucking money for this and I expect fucking decent service.

TERRI  
Well, it's not my birthday, really.

Prin slams her fist on the table.

PRIN  
It is. Today is your birthday. That is what we know.

FRAN  
P, calm down. The waitress is coming.

PRIN  
Yeah, sorry. I just want everything to be right.

TERRI  
Honey, you know if you're not feeling well...

Prin escapes Terri's caress and picks up her menu.

PRIN  
(cold, distant)  
No. I'll be fine. I just need to figure out what I want.

Fran and Con work to relieve the tension.

FRAN  
You know what they say about hot-headed people. They got cold feet!

CON  
I have to admit, Terri. I don't think Prin ever loved anyone the way she loves you.

TERRI  
(to Prin)  
Is that true?

PRIN  
Yes.

FRAN  
Hey, Prin. I think now would be the perfect time to give Terri her "boat", don't you?

Terri and Con laugh. They all look at Prin, expectant.

Prin gives Terri nothing.

PRIN

Shall we order?

Prin signals for the waitress.

LATER THAT NIGHT AT COCKATIELS, A NIGHT CLUB

Thumping hits from the 80's play.

TERRI

We didn't have to come here.

PRIN

It's your birthday.

TERRI

Let's just go home.

PRIN

We can't do that.

TERRI

Look, I know you're upset.

Terri reaches for Prin's thigh. Princess jumps up.

PRIN

I'm not upset. Everything's great. We need some drinks.

She goes to the bar.

FRAN

(trying to make light)

I know this one. This is Beyonce, right babe?

TERRI

What should I do?

CON

You're fine, sweetie.

FRAN

She's moody. You know that.

TERRI

Excuse me.

Terri exits.

CON

What is Prin doing?

FRAN

I don't know. She's freaking me out, though.

CON

Maybe she really can't do this commitment thing.

FRAN

She seemed so clear and calm about it the other day.

CON

I know, but this is Prin we're talking about. Maybe she could imagine it in theory but the real thing is giving her a melt down--oh, here she comes. Hey, Prin, how're you doing?

Princess returns with a pitcher of daiquiris.

PRIN

Great.

FRAN

Since when do you drink daiquiris?

PRIN

Terri loves 'em. Plus, I slipped the guy an extra twenty to put in the good stuff.

(she drinks)

Almost drinkable.

FRAN

You nervous about the...you know?

PRIN

The what?

FRAN

The ring.

PRIN

Oh. That.

CON

This is a big step for you, commitment and everything.

PRIN

You guys act like you invented matrimony.

FRAN

I don't think that's what Con's saying, P.

PRIN

Well, you didn't. People have been clinging desperately to each other since Adam and Eve. Or Adam and Steve.

FRAN  
We're just saying calm down. You're acting weird.

Terri returns.

PRIN  
Daiquiris, Terri.

TERRI  
No, thank you.

PRIN  
I got them for you. For your birthday.

TERRI  
I don't feel like drinking.

PRIN  
Don't be a bitch, Terri.

Terri begins to drink.

PRIN  
That's better. You guys too. We're all going to have fun tonight.

All drink quietly.

PRIN  
Yeah. This place is hopping tonight. Pedro's here.

She waves.

PRIN  
Hey, Pedro! What a great guy. Pedro! Man!  
(to Terri)  
So, how's it feel to be thirty-seven? Thirty-seven is a special birthday. I got you a special present for your special birthday.

TERRI  
You don't have to get me anything...

PRIN  
'Course I do. That wouldn't be right, not giving you something. Tonight, you get to have a special party. A private party. With whoever you want.

FRAN  
Princess...

PRIN  
So, who do you like?

TERRI  
I like you.

PRIN  
(harsh)  
That's not what I mean. I mean out there. Who do you like here?

TERRI  
I don't understand.

CON  
You are not going to play that juvenile--

PRIN  
You can sit it out, Con. This is Terri's present.

TERRI  
I don't want to play.

PRIN  
You saying you don't like my present?

CON  
She doesn't want to play, Prin.

PRIN  
(to Con)  
What are you, her--?  
(to Terri)  
Who do you like, Terri?

CON  
(scanning the crowd)  
All right. Since we seem to have to do whatever Princess wants tonight...I like Black Baseball Cap.

FRAN  
Her? What is it about you and women with facial hair?

CON  
Maybe you should grow a moustache and find out.

PRIN  
(ignoring them)  
Who do you like, Terri?

TERRI  
Can we please not do this?

Prin notices someone in the crowd.

PRIN  
Here we go. Baby butch in the corner. You think she's hot, right?

TERRI  
No.

PRIN  
Sure you do. Go for it, Ter. I won't be mad.

TERRI  
I don't want to go for it.

PRIN  
Well, I want you to go for it.

TERRI  
You're not my master.

PRIN  
No? I pay for your car, the insurance. I pay for your haircuts. For that bullshit degree you're about to get. For your therapist so you can cry out some sob story about your mommy.

CON  
Jesus Christ, Prin, cool it.

PRIN  
I want my money's worth.

CON  
You're being an asshole.

PRIN  
(to Con)  
Just 'cause you're all dried up doesn't mean the rest of us can't get laid.

TERRI  
Okay, Prin. You're right, she is hot. Fuck you.

Terri gathers her things and leaves the table. They watch her go.

PRIN  
That didn't take much, did it?

CON  
You are really a piece of work, you know that?

Con gets up and leaves.

FRAN  
(after Con)  
Honey--!

(to Prin)  
I know you're freaked. But don't do this. Don't do what you always do!

PRIN  
Do you think you could handle getting your nose out of my fucking business?

FRAN  
I'm just trying to help you.

PRIN  
Go run after your wife! You do everything else she says.

FRAN  
Fuck this. No. I'm fucking sick of this. You act like you know everything and I'm just some pussy-whipped dope.

PRIN  
You said it.

FRAN  
I thought you were going to do it. But you're fucking everything up. Yeah, me and Con we don't fuck all the time like you guys. But there's more to love than sex. Con, Basil, they make my life all worth it. I'm not going to apologize for that.

PRIN  
Then go! Be with your beautiful family.

FRAN  
I won't stand for you talking to Con like that.

PRIN  
So?

FRAN  
What the fuck am I even doing here with you?

Fran leaves.  
Prin drinks slowly.

OUTSIDE ON PALM CANYON DRIVE

Fran runs to catch up with Con.

FRAN  
Wait up! Con!  
(then, breathing heavily)  
I couldn't run...flip-flops.

CON  
I could just kill her. She is a goddamned bully.

FRAN  
She's acting all weird. I tried to talk to her. She wouldn't. I think Terri went with that girl.

CON  
Shit. Prin is so fucking selfish.

FRAN  
You okay? I told her, she can't talk to you like that.

CON  
You did?

FRAN  
Hell, yeah.

CON  
Oh, Fran.

FRAN  
She can't treat my baby like that.

CON  
I don't want to be dried up, Fran. I don't. I want to be loose and sexy like we used to be.

FRAN  
I know, baby. I'm sorry.

CON  
God, do we have to be in some sick relationship in order to have sex? Can you be in a normal relationship where you love each other and respect each other and still want to fuck?

FRAN  
I don't know, baby.

CON  
Yes. Just say yes, you dummy.

FRAN  
Yes, yes. Yes, we can. I love you, Con.

CON  
I love you, too.

They embrace. They start to kiss. Pecks turn to soul kisses.

CON  
We gotta hurry!

MONDAY, PRE-DAWN...

Princess sits on a chaise with a cigarette and a bottle of Jack Daniels by her side, so wasted she neither smokes nor drinks.

MEANWHILE, IN FRAN AND CON'S CASITA...

Fran and Con are naked in bed.

CON  
What do you think Devra would say about that?

FRAN  
I think she'd say we're cured.

CON  
Maybe we better not tell her.

FRAN  
She might be upset that she's not going to get to see us every week.

CON  
Or get our \$200 a session.

FRAN  
Poor Devra.

CON  
I feel sorry for her.

FRAN  
But not too sorry.

Con rolls on top of Fran and they begin to make love all over again.

IN THE COURTYARD...

The Main Gate creaks open. Terri enters.

TERRI  
I'm back.

PRIN  
How was she?

TERRI  
Great.

PRIN  
I packed your bag. The keys are on the table. Take the Lexus. You can have it. I'll stay here a few days. Give you a chance to clear your shit out.

TERRI  
You want me to leave?

PRIN  
Forget it. You keep the house. I'll get my stuff some other time.

TERRI  
Do you not love me any more?

PRIN

Last night was a test, and you failed. Or passed, depending on how you look at it.

TERRI

What did I do? Did I do something to make you mad? I thought you were happy.

PRIN

I thought I was happy, too. But now that I see you're ready to jump into bed with the first girl who comes around...

TERRI

You made me do that!

PRIN

(shaking Terri violently)

Did I have a fucking gun to your head?

Princess hurls Terri to the ground.

TERRI

I didn't fuck her. I didn't fuck her. I was so mad at you, I wanted to. Just to show you. To hurt you. But I couldn't. I kept seeing you. Wanting to feel you.

PRIN

Shut up! Stop talking! Take the keys and get out!

In their casita, Fran and Con look up from their lovemaking.

CON

Is that Prin and Terri?

They sit up and listen, trying to make out the words.

TERRI

You're drinking too much.

PRIN

You don't get to tell me how much I'm drinking!

CON

What the hell?

FRAN

She's drunk.

TERRI

My god, we love each other. I know you love me. How can you just let me go? How can you do that?

PRIN

I had to.

(whimpering)

I tried to do the right thing.

TERRI

Prin, I love you. Please! Just let me hold you and you'll know!

Princess balls her hand into a fist then whirls around and punches Terri in the face.

Terri shrieks in pain.

PRIN

Don't you touch me!

FRAN

Holy shit!

Terri runs out of the courtyard.

Fran leaps out of bed, naked, and runs into the courtyard.

CON

What's going on?

Con follows Fran, wrapping herself in the sheet, but can't keep going because the sheet is still tucked in.

Fran enters the courtyard just as the Main Gate is closing behind Terri.

FRAN

Prin? What the fuck?

PRIN

Go back to bed.

FRAN

What just happened?

PRIN

You're naked.

FRAN

(to Con)

Gimme a towel, babe.

CON

(from inside the casita)

What's going on out there?

FRAN

(to Prin)

Sit down, pal.

PRIN

I don't need to sit.

(she stumbles, almost falls)

I'm going to bed.

FRAN

No, Prin. What the fuck just happened?

PRIN

Terri and I just broke up. Go to bed.

FRAN

Your hand is bleeding.

PRIN

(seeing it for the first time)

Oh. I caught her tooth.

FRAN

Did you hit her?

PRIN

I hit her in the face. I hate her. Go back to bed.

FRAN

What the fuck did you do, Prin?

CON

I'm going to find her.

Con exits to the bathroom to get dressed.

FRAN

You are fucked up, Prin. I can't believe this.

PRIN

She messed around on me!

FRAN

You are insane.

PRIN

What did I do?

FRAN

Good God, Prin.

PRIN

I broke my rule. I broke my 15-year rule, man.

FRAN

Why do you do this?

PRIN

I can't change it.

FRAN

That's bullshit. We make choices.

PRIN

I choose oblivion.

Prin grabs her bottle of Jack Daniels.

Fran exits to her casita.

Princess ponders the water, then slowly walks into the pool, fully clothed.

She sinks below the surface.

Joni enters with a pool net on a long pole. She starts cleaning leaves from the pool. She feels Princess at the bottom of the shallow end. She prods her with the net.

Princess comes up, gasping for air, spitting water.

JONI

What are you doing down there?

PRIN

I was looking for a hair tie.

JONI

Your hair's short.

PRIN

Not my hair tie, some girl's hair tie. Some girl with long hair.

Joni returns to cleaning the pool.

Princess sits on the edge, soaking wet. Her bottle of Jack Daniels is filled with pool water. She pours it back into the pool.

PRIN

Do you have kids, Joni?

JONI

I have a boy. He'd be 42.

PRIN

What happened?

JONI

He was riding a motorcycle in Banff National Park. You ever been there?

PRIN

No. Just Vancouver.

JONI

It's beautiful country. I get up there every summer. On the off season. He was riding a Nighthawk 650. I'd got it for him the summer before. Man, he loved that bike. And, of course, being a kid, he thought he could do anything and never have to pay. He hit a patch of oil and flew right off the edge of the mountain. They never even found his body. I like to think a cougar got it. He would've liked that.

How old was he?  
PRIN

Nineteen. (pause) You?  
JONI

Just the one.  
PRIN

You love her very much.  
JONI

I never loved anything so much.  
PRIN

(pause)  
Ain't it a pisser? I let one guy fuck me, for like two seconds, and I'm pregnant. It's ironic. But then, I come from a long line of fertile women. Stu. What a fucking idiot. Every bad quality she has, that's where it comes from. It was his girlfriend I loved. She was so beautiful. You know how the chicks were then? Hair all crazy. No bras. That was a good time for womanhood. I would've done anything for her. I did. So, I'm knocked up and she and Stu are in Mexico with my money. What am I going to do? Raise this baby? I wanted her to have an OK life. Not scrounging around on the streets. And she did. She had a good life. She complains about it but it was good. Maybe it can still be good.

(pause)  
What's the biggest mistake you ever made?

JONI  
(she ponders this for a long while)  
Not buying that laundromat when I had the money.

(pause)  
You?

PRIN  
Not getting two bottles of Jack while the liquor store was still open.

JONI  
Ho.

Princess lies back on the cement. Joni exits.

LATER THAT MORNING...

Prin lays in the courtyard.

Fran crosses from her casita to the main gate carrying packed suitcases. She opens the gate and Con enters.

FRAN  
Is Terri okay?

CON  
No. I told her to wait in the car. I'm gonna get her things.

Terri appears in the doorway and walks past Con and Fran.

FRAN  
Terri.

CON  
Terri don't.

Terri approaches Prin.

TERRI  
Con told me about the ring. I had a feeling... You don't have to do that. You don't have to say anything or do anything you don't want to do.

PRIN  
Con. Get her out of my sight.

CON  
Terri.

Con tries to get Terri.

Terri evades Con and prostrates herself before Prin, not daring to touch her.

TERRI  
Prin, please. Please, don't make me go. Don't leave me. I'll be good. I'm promise. I'll be good.

Terri takes down her dress, exposing her breasts.

TERRI  
You want me. I know you want me. I'm beautiful. I know I'm beautiful to you.

She puts Prin's hands on her own breasts.

TERRI  
Tell me you don't want me.

PRIN  
I don't want you. Not like that!

TERRI  
Why, Prin? Why do you hate me? Why are you doing this to me? Why?

PRIN  
You don't want to know!

TERRI  
Tell me, Prin. Tell me. I'm breaking apart.

PRIN  
We can never see each other again.



TERRI  
No. No. I can't breathe. I can't see. Nobody wants me. Nobody ever wanted me. Nobody ever will.

PRIN  
I wanted you.

TERRI  
Liar.

PRIN  
Thirty-seven years ago. But I gave you up.

TERRI  
No.

PRIN  
I am Laura Campbell.

FRAN  
Oh god.

CON  
No.

TERRI  
You're not! Prin, stop it.

PRIN  
I am your mother.

TERRI  
Stop it! Stop it! You hate me! Why do you hate me!?

PRIN rises, steps toward her.

PRIN  
Terri--

TERRI  
No! It's not true!

PRIN  
Terri...

FRAN  
(protecting Terri)  
Get away from her, you!

PRIN  
I didn't know!

FRAN  
A mother knows. A mother always knows.

PRIN lets out a yowl.

PRIN  
That's my daughter!

Prin tries to get to Terri. Fran holds her back.

FRAN  
Prin!

CON  
Stop!

Prin breaks free of Fran's grasp. And moves toward Terri.

Terri backs away, afraid.

TERRI  
No! No!

Terri cowers.

PRIN  
I'm a monster.

Prin collapses. Sobs.

PRIN  
My baby, my baby, my baby...

CON  
Prin...

FRAN  
Let her be.

CON  
It's too much.

PRIN  
What did I do to my baby?

Terri stands before Prin.

TERRI  
Tell me my birth story.

Silence.

(harshly) FRAN  
Tell her.

(kindly) CON  
Prin, tell her.

PRIN  
I was alone. I walked into St. Francis Hospital and they undressed me and left me in some cold room. Nobody helped me. The nurses were talking in the hall, saying they'd let nature take its course. I pushed all day and all night until you tore your way out of me.

TERRI  
Did you hold me?

PRIN  
No.

TERRI  
Did you want me?

PRIN  
No. Not at first. But as you grew inside me, oh, I got real soft for you. I would've kept you if I could.

TERRI  
You didn't.

PRIN  
You were better off without me.

CON  
This is your mother.

TERRI  
What now? What now, Prin?

PRIN  
I can't lose you again.

They move toward each other to kiss. Terri recoils.

TERRI  
No.

PRIN  
Please. I can't live without you.

TERRI  
I can't be your baby. Not anymore. Let go of my hands.

Prin releases her hands. Terri goes to Con and Fran.

PRIN  
Terri.

Terri turns to Prin.

PRIN  
You turned out good.

TERRI  
I did.

The three exit. The wind starts to blow. Joni enters and closes the doors.

JONI  
Didn't see it coming, did you?

Prin shakes her head.

THE END