

# CNTL+AIT(RIGHT)+DEL

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A full-length play

By  
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## Characters:

Kenny. 50's, white southerner, slow witted.

Karl. White southerner, Younger brother of Kenny. Runs the trailer park.

Eloise. 50's, Sister in-law of Karl and Kenny. Helps run the trailer park.

Katie Mae. Early 20's College student. Daughter of Karl.

Armando. Mid to Late 20's, African, college student.  
Katie Mae's Boyfriend.

Man. 30's, man dressed in Klu Klux Klan outfit. The actor who play's Kenny can double.

Boy. 8yrs Boy dressed in Klu Klux Klan outfit. The actor who plays Katie Mae can double.

News reporter. (OS and voice only.)

## SETTINGS

*The play takes place in Port Arthur Texas. In the Waterview RV Resort, right off the TB Ellison Parkway. The resort sits right on the edge of the Intracoastal waterway, which spills into the Gulf of Mexico. It's the only RV park that didn't get flooded during hurricane Harvey. The resort in fairly good condition except that on Yelp customers complained about the grass not being kept up.*

*The climate in Port Arthur is humid, extremely humid. One of the most humid areas in the US. And where it is located it's susceptible to many hurricanes. Then why would anyone want to live there? One word. Oil. When oil was discovered in Port Arthur, it became one of the largest oil refineries in the world.*

## SCENE 1

### *Act 1 Scene 1*

*Port Arthur Texas.*

*There are two Airstream trailers, parallel to one and another, that creates a courtyard in the center. Next to the trailers are a couple of table benches in front of each. There is a grill in front of one of the trailers. There are a few lawn chairs in the yard, one of them is flipped over. There are beer cans, cups, and other debris on the ground.*

*Kenny exits one of the trailers with a 90's style boombox. He sits the radio on the ground. He pulls tape cassettes out of his pocket. He goes through a few of them and finally decides on one and puts it in the tape deck and hits 'play'. Blaring out of the speaker's spills...Run DMC's "The King of Rock". Kenny starts to dance like nobody's watching. He dances through half the song when we hear from inside the trailer from which Kenny came...*

KARL

(From inside the trailer)

Kenny! Turn that damn nigger music off!

(Kenny does not turn the music down. But he does start to clean the yard. The music blares...)

KARL (CONT'D)

Kenny!

(Pause)

KARL (CONT'D)

Kenny! Turn that nigger music off!!

(At that moment from the other trailer, Eloise slowly makes her way down the steps. She is suffering from a major hangover, she tries to cure it with a Budweiser and a cigarette.)

ELOISE

Karl! Would stop all this yelling!

KARL

Tell Kenny to turn off that damn Nigger music then!!

ELOISE

Karl, what did I tell you about using that word!?

KARL

And I told you to mind your damn business! I can use whatever word I want to use. This is America AGAIN, damn it!

ELOISE

Stop being a damn fool! (Pause) KENNY! TURN OFF THAT DAMN MUSIC!!!

Kenny quickly turns off the music.

KENNY

I'm sorry El I couldn't hear you with the music playin.

El starts to clean the yard. Karl exits the trailer with a beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

KARL

For fuckin crying out loud Kenny, what is the matter with you? Did that mule knock all the hearing out of you too?

KENNY

Naw Karl she just knocked the smarts outta me.....and my memory. Hell, I can barely remembers past yesterday.

KARL

Well, you needs to remember where you are, in God's country, good old country music is all that is needed. Not none of this damn hip-pity hop-pity nigger music.

ELOISE

What did I tell you, Karl? Huh?

KARL

And what did I tell you about minding your business?? So mind it.

ELOISE

You can't be talking like this when Katie Mae brings her new beau here. If I hear that word pops out of your infected mouth while he is here, I will pop you in your head.

Kenny laughs.

KARL

What you laughing at?

KENNY

EI going to pop your infected head!

Kenny laughs again.

KARL

No one is popping me anywhere.

ELOISE

Try me, Karl. I will tear your head off.

KARL

I would like to see you try...

(There is a standoff between the two.)

ELOISE

I'm tired of hearing your infected tongue spitting that word out. All these years you and your friends sit around here, around this table drinking your Budweisers just spewing that word. That word you call black folks behind their backs, knowing good and well that if you said that word in their face the way you say it with your buddies, there would be a very violent situation. (Pause) You've never even hung out with black people in your life, you just heard it from your father and your father heard it from his father. Like some cooking recipe that's been passed down from one generation to another...And I am sick of hearing it, and hearing it without any particular meaning behind it, except for y'all just dislikin someone you know nothing about.(Pause) You remember what happened when your brother Terry brought his son Billy here to visit from Vidor and they went to Bessie's department store?

Karl just shrugs his shoulders, pretending not to know what she's talking about.

I know you remember...In the middle of the store as loud as a rooster, little Billy yelled "Daddy! Daddy! That nigger smells!" Terry tried to shut Billy up, but he went on, "Daddy! Daddy! That nigger smells really bad!" The more Terry tried to shut Billy up the more he yelled that word and then Billy started to cry.. "But Daddy you said all Niggers smell". Boy oh boy...Terry left Port Arthur with both his eyes more swollen than the size of a Georgia peach. (Pause) I haven't been able to show my face back in that department store since. A place I worked at as a teen. Judith, who has been a manager at Bessie's since god planted dirt in Port Arthur, heard it loud and clear that a kin of yours, not mine but they confuses him as one of mine, that he called a grown elder black man "a dirty nigger". Billy has no idea what that word even means, but his tongue has been infected.

KARL

Well that Nig.....that elder man got lucky, cause Terry kept that situation to himself and didn't chat about it back in Vidor, or there would have been hell around here.

ELOISE

Yeah well...I had a good talkin with him and told him that we didn't need that kinda trouble around here. Terry was embarrassed by the whole situation anyways.

(Pause)

KARL

Why is she doing this to me?

ELOISE

What? Who is doing what to who?

KARL

You know what I mean.

ELOISE

No, I don't know what you mean. Spit it out Karl...

KENNY

Yeah, spit it out,Karl. Haha(devilish, almost meaningless laugh)

KARL

Shut up Kenny and clean up this yard. And no music...

(Kenny begins to clean the yard but at turtle's pace)

KARL (CONT'D)

You know what the fuck I'm talking about. (Pause) Her dating these...Negroes. Does she hate me or something? Haven't I been a good father to her? (Pause) FUCK! She could have at least started out with one of those Latino boys, but no, she went straight to black. Fucking blacks!

ELOISE

But Why?

KARL

But "why" what?



ELOISE  
Why not "blacks"?

KARL  
What??

ELOISE  
I've been reading this spiritual Indian fellow's book, his name is Krishnamurti, and he says that to hate someone based on their race is an act of violence.

KARL  
Well, I feel violent when I think about this negro touching my baby girl. When her mother passed away, she was the only girl I had left (He gets mad and then tearful) and his black skin has been touching MY baby...

He Sobs.

ELOISE  
Now stop it! If you thought about how a white boy was touching her as deeply as you is paying attention to this black boy you'd be just as angry. Any father would be angry because fathers know how boys touch girls. This girl is your own flesh and blood and of course, that would bother you. But don't blame it on his race.

(Pause)

KARL  
I just don't like black folks is all. That's it. Plain and simple. They don't share the same American values as white people do in this country. We whites created this country from the bottom up. WE made America great. Now with all this mixing with blacks and these dirty immigrants, I don't recognize this once beautiful land anymore. Katie knows all of this about me but still, she consistently goes out there and dates these blacks.

(Pause)

ELOISE  
Well, if it makes you feel any better, he is not a regular black. He's from one of those African countries, Giana or something.

KARL  
What?

ELOISE

Yeah. And supposed to be very bright. Like a genius or something.

KARL

Are you serious?(Pause). He is black and an immigrant?!? Oh my goodness...

KENNY

Come on Karl, cheer up!

(Kenny goes through his collection of cassettes, decides on one and places it in his boom box and presses play... Out of the speakers comes "It Takes Two" by Rob Base and DJ EZ Rock. Kenny again starts to dance like nobody's watching).

Black Out

## ACT 1 SCENE 2

Lights come up on an empty courtyard. Katie Mae and her boyfriend Armando walk casually into the courtyard. Armando looks around curiously at the trailer park environment.

ARMANDO

Very interesting...

KATIE

What? You don't like it? I knew you wouldn't. I just knew it, but this is how country folk live....

ARMANDO

No. No. I just think it is a very interesting living arrangement that is all. It kind of reminds me of the small village my mother grew up in except not as much...(He feels the side of the trailer.), what is this, aluminum?

KATIE

Yes. I think so...I'm not sure, but my dad or auntie would know. (Pause)So, you don't hate it?

ARMANDO

No. No, Katie. I'm enjoying this new atmosphere. The smell and sounds of the ocean close by are very enjoyable.

KATIE

It's a river, but there is a beach.

ARMANDO

It is still enjoyable.

KATIE

Good. Good.

ARMANDO

But where will we stay?

KATIE

We will stay with my Aunt Eloise, "in this new 2017 Globetrotter Airstream trailer, it comfortably sleeps 6 people." So, don't worry about space.

ARMANDO

It has everything you need?

(EI enters the yard with hands filled with grocery bags)

ELOISE

KATIE MAE!?!? Oh my goodness!

KATIE

Auntie!!

They embrace.

ELOISE

How Y'all doin? I didn't think yaw would be here till later this afternoon. (Pause)  
Oh, and this must be the new beau?

ARMANDO

How do you do? It is a pleasure to meet you. Katie has told me such wonderful things about you, Ms. Eloise.

(He goes to shake her hand. Instead, El grabs him and gives him a big old hug)

ELOISE

We are huggers around here son. And don't you dare call me Ms. I am Auntie Eloise to you. You hear me?

ARMANDO

Yes, I understand. Ms. I mean Auntie Eloise.

ELOISE

That is more like it. (Pause) Would you look at that? Your skin shines like the moonlight is blessing it all the time. That is some nice skin your man has Katie Mae.

KATIE

Yes, it is Auntie. (Pause) We came a little early because I wanted to get settled in before you know who gets a hold of him. You know how he can be sometimes.

ELOISE

You mean ALL the time...Don't worry about him. I set him a straight. And if he does start acting crooked I will set him straight again.

KATIE

Thank you, Auntie. I missed you so much. Sorry I haven't stayed in touch as I should.

ELOISE

That's alright baby girl. I know you are busy at that fancy university. Studying all them books. Your mother would be so proud. I am very proud of you too... (They have a moment) Well, how did you two meet anyways?

ARMANDO

We met in the library during midterms.

KATIE

It was like 2 O'clock at night, or morning I should say.

ELOISE

Well, good, Jesus. Y'all study that late?

ARMANDO

Well, during exam periods things can get really intense.

ELOISE

Wow, Katie, you is a studyin woman now. Armando when Katie was younger we couldn't get her to read a lick. She just wanted to play in the dirt, you were such an active little girl. She loved to work with her hands. Building mud pies and what not. When she got a little older her mamma put her in a dance class, and good lord we couldn't stop her from dancing on the top of her toes. From that day on, she wanted to be a ballerina.

KATIE

But life got real with me because my butt grew two sizes in one summer and my height did not...

ELOISE

But you are studying dance instead of performing it...

KATIE

I'm still taking dance classes. It's part of the requirement to major in dance therapy.

ARMANDO

Yes, she is quite the dancer. She has danced for me a time or two.

ELOISE

You talking about them private dances? Well, there ain't going to be none of that while y'all are here, especially not in my new Air-streamer. Let me show you where Y'all are goin to stay anyways, so youse can get settled.

(El picks up the groceries and guides them up the stairs)

ELOISE (CONT'D)

It might not seem fancy to you big Austin city folks but to us small country folk, this airstream is the cream of the crop. But, it must be a palace to where you comes from Armando...

(There is silence as they enter the trailer. Moments later...)

(Kenny and Karl enter yard with kindling wood. Kenny trips with the wood in the direction of Karl, almost knocking him to the ground.)

KARL

Would you watch it, Kenny!

KENNY

I'm sorry Karl, you know my balance ain't any good, cause of the accident n'all.

KARL

Yes, I know. Why do you have to always keep bringing that up as an excuse...Now take that kindling over to the fire pit.

OK, Karl.

KENNY

(Kenny takes Karls portion of the kindling and lumbers off stage. Karl begins cleaning the grill. Moments later Armando exits the opposite trailer with a cigarette in hand. He notices Karl and realizes, this must be Katie's father, he quickly puts the cigarette back in his pocket. Karl notices...)

KARL

That's alright son we are the smoking kind around here.

(Karl shows him his pack of smokes. There is an awkward silence for a few moments.)

KARL (CONT'D)

You must be Armando.

ARMANDO

Yes, sir. Mr. Ellis?

KARL

Don't worry about all that nonsense, just call me Karl.

ARMANDO

OK.

KARL

Y'all sure got here early. Thought you wasn't supposed to be here till later this evening...No matters. It's good to meet you, Armando.

(Karl sticks his hand out to shake, with relief Armando grabs his hand in return. The handshake turns out longer than Armando is accustomed to, but finally, it ends.)

KARL (CONT'D)

So what's your plan?

ARMANDO

Excuse me?

KARL

In life. What are your plans in life?

ARMANDO

Well, I'm trying to finish school at the moment. After that hopefully, I will get a job, a really good paying job.

KARL

Doing what?

ARMANDO

I would like to be an engineer in an automobile plant. Or work for NASA...

KARL

Oh really. You're a smart one. So, you know about cars?

ARMANDO

Yes! I love everything about them.

KARL

Interesting... And Katie?

ARMANDO

Excuse me?

KARL

What are your plans with my Katie?

ARMANDO

Well, I don't know.

KARL

You don't know?



ARMANDO

Well, I'm not totally sure yet, but...

KARL

Well, I hope it's not much. (Pause) Because this is it.(Pause)

ARMANDO

Huh?

KARL

This is it. This little trip you took here with her is all that there is going to be. I will not be seeing you any more after these few days. Now, I mean you no ill will, but I just don't want you seeing my Katie anymore. Now that may seem harsh, but I'm a straight shooter. I tell it like it is. Working in a business like I do, time is money and saving time can lead to less stress. I'm actually trying to help you out son, I'm saving you stress by letting you know the truth. Now, I wish you well, I really do, I hope you meet a really nice girl from wherever you're from in Africa, and what not, and I hope you have some beautiful African babies. But you will not be bringing any mixed breed babies into this house, I can tell you that much. (Pause) Now, we are going to have a good time while you are here. I'm going to treat you with the best damn southern hospitality there is. I'm going to cook you the best damn barbecue you have ever eaten, and you will be sleeping in one of the best damn airstream trailers made today. But when you leave here, that is it, you will not be welcomed back to these parts, anymore. Do you understand me?

(Pause)

ARMANDO

I guess so...

KARL

And you can try and discuss this with Katie Mae, and I will deny that this little chat ever happened. Who do you think she will believe? She may leave you one day, but she will never leave her father. We have a bond that your kind and our kind could never have together. You always remember that.

ARMANDO

But...

KARL

Sorry, Armando, this is not a conversation... Are you a religious man?

ARMANDO

Yes. My lord and savior is Jesus Christ.

KARL

Wow. OK. That is good. So go and take my words and pray on them. My word is law around here. You hear me? (Pause) You hear me, son??

ARMANDO

Yes.

(Katie exits the trailer along with El.)

KARL

(Loud whisper.)

Now smile.

ARMANDO

Excuse me?

KARL

(Loud whisper.)

Smile.

(Armando puts on a fake smile)

KATIE

Hey daddy!

KARL

Katie, My sugar dumpling!

(Katie runs and jumps into Karl's arms. Karl gives Armando a look as to say 'See what I mean')

KARL (CONT'D)

Look at you...You need to eat something, cause you are as skinny as can be.

KATIE

I have been studying a lot...and still dancing as well.

KARL

You have time to dance with all that studying?

KATIE

Well, My major is Dance therapy. So...

KARL

Well isn't that nice...

KATIE

Nice?

KARL

Yes, nice.

KATIE

Come on daddy...

KARL

You know I wanted you to study business so one day you could help me run this place. And, eventually, take it over...

KATIE

Come on daddy, enough with this conversation.

KARL

I can still, dream can't I? And what happened to your accent.

KATIE

What? Nothing.

KARL

Yes, there sure is something missing, are they educating your Port Arthur roots out of you??

KATIE

I don't know what you're talking about.

(Pause)

Anyway, Daddy, I wanted you to meet, Armando.

KARL

Yes, we have met.

KATIE

You have?

KARL

Yes, right now. While he was pretending not to smoke.

ARMANDO

I wanted to make a good impression. I didn't want him to think you were dating a nicotine addict.

(Armando giggles, but no one else finds it funny.)

KARL

Well, Armando and I had a nice little chat while you gals were gettin on in the trailer. He seems like a very intelligent young man. And he listens well.

KATIE

OK...

(Pause.)

ARMANDO

Your father is a very generous man...with knowledge.

KATIE

OK...

ELOISE

Hey Kenny! Come and meet Katie's new beau, Armando.

Kenny enters.

ARMANDO

(To Kenny)

How are you doing? I have heard SO much about you from Katie.

KENNY

I'm good playa. How you feelin'?

ARMANDO

Excuse me?

KENNY

How ya feelin' playa, what's cracken'?

(Armando looks confused.)

ELOISE

Kenny!

KARL

Don't worry about that. My dear brother was kicked in the head by a mule and now his mind is stuck in the 90's, where at that time for some god awful reason he was listening to that hip-pity hop music shit.

ARMANDO

Yes, Katie was telling me about that unfortunate incident.

KENNY

Do you like Hip Hop, Armando?

ARMANDO

Sure I do.

KENNY

I got all the best ones. Run DMC, Beastie Boys, LL Cool J, Wu-Tang Clan, NAS, Public Enemy, all the best, let me show you.

(Kenny runs into the trailer)

KARL

That mule sure did knock all the sense outta that boy.

ELOISE

Well, you decided to take care of him.

KARL

He is my brother, what the hell was I supposed to do? Leave him in the streets?

ELOISE

You could've had some professionals take care of him instead of burdening him on...

KARL

What the hell are you trying to say EI? This is my own flesh and blood. We grew up piss poor sleeping in the same bed. This park would not have happened if it wasn't for Kenny's leadership.

ELOISE

And my sister's money...

KARL

We are not going to get into that right about now. (Pause) No one knows how to take care of my brother better than me! So stop with all your nonsense.

ELOISE

Whatever you say, Karl. You are the boss...

KATIE

Alright. Alright. So, what are we having for dinner?

KARL

Well, you know we got a hog roasting in the ground and should be ready by 6 and El got all the fixings. Especially, her famous peach cobbler.

KATIE

Oh, Armando, you are going to love Auntie El's cobbler.

(Kenny exits the trailer with his boom box and a hand full of tapes.)

ELOISE

I hope you brought your appetite, we could feed the whole town with what we have going on.

KENNY

And I got the tunes.

(Kenny puts a tape in the boom box. Loudly, 'Hip Hop Hooray' by Naughty By Nature, flows out of the speakers)

KENNY (CONT'D)

Let's get this party started!

(Kenny dances)

Blackout

ACT 1 SCENE 3

Lights come up on a picnic table covered with a tablecloth. On the table, remnants of what was a small sized pig. Maybe there's the head of the pig or maybe there is not.

Katie, El, Armando, Karl, and Kenny sit all around the table all looking about 5lbs heavier. Everyone is finished except for Kenny, he continues to eat. Karl drinks beer. In the background slow country twangy music can be heard, Conway Twitty's 'Hello Darlin'.....

ARMANDO

That was wonderful.

KATIE

I miss this so much.

KARL

I knew you would, nothing beats some good ole Texas barbecue.

ELOISE

Not only Texas barbecue but Karl knows how to cook up a hog better than anyone I know in Port Arthur.

KENNY

He sure does.

Kenny eats sloppily, never coming up for air. He eats like a teenager.

KARL

Come on now Kenny, eat with some dignity around guest.

KENNY

I'm sorry Karl.

Kenny continues to eat, but just slower.

KARL

So, Armando where in Africa you from?

ARMANDO

Ghana.



KARL

Is there a lot of Gays in this Ghana?

ELOISE

Karl!?!

KARL

I'm just trying to get a feel about where the boy is coming from.

(Pause)

ARMANDO

No. No gays.

KARL

Are you sure? There seem to be gays everywhere nowadays. I especially thought there would be some in Africa.

ARMANDO

Yes. I am sure there are no gays in Ghana.

KARL

How can you be so sure?

ARMANDO

It is illegal.

KARL

Say what now?

ARMANDO

That is why I'm sure there are no gays in Ghana.

KARL

Let me get this straight, you mean to tell me that where you come from two men, by law, can not have sex up...there...in the um...up the, well you know, the...

KENNY

Pooper shooter.

Kenny laughs. Armando laughs. Eloise is noticeably upset.

ELOISE

Kenny! I do not think this is the right conversation we should be discussing right now.

KATIE

Yes. Can we please talk about something else?

ARMANDO

More than that, two men can't be gay at all. They can't be in any kind of male on male relationship at all, or they will be placed in jail.

KARL

You don't say...

KENNY

Well I'll be a monkey's cousin!

KARL

Uncle. Kenny. It's 'monkeys uncle'.

KENNY

Oh, yeah, well I'll be a monkey's uncle!

KARL

This Ghana seems very interesting. Tell me more about this magical place.

ARMANDO

Oh, it is a magical place. A sunshine filled magical place. It is very similar to here in that regard. With magnificent white sand beaches, mango trees so in-reach that you could pick a fresh one on the way to work and eat it for breakfast.

ELOISE

That does sound nice. Doesn't that sound nice Katie?

KATIE

It sure does...

KARL

How are the women? Are they nice and curvy?

ARMANDO

Excuse me?

ELOISE

Alright, you know what? Katie and I are going to clean up here while Y'all menfolk can have your little discussion.

El reaches for the tray the pig was lying on,  
Armando reaches as well.

ARMANDO

Please let me help.

ELOISE

No, that is alright Armando. You boys go on and chat away. Katie and I will have our own little powwow.

El with great strength lift the pig tray. Katie  
grabs all the dishes.

KATIE

You boys have fun!

Katie kisses Armando. El and Katie exit.

KARL

So, are all the women in Ghana juicy in all the right places?

ARMANDO

Well, I guess so. I'm not sure what you mean...

KENNY

You don't notice when a woman has a nice big ol backside? Huh?

ARMANDO

Big Ol backside?

KARL

Or big Ol titties, come on Armando, don't be playing will us. This is just us men speaking. You don't notice when a woman has some big Ol titties....they usually staring right in your face, so can't miss'm.

ARMANDO

I don't look at women in that way...

KENNY

Shiiiiit!

KARL

What the hell you talkin bout? We just talkin bout a nice big Ol ass that you can ride on around the bedroom, and titties you can lay your head on. (Pause) Damn! Armando...you takin the fun outta of everything!

ARMANDO

I'm sorry to disappoint you, gentlemen.

KARL

That's ok. You seem to be one of those serious fellas. I can respect that.

ARMANDO

Thank you.

(Pause.)

KARL

So in Africa did you live in one of those huts I've seen so much on the TV? How yaw fit a tv in one of those things?

KENNY

Yeah, where da hell did ya plug it in at, homeboy?

ARMANDO

No gentlemen. I live in a very modern two-story residence in Accra. We even have a pool.

KARL

A-ccra? I thought you said youse was from Ghana?

ARMANDO

Yes I am.

KENNY

You from two places?

ARMANDO

No, well yes, I mean Accra is in Ghana.

Karl and Kenny look confused.

ARMANDO (CONT'D)

Accra is a city in Ghana.

Kenny and Karl still look confused.

ARMANDO (CONT'D)

It's like Dallas is a city in Texas. And Texas is a state in America. And Ghana is like a state in Africa...

KARL

So y'all are just like us?

ARMANDO

Yes, I guess so...

KENNY

Wow, You learn something new every day, homey.

KARL

Ya sure do. Them taxes as high as us as well? Cause the taxes around here are so Un-American.

ARMANDO

There are not many taxes in Ghana.

(pause)

KARL

Say what?

KENNY

What you mean?

ARMANDO

Not much. Everyone has to pay their way.

KARL

School taxes?

ARMANDO

None.

KARL

Housing taxes?

ARMANDO

Almost none.

KARL

Shit!

KENNY

Damn! I might move my ass to Ghana...

ARMANDO

I miss Ghana, but it is not all that it seems. I mean, not paying taxes has caused a massive gap in the rich and poor. That is why if you see the pictures on the television it looks like kids don't go to school is because they don't. It is quite expensive and only a small amount of native people can afford it. Here in the states, the tax system has been in place for most of its citizens to benefit, I don't know if you know how rare that is. You almost have a socialist system, except for your health care.

KARL

Socialist? What are you trying to say, Armando? That we are communists? Please, please, please don't be trying to say that we are communist!

KENNY

Yeah, Armando. Those be fightin words round here.

ARMANDO

I'm not trying to fight anyone. I'm just saying that I believe that  
(pauses)....America is the best country in the world.

KARL

Yeah! That's right Armando, Say it loud and proud!

ARMANDO

America is the best!

KENNY

In the world!

KARL

That is a fact and I will drink to that!

Karl chugs a whole beer in one gulp. And is  
a little tipsy.

And now that you are here in this great country, what are your plans?

ARMANDO

Plans? I thought I mentioned this earlier...

KARL

I know you mentioned it, but now I have a witness. Why are you here Armando?

ARMANDO

I love it here.

KARL

I understand that, but WHY are you here?

ARMANDO

I here to study mechanical engineering at UT.

KARL

Then what? After all your studying is done, what are your plans?

There is a long awkward pause.

KARL (CONT'D)

I know I don't have to explain to you how important my daughter means to me. She's the only love of my life after her mother passed away. We were both so heartbroken. She became my best friend after that tragedy, and I would do anything to protect her. And I mean anything....And now she is with you, so what are your plans.

ARMANDO

I care for your daughter immensely and I wouldn't do anything to hurt her. I promise you that Mr...

KARL

Well, I think when you finish your studying, you should head back to that wonderful land of Ghana, Accra, or whatever it's called...and don't come back here.

ARMANDO

I know, you mentioned that earlier. (Pause) Wait, you mean to America???

KARL

Yup. And I got Kenny here as a witness now. Ain't that right Kenny, you hearing everything loud and clear?

KENNY

Yes, I am hearing things. But if he likes it here why can't he stay...

KARL

Are you trying to cross me, Kenny?

KENNY

No, Karl, I would never...

All of a sudden the song 'Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man' by Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn begins to play.



Shh Shh. You hear that?  
KARL

Karl goes to the radio and turns up the volume.

KARL (CONT'D)  
KATIE! Katie, come on out here our song is on.

Katie runs out.

What is going on???

Our song is playing.  
KARL

Karl begins to sing.

KARL (CONT'D)  
“Hey, Louisiana woman...

I thought someone was dying.  
KATIE

KARL  
Nope. Just our song, well, before your momma died, it was her song...come on girl sing it. “Louisiana Woman...”

Katie is reluctant at first, but slowly she gets into it, really into it.

“Mississippi man...”  
KATIE

KARL/KATIE  
“We get together every time we can”.

KARL

“Mississippi River can’t keep us apart” “There’s too much love in this Mississippi heart.”

KATIE

“Too much love in this Louisiana heart” “Well I thought I’d been loved but I never had Till I was wrapped in the arms of a Mississippi man.

El enters.

ELOISE

Well, what we got going on here? We got us nice little hoedown/sing along huh?

El starts to dance with the song. She looks over to Armando, he looks out of place, she encourages him to join in.

ELOISE (CONT’D)

Come on Armando, this is how country folk do it here in Port Arthur.

El quickly shows him the two-step. Everyone except Kenny sings. Armando tries..... “Hey Louisiana Woman, Mississippi man, we get together every time we can. The Mississippi River can’t keep us apart. There too much love in this Mississippi heart. Too much love in this Louisiana heart...”

ELOISE (CONT’D)

YEEHAW! I sure do love me some Loretta Lynn.

KARL

Conway Twitty was a true American, you know he used to write for Elvis. He sure did....He almost played for the Phillies too but instead, he decided to fight for our country and joined the military. This man was talented enough to play professional baseball, but instead, he chose to do the real American thing and he fought for our freedoms. (He holds up a beer) I salute you, Conway Twitty!

ELOISE

Well, Loretta is no one to sneeze at either.

KARL

Well...

ELOISE

She ain't. She's the Queen of Country Music!

KARL

She is also known as "The Hillbilly Feminist". Singing songs about birth control and all that women's rights shit.

ELOISE

And I applaud her for that.

KARL

She even wrote what some would call an anti-American song. A song against our military. Can you believe that?

ELOISE

No, Karl, she wrote a song against the Vietnam war were all those husbands were being killed and leaving all their wives widows. A war we had no business being in!

KARL

What ever you say...And she wrote a song promoting women being promiscuous and havin sex all the time. Singing a song about the birth control pill! What kind of woman is that? She is just lucky she has a good singing voice or I would have nothing to do with her...

ELOISE

Stop it, Karl! You are speaking such nonsense. She was promoting women's rights. Y'all men go out and have sex with all these women, knocking them up and then leaving them all by themselves to deal with the consequences. You leave it all on our heads. WE HAVE OUR RIGHTS!

EI storms off into the trailer.

KARL

Well, what the hell is she getting her panties in a bunch about, having babies was never her thing anyways...

KATIE

Daddy! You leave auntie alone.

KARL

Ok, but I was just sayin....

KATIE

I think you have said enough.

KARL

Well, I guess that's the end to this party. Can Y'all just clean up some around here, I need to make some rounds through the property.

KATIE

Ok. Daddy.

Karl exits.  
(Pause)

KENNY

Can I play my music now? Y'all had your time.

There is no response from anyone, so I guess that is a "Yes". Kenny puts in a tape in the boom box and presses play. The song "Sally" by Stetsasonic plays. Kenny dances.

Black out.

ACT 2 SCENE 1

Lights up.

Katie and Armando are cleaning up the yard. Kenny has fallen asleep near the same spot we saw him in the last scene.

Your Aunt sure is something.

ARMANDO

Yes she is.

KATIE

A very modern woman.

ARMANDO

I guess so...

KATIE

What does she do?

ARMANDO

You mean for a living?

KATIE

Yes.

ARMANDO

KATIE

Well, she used to be a kindergarten teacher and helped out with the trailer park business and then when my mom passed, she decided to work the trailer business full time.

ARMANDO

Does she have a husband or did she have a husband.

No.

KATIE

Really?

ARMANDO

She has never had a husband?

KATIE

Why not?

ARMANDO

KATIE

She has never even had a boyfriend.

ARMANDO

What!?

KATIE

Nope. Never.

ARMANDO

What is she waiting for?

KATIE

For the right woman to come along.

ARMANDO

What?

KATIE

Haha...Are you serious? I told you about my aunt El...The one who dates woman... And how hard it has been for her around here? She refuses to move to a more understanding place because as she says "They would have to drag me to heaven before I would be forced to leave the ones I love: my family, my friends, and my pets here in Port Arthur"...You don't remember that?

ARMANDO

This is the one? This is the lesbian one? The name confused me you called her "El"...Oh, so this woman is the lesbian? Wow. She doesn't look like a lesbian.

KATIE

Well, what does one look like?

ARMANDO

I don't know a little more like....I don't know. Forgive me, Katie, I'm still getting use to all the gayness here in America. Oh, I see now. I see why she was so upset when we were talking about the gays earlier.

KATIE

I'm surprised you chose UT for your school, it being one of the most liberal colleges, but I'm glad you did. Maybe one day when we go to Ghana we can change people's understanding of how the rest of the world works.

ARMANDO

Excuse me?

KATIE

I mean it is bad enough that gay people can't get married in most of the US, but to have it being illegal in Ghana and many other African countries, well that is just unreasonable.

ARMANDO

You think I'm going to be able to change a whole nation's belief system, based on what I learned here in America???

KATIE

Well someone has to... Why not you?

ARMANDO

Cause I don't want to.

KATIE

Wait, you don't want to???

ARMANDO

Ghana is a God fearing land and will be alright. It is fine to do what you want in America because you have your systems, but you can't dictate how we live in Africa. You have done that before.

KATIE

Yes, I know, but this is different?

ARMANDO

How?

KATIE

This is just a basic human right. To love who you want to love and not be put in jail for doing so.

Kenny turns in his seat. Katie speaks quieter.

KATIE (CONT'D)

What if we weren't allowed to be together? You know the Anti-miscegenation laws we had here in Texas? We were not allowed by law to mix with black people, like yourself, until the Loving case in 1967. 1967, for crying out loud!

ARMANDO

No, I didn't know of such a law.

KATIE

Well, it was a dark period in our history. And you have one going on in yours right now.

ARMANDO

Please, Katie, leave Ghana alone. If the majority of people want it to change, then it will change. We are trying to have a democracy. (Pause)

KATIE

I'm sorry I just can't stand to see other peoples rights being trampled on. (Pause)

ARMANDO

Even though you have the equality laws here, I still don't feel like we could really be together.

KATIE

What? Where would you get those feeling from? Did someone say something to you?

ARMANDO

Umm, no. It's just a feeling. Everyone seems to be looking at me in such a strange manner. Like I'm an alien creature or something.



KATIE

I'm sorry you feel that way but things are different around here now.

ARMANDO

So, no racism exists anymore?

KATIE

Oh no, it still exists but we are more open now here in Texas. "If you can pay your way, you can stay" as my daddy would always say. It's about working hard and taking care of your family and not depending on the government. OMG, I sound like my father...

ARMANDO

I believe in this too. There is nothing wrong with working hard. But it should be about working smart and associate yourself with people who are doing better than yourself.

KATIE

I don't know about that, because then you would only be friends with rich assholes.

ARMANDO

Then so be it, as long as you get ahead in this world.

KATIE

So you could never associate with a poor person?

ARMANDO

I would pray for them...they could never help me get to where I need to get and I don't want that poor mentality to rub off on me.

KATIE

Interesting.....So how do you see me?

ARMANDO

What?

KATIE

Why did you associate yourself with me? Do you see me as someone who could uplift you? Financially? Because I sure as hell am not as smart as you.

ARMANDO

You are smart Katie...

KATIE

I didn't generate electricity for an entire village when I was just 14 years old. I was too busy partying with my friends. And I didn't get a full ride to college, my parents are paying for me. How I got into college, to begin with, is beyond me, because all I had was a C average. So my smarts couldn't have been what you thought could uplift you? Could it be my grandparent's oil business...

ARMANDO

Katie...

Is that what attracted you to me? Or maybe it's my skin color that caught your eye...

ARMANDO (CONT'D)

Come on Katie stop talking like this. You are taking this too seriously.

KATIE

How could I be taking this too seriously? I'm beginning to think that the man I love is only attracted to me for what my family has...(Pause)

ARMANDO

What do you want me to say?

KATIE

The truth!

(Pause.)

ARMANDO

Ok. So I do believe that choosing a partner in life is more than just physical attraction or even the loving feeling between a couple. It is also about status. It's also about how their kids genetic's would fare, that would hopefully forge for them a better life. A comfortable life. A life without a lot of strife.

(Pause)

I come from a very brilliant minded family.

Your family has built a very successful business here in America. You all seem to be very physically strong, hard-working people.

KATIE

Are you calling my family dumb?!

ARMANDO

No. They are smart in a different way, and if we were to combine the two...

KATIE

So you want to make a super-power light-skinned family?! A family of mixed raced superheroes...Let's write a comic book featuring 'The Owusu family'. We would have action figures in our likeness...

ARMANDO

Come on Katie! A lasting love is not just random. It takes planning and work.

KATIE

My head hurts. I need to lie down

ARMANDO

I'm sorry to upset you. I just wanted to be honest. I do love you Katie Mae, but I'm just letting you know what most people won't talk about.

KATIE

Well, I know that my family is all about love and isn't into that superficial nonsense. What kind of thinking is that? Huh?

ARMANDO

I'm telling you, Katie, if you dig deep into your family's past I know it's there. They are just keeping it away from you so not to hurt you.

KATIE

That is nonsense! I thought better of you Armando.

She turns to leave.

ARMANDO

You thought little of me. Is what I think you mean.

KATIE

What?

ARMANDO

Nothing.

KATIE

No, tell me what you said.

(Pause)

ARMANDO

I said I think you think little of me.

KATIE

I only think the best of you. You are one of the smartest men I know and no that doesn't mean I think you are smarter than the people in my family. They are as bright as you if not brighter.

ARMANDO

This is not a competition Katie.

KATIE

Well, you are making it out to be.

ARMANDO

I just think that if we could stay together, we could create something special. I think I fell in love the moment I laid my eyes on you...

KATIE

Are you sure it wasn't this white skin, blonde hair, and money bag family?

ARMANDO.

Well that is a part of it, the attraction is a part for everyone. I mean the looks part...

KATIE

But you know what I mean. Maybe I am just different looking in your eyes and that was the attraction. Maybe you have mommy issues.

ARMANDO

Mommy issue. What? I don't understand.

KATIE

You hate your mother so try to date anyone who doesn't remind you of her.

Armando sucks his teeth. An African way of showing disapproval.

ARMANDO

What are you talking about Katie Mae? Hate my mother? She would never let that happen. It's practically illegal to have any type of ill will towards your own mother. Get that nonsense thinking out of your mind.

KATIE

It could be a subconscious thing. (Pause)

ARMANDO

Then what about you?

KATIE

What about me?

ARMANDO

I notice many of your pictures there was an abundance of guys you dated that had dark complexions. Do you have this mommy thing?

KATIE

It would be a daddy issue. And no. I have dated some white men. I am an equal opportunity dating person. I date who I like. No one will dictate who will be my partner.

(Short pause)

ARMANDO

What about him...

Armando motions towards Kenny sleeping.

KATIE

Stop it! Just stop it! Don't you dare mention that right now!

ARMANDO

What? It could have affected your dating choices...

KATIE

Stop it!

ARMANDO

Maybe you should deal with it instead of...

KATIE

STOP IT!

Kenny jolts awake.

ARMANDO

But I thought that's what we came to do.

KATIE

I think I have changed my mind. This is too much to handle right now.

Kenny is awake.

KENNY

What is going on? Katie you alright?

KATIE

I'm alright uncle Kenny. You should take yourself to bed. Because I know I am...

Katie exits into the trailer.

KENNY

What's goin on playa? Y'all having relationship problems.

ARMANDO

Something like that.

KENNY

Well, I got something for you...

Kenny pulls out a cassette tape.

This right here can cure all your heartaches.

Kenny puts in the tape and presses play.  
Then, LL Cool J's 'I Need Love" smooth  
lyrics come spilling out of the speakers.  
Kenny dances for a few moments.

KENNY (CONT'D)

You hear that?

ARMANDO

Yes.

KENNY

Do you really hear that? In here?

Kenny points to Armando's chest area.

ARMANDO

I guess so, but I really don't see how this...

KENNY

Shhh...Just listen. From here ...Just listen.

Kenny heads for his trailer.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Now I'm going to leave this with you and you try to listen. And listen nice and good.

Kenny enters the trailer. Armando just sits there and actually tries to listen. LL Cool J's 'I Need Love' plays as we go to blackout.

ACT 2 SCENE 2

Court yard. Same day but late in the evening. Armando is asleep on the chair where we last saw him. Katie comes out of trailer followed by Eloise. Katie looks at Armando as she wants to wake him...

ELOISE

He looks so peaceful Katie. Maybe you should just let him rest. This was probably a lot of excitement for him, being in these new parts and dealing with us country folk...

KATIE

I know but I just can't leave him out here like this.

ELOISE

Do you really want to wake him and have another conversation as you did?

KATIE

I guess not...He does look like he's getting some decent sleep.  
(Pause)

ELOISE

So you and Armando seem to be a nice looking couple, but I'm not sure why you're doing what you're doing, especially now?

KATIE

Katie. What do you mean?



EL.

I'm a different woman than I used to be mainly because of me coming to terms with my gayness... But I used to be like the rest, I would dislike people who looked different than myself, so I know how they think.

KATIE.

What are you trying to say to me?

EL.

I'm just trying to make life a little easier for you Katie, because...

KATIE.

Auntie! I can't believe what you are saying!

EL.

I'm just saying that...especially now, with the racial tension going on in America I think it might be a little safer to maybe cool it with all the interracial dating your doing.

KATIE.

How could this even come out of your mouth a woman who's being persecuted for the love of other women?

EL.

I wouldn't say love...but I do care for them a great deal. That's something I can't hide, a woman is women, black, white, Indian, Asian, so I just don't do it while staying in these parts, but you could just date a white guy or even someone who passes for white... It would really be a relief for me, Katie, I care about your safety.

KATIE.

I don't want to do that. I will not do that! Or I will let them win. (Pause) We have dealt with these racist beliefs all our lives and for a long time I truly believed them. And it wasn't just that I believed our skin was better I was made to believe that everything we did; our religion, the food we ate, the music we listened to, the clothes we wore, our choice of pets, the TV shows we watched, the cars we drove, everything we did and said was the standard in this world.

And how everyone else lived, who didn't look like us, was absolutely wrong. Oh my god, looking back I can't believe some of the things I did or said to other kids at school who were different...there was this one girl Brenda, she was the only black girl at our school that year and she came in with these braids in her hair and me and my friends, me, mainly me, made so much fun of her, I told her that her hair was not natural and said that she looked like some sort of animal. A buffalo I think is what I said...And she cried if I'm not mistaken. Yes. She cried a lot...and we even made fun of that, we said it looked like chocolate was flowing down her face, like she was a chocolate fondue fountain.

EL.

Well, kids can be cruel...

KATIE.

But where do you think we learned it from? (Pause)

Well, not long after that Brenda came in school with her hair so straight and shined up...and you know what? No one said anything. Not a word. They didn't make fun anymore or compliment her either because we believed that's the way things should be...So I will not be conforming as Brenda had to do. Because this is not the way things should be!

(Pause)

We have to deal with so many things in our own family that we never dealt with... Things we have covered up for so many years, and yet it's so easy for all of y'all to complain about another group of people who haven't done anything to you personally!

(Pause)

Eloise. I know what you're getting at...

Katie. Well, I'm too tired to talk about it right now.

Armando moves around in he's seat.

Eloise. Maybe you should wake him, so he can at least sleep decently in the trailer with you?

(Pause)

Katie. I just don't want to deal with him tonight. It's just too much...

El goes in the trailer for a brief moment and when she comes back out she has a blanket.

Eloise. You can at least cover him. It's going to get a little cool tonight.

Katie takes the blanket and delicately covers Armando. He stirs again but still doesn't wake he looks peaceful. Katie gently rubs his head. She exits into the trailer with Eloise. Blackout.

### ACT 2 SCENE 3

Lights come up. It's the next morning and Armando is asleep on the lawn chair in the same spot we saw him last. Karl exits the trailer carrying a shot gun and some fishing gear which awakens Armando...He slowly rises.

KARL

Well, hey sleepy head.

Armando looks around he is disheveled and out of it. He see's the gun...

KARL (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to wake you. What happened with you and Katie? I heard a little commotion coming from this way last night?

ARMANDO

We just had a disagreement. I must have fallen asleep after Kenny played some music.

KARL

Yeah. I saw you sleeping while that damn music was playing. I didn't want to wake you cause you look like you were having some good shut-eye. And I know when I'm sleeping I need me some good shut-eye. So, Is everything alright with you and Katie?

ARMANDO

Yes! It is nothing that we can't work out. We have a good relationship that way.

KARL

Really?

ARMANDO

Yes. We communicate very nicely.

KARL

Yes, I guess communication is key in a relationship.

ARMANDO

Yes, very much so...

KARL

But also is a good solid family base. You know when things aren't going well in a relationship, you need that shoulder to cry on. And there is nothing better than a strong family support system. You know what I mean.

ARMANDO

Yes, I know what you mean.

KARL

Ya do?

ARMANDO

Yes. Back home in Ghana, I have many relatives and we communicate very often. I talk to my mother and father every day. There is nothing more important than family.

KARL

There sure isn't.

ARMANDO

In Ghana, I especially enjoyed our family Sunday afternoons meals after church, you call them brunches here in America, where my aunts and uncles would come over to our house and bring their very best dishes. We would eat and talk all afternoon. And later in the evening, the younger kids would perform our traditional dances.

KARL

Well, that sounds like a good time.

ARMANDO

Yes it was. I miss it...

They have a moment.

KARL

I heard you were really smart like you created electricity for your family or something thing like that?

ARMANDO

Yes, I created electricity from a windmill for my village. And it was so successful that other villages asked me to create windmills for them. I was able to make some money from it...even enough money to buy a small house in Accra...

KARL

Wow! That is mighty impressive. How did you do that? What kind of material did you use?

ARMANDO

I used the inside of some old PVC pipes that I flattened down with really hot coals...

KARL

Damn! They taught you that in them African schools?

ARMANDO

No. I couldn't afford to go to school. I just went to the library and found a book on energy.

KARL

A self-taught man. That is what we need more of in this country. (Pause) Do you think we could build something like that around here? The people are really struggling to pay their electric bills...

ARMANDO

I'm not sure about the rules and regulations here...

KARL

It's the government, isn't it? They control every god damn thing! We really need to get rid of big government.

ARMANDO

I don't even think it is that. The electric companies would probably sue or try to destroy us because they want to make all the money. The government doesn't really have anything to do with it. These companies have a monopoly over you.

KARL

A monopo what?

ARMANDO

A monopoly...

KARL

Hell boy! I'm talking about real life here and you talking about board games.

ARMANDO

No this is real life I'm talking about. This is a real thing. If you think the government is corrupt you just try to mess with big corporations profits. They do not mess around.

KARL

Well, Armando, there is no hurt in trying and if they come around we can just play dumb and say we didn't know...

ARMANDO

I guess...we could try.

KARL

That is the spirit, Armando! (Pause). You know what? You kinda remind me of my pops.

ARMANDO  
(Surprised)

Really?

KARL

Yeah...you do. Now, don't you go and get all big headed. There was no one like my pops. I mean no one. He was a true American patriot. He started with nothing and created a car repair business. He always wanted to know how things were made. He would just walk into a room and look around to see how things were constructed. He was always curious, kinda like you...

ARMANDO  
He sounds like a very good man.

KARL  
He was one of the best. I miss him so much.

(Pause)

ARMANDO  
How long ago did he pass away?

KARL  
He didn't pass away. He ran off to the Caribbeans with his caretaker. He left my mother high and dry. He is an asshole for that, but I still do miss him being around. He taught me everything I know about automobiles. If something goes wrong with one of these Airstreams, we don't need to call any one cause I can fix it...

ARMANDO  
I have a question about the car I saw parked out front when I was walking towards your trailer... It was kinda hidden in the corner under some debris.

KARL  
Which car do you...Do you mean the Honda CRX?

ARMANDO  
Yes! That is the car.

KARL  
How did you see that?

ARMANDO

Oh I could tell a CRX Si from a mile away.

KARL

What you know about that car son?

ARMANDO

Everything! In Ghana, my brother and I would look through the junkyards in the rich area for good material to build things and one day we came across a CRX Si in yellow and black. It didn't work at all but we took it back to our village and we worked on that car for years until it was running again, and boy did it run. It is such a wonderful car.

KARL

Yes, it is. It was the first car I ever owned. It had a double wishbone suspension, stick shift, sunroof, and drove like a dream. It was like driving a mini race car.

ARMANDO

It sure was! When did it die on you? Because they usually last forever.

KARL

Actually, I let it go not long after I bought it. My friends at the time would tease me cause it wasn't an American made automobile and after a while, I just couldn't take the teasing and I got rid of it. Sold it to some guy in Austin. I went out and bought a Ford pick up truck. Many years later, I saw MY same CRX for sale in the paper and I re-bought it, but it was in such horrible condition, cause some punk kids had used it for off- road racing, but I wanted it anyways since it was my first love...so I hid it, and there it still sits.

ARMANDO

We should fix it up.

KARL

We?

ARMANDO

I mean if it is alright with you...With the little time I have here, I would love to work on that wonder of a car...

(Pause.)



KARL

Ok, I was going to do a little fishing, but OK that would be alright. No car is fully made in America anymore, anyways, so if we get it going, it would be fun to ride it around.(Pause) You know what, you are alright, better than any of the niggers I have come across... sorry I promised to not use that word around you but...

ARMANDO

Why do you use that word at all? From what I understand from the history of it, it's a very bad word to use against people of black skin such as myself.

KARL

It's just the way it is around here Armando. My daddy used that word and his daddy before him used that word. I'm sorry if I offended you cause you are not like all the rest.

ARMANDO

But what does it take to NOT be called that word?

KARL

Well, you are just different. You came here to create things and not just use America like a dump site. You are one of the good guys. A magical negro is what some might call you. Now, If some white people are treating America like a dump, then I would call them trash. It's about taking care of this country by any means necessary. It's where we live. It's the land I love. It's the land my forefather fought so hard for...love, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I believe in that with all my heart.

ARMANDO

But it seems like you're more willing to work cordially with white people like yourself. Wouldn't it make more sense to work with the black Americans than to always be at odds with them? It always seems like you're fighting against each other. Imagine how great a country like this would be if naturally, and by following the word of the lord, everyone would work together instead of being forced to by a law. It just makes sense to me. You brought Africans here and now you want to be divided from them, I'm confused about this relationship you have created.

KARL

I created? Boy, I had nothing to do with it. This mess was here when I got here...

ARMANDO

Yes, but you benefited from it and indulged in it. It didn't just stay the way it is on its own, and I really think you need to own up to it instead of fighting against it. Instead of trying to force people you don't like out and blaming them for all your hardships, you should put all that energy in figuring out how you could build this amazing country into something even greater.

KARL

I thought you were one of the good guys, but now you're sounding like those Black Lives Matter motherfuckers. I wish I could burn those black son of bitches.

ARMANDO

Interesting! You people seem so nice in these parts on the outside, which you call southern hospitality, but if you just dig a little deeper, there is this ugliness.

KARL

It's called truthfulness. Once we find out that you don't have the values that make this country great, then you get the truthful feelings of a southern person. And it's the opposite, we can't allow the ugliness to invade our lands and poison our soils. And if you can't understand that, then I can't have a conversation with you son.

(Pause)

ARMANDO

I understand. It is your land and your way of life. I wouldn't want some foreigner coming to Africa and dictating how we live.

KARL

I am glad you understand that, and if I visit Africa I would want you to grace me with some good African hospitality as well. But once I'm done visiting I go back home to Texas and say "what a nice trip!"... And that is that....I would not try to change what I felt is wrong with the way you people live.

(Pause)

ARMANDO

Thank you. And I will not do that to you as well...God bless you.

KARL

Thank you, Armando. And God bless you.

Karl gets up and walks to a cooler and pulls out two Miller High Life's and a bottle of Jack Daniels.

KARL (CONT'D)

You must have a drink with me...

ARMANDO

It's quite early to drink...

KARL

Now is the time I'm offering you some southern hospitality and your rejection of it is sort of an insult.

Karl opens the beers and the bottle of Jack. He takes a swig and hands the bottle to Armando.

KARL (CONT'D)

Go ahead take a swig.

ARMANDO

I'm not sure about this...

KARL

You are on vacation...

Armando pauses for a moment, contemplating, then he agrees. He takes the bottle and copies the same way Karl swigged.

KARL (CONT'D)

That's a boy!

Then Karl hands Armando a beer.

KARL (CONT'D)

This will still be your last visit.

(Pause. Awkward moment.)

Katie Mae and El exit the trailer.

KARL (CONT'D)

(To Armando)

Now smile.

ELOISE

How are y'all gettin on out here?

KARL

I was just giving Armando here some advice on relationships. It seems he had a little spat with Katie Mae...

ELOISE

You giving advice? Oh lord...

KARL

Yes El, And I think he learned a thing or two. Didn't you son?

ARMANDO

Yes, Your father is very knowledgeable about life...

ELOISE

Whatever you say.

KATIE

I'm sorry I left you out here sleeping like that. We can talk...

ELOISE

We are going to visit a few friends Katie hasn't seen in a while for some morning coffee, Armando, you are more than welcomed to come with.

KARL

They can chat later cause Armando and I are going to be working on a project or two together.

KATIE

A project?

ARMANDO

Yes, I am going to help your father get his CRX running again.

ELOISE

Really? That hunk of junk!

KARL

Watch yourself, El.

ELOISE

Hell you might as well burn that sucker down to a liquid and create something useful out of it.

KATIE

I mean, I guess it could give you guys some more time to get to know each other, and we can always talk later.

ARMANDO

Yes, of course, we can.

Katie and Armando have a moment. They can't stay mad at each other.

Katie and El exit.

KARL

Alright, Armando, it's just you and me. Let me check on a few things around the trailers cause I know that Mrs. Ambers needed her toilet fixed and that shouldn't take too long. Give me about 40 minutes and we can get cracking on the CRX.

ARMANDO

Ok.

Karl exits.

Black out.

ACT 2 SCENE 4

Out on road someplace not far from the trailer park. El and Katie are walking...

KATIE

Damn I don't remember Judith's trailer being so far.

ELOISE

Oh come on Katie Mae! Them young legs of yours are getting lazy from all that sitting and studying.

KATIE

But I still dance...

ELOISE

That ain't nothing like walking these Port Arthur streets. All these damn uneven surfaces. Well, we can rest here a minute and then we can mosey on...

KATIE

Gladly.

They sit on a tree stump.

KATIE

So...I started to go to therapy. I know you are going to think i'm crazy but it has been extremely helpful...

ELOISE

I wasn't going to say it's crazy....cause I have been going to therapy.

KATIE

Really?

ELOISE

Yes baby girl. Me denying my gayness has finally taken a toll. I know I seem strong but at some point, you have to admit when things are too tough to handle. And I think I have come to a conclusion...I'm leaving Texas.

KATIE

What? Really?

ELOISE

Yes baby girl. I met a woman online from New York City. A beautiful Indian woman. We have been talking for some time now, and it's been wonderful. She lives in the Brooklyn area with her puppies...

KATIE

Do you love her?

ELOISE

Yes. I think I do.

KATIE

Are you moving in with her?

ELOISE

Possibly. I'm not sure but I do know I'm going to move away from here. It has come to a point where people will talk badly about my gayness right in front of me. And my therapist told me it's OK to move on and that it doesn't show a sign of weakness, and that I deserve to be happy. And I do...I have been strong, but unhappy for too long.

KATIE

Auntie...I'm happy about your decision. When are you going to tell everybody?

ELOISE

It doesn't matter. I don't owe them any explanation. I don't owe them anything. I may just leave one day.

KATIE

Well I'm glad that you let me know.

ELOISE

Of course baby girl. You have always been good to me...

ELOISE

So how are you doing Katie Mae? I know you were too tired to talk about things last night..

KATIE

I'm doing O.K.

ELOISE

Come on Katie, you can tell me anything. And forget about what I said yesterday, sometimes I forget who I'm talkin to, you are just as strong headed as your mamma was...I have a feeling you are not doing as well as you claim. You seem a little down on this visit. And last night just proved it...

KATIE

You know I've had the stress of school, I have never work this hard in my life. These teachers really push you...

ELOISE

Ok. I can see that. Anything else bothering you? Is there any problem with the beau? He seems really nice and very smart, but that's just from the little I know of him. Looking at a relationship from the outside you may think everything is all honky dory but then a few months later, you find out he done murdered 7 people in Rose City.

KATIE

Well, Armando is not like that...Not that I know of anyways...he is sweet and smart, but sometimes too smart for his own good. He may seem really pleasant, but if you talk about things he's really against, OMG does he has a temper.

ELOISE

Men can be like that...



KATIE

And he is kinda conservative. He comes from a very religious family. It's always Jesus Christ this and Jesus Christ that and...

ELOISE

We've got a lot of that here in Texas as well, Katie Mae...

KATIE

And...

ELOISE

Come on now spit it out!

KATIE

And, where he comes from child molesters are the lowest of the low. If they find out you molested someone, they will hang you.

ELOISE

Oh my goodness.

KATIE

And I told him about Kenny

ELOISE

Oh my goodness!

KATIE

I've never seen him get so mad. I tried to explain to him that after the accident Kenny was like a child and didn't remember what he had been doing to me...

ELOISE

That must have been crazy news for him to hear...Armando must be thinking "what kinda family is this?" When something like that happens to you and the man who did it is just walkin around here playing his damn music all the time, free as a bird...

KATIE.

All these years I had no idea that this would affect me in my everyday life. It's when I tried to have a relationship with men is when it started to rear its ugly head and appear out of nowhere especially when I was trying to become intimate. It was challenging. I only thought it happened to other people cause I see myself as such a strong woman just like used to think my mother was... then cancer came, and it was the first time I ever saw any weakness in her it was the first time I saw that she was human just like everyone else and that terrible things can happen to anyone at anytime.

EL.

Your mother was sure a tough cookie . You know she used to ride calf cause she wanted to train to be a bull rider she was one of the few women in east Texas win a few competitions but she just didn't grow into the body of a rider but she sure was tough enough to do it, her mentally was fearless... I miss her so much.

KATIE.

Me too....

EL.

But we must continue on baby girl. This world is ours for the conquering and we have the power as a woman to do it. You and Armando seem like a nice couple and I hope and pray it works out for you.

KATIE.

So far so good. We work well together.

EL.

How about the intimacy...how is it with him.

KATIE.

He is a very gentleman. Almost too gentle...

EL.

Haha. You serious baby girl. You sure he's not you know...in the closet type of guys?

KATIE.

No auntie! He's just gentle, in a good way, in a way where I can handle it and that is why I was able to talk to him about Kenny.

(Long pause)  
(Con't)

How come you never told what Kenny did to me my dad?

ELOISE

I would like to apologize for that...when Mexican Robert came to me and told me what he saw behind that shed...(this is hard for El to say) I was going to go straight to your father and demand that he do something about his brother, but around that time, you know, we found out your mother had cancer...It was a difficult situation. And besides, I wasn't sure that they would've believed Mexican Robert anyways.

KATIE

His name is Roberto...

ELOISE

I know baby girl, but he is in America and he should act accordingly.

KATIE

I'm surprised you even believed him.

ELOISE

Well, I believed you, Katie, when you confirmed it.

KATIE

You should've told SOMEBODY! How could you just stay quiet???

ELOISE

I am really sorry Katie... But just think about how your father would have reacted?

KATIE

Would he try to kill his own brother?

ELOISE

I don't know, but I see now how it's affecting you and I should've said something then. It seems like it's tearing you apart.... You need to do something about these feelings.

KATIE

I know. That is what Armando has been telling me. He says I should confront him, and actually suggested I do so during this trip, he has been very kind through all this...I truly love him. But I don't want to make a scene here, even though I'm thinking about it.

ELOISE

What ever you decide to do I will right by your side...this time.

KATIE

Thank you.

They hug.

Blackout.

### ACT 3 SCENE 1

Kenny exits his trailer. He notices no one is around. He pulls out a few tapes from his pocket. Armando exits the trailer with a laptop computer.

KENNY

Oh, hey homey. Did you sleep well? I didn't want to wake you earlier cause you look like you were sleeping good.

ARMANDO

It was ok.

KENNY

Did you listen to the song? I mean really listen to the song.

ARMANDO

Yes, I listened to the song. And yes the man on the radio is right, I do need love.

KENNY

You see! I told you if you just listen, from here...

He points to his chest.

Then everything is going to be alright.

ARMANDO

Can I ask you something?

KENNY

Shoot.

ARMANDO

Nothing. Forget about it...

KENNY

You want to know all the hip-hop albums I got? Damn son I got the illest collection...

ARMANDO

No it's not that and I'm sure your collection is the illest, but...(Pause)

KENNY

Come on playa spit it out!

ARMANDO

So, (Pause) you've lived here your whole life?

KENNY

Yup my whole life "born and raised in the playground is where I spent most of my days."

ARMANDO

Um, ok...What did you do here before the accident?

KENNY

Well I did many things but the problem is that I can't remember exactly what. That's cause of the effects of the accident.

ARMANDO

I see, but sometimes you remember some things.

KENNY

Yeah But it is only little things here and there I can't remember big stuff and it really sucks.

ARMANDO

I see, but what about family? Do you at least remember things about your family?

KENNY

Nope. That doesn't even help. Wait, what is going on here? Why are you putting me through the 4th degree?

ARMANDO

It's the 3rd degree.

KENNY

Now are you callin me stupid?

ARMANDO

No, I'm sorry if I insulted you...

KENNY

I just talk differently than you educated types. I am not dumb! (Pause)Even Karl is always trying to correct me. I'm sick of y'all doin that to me.

ARMANDO

I don't mean to be like Karl. I'm sorry...You don't like Karl, do you?

KENNY

What?

ARMANDO

I mean you don't like it when he treats you like you are stupid?

KENNY

No, but I love Karl he treated me so good especially after the accident.

ARMANDO

I know he did.

(Pause)

Can you sing a rap song ?

KENNY

Sing?

ARMANDO

Yes. Can you sing me a rap song. You sound like you have a good voice and you seem to know all the rap songs. Can you sing one?

KENNY

First of all, it's "can I rap you a song", and you callin me stupid...

ARMANDO

OK. Sorry, can you rap me a song?

KENNY

Ok. You wanna hear my rapping abilities...

ARMANDO

Yes, very much so...

KENNY

OK...Let me see

Kenny with some hesitation raps part of an LL Cool J song... "Rock the Bells".

ARMANDO

Wow. How did you mesmerize all of that?

KENNY

How can you not? It's LL Cool J!

ARMANDO

I mean with all your memory disabilities that you have acquired?

KENNY

Some things are just so deep in you that you just can't forget.

ARMANDO

Really.

KENNY.

Yes. Really.

ARMANDO

I see...

KENNY

You see what?

ARMANDO

Oh, nothing. Can you sing another? I mean rap another? You sound good!

KENNY

Oh, you like my rapping?

ARMANDO

Yes, I sure do...

KENNY

Ok. Let me see...ok I got one any oldie but a goodie.



Kenny raps another song from the 90's.  
After he's finished Armando gives him a  
standing ovation.

ARMANDO

Wow...That was some rendition. You should make an album of your own.

KENNY

Say what?

ARMANDO

Yeah, you should get to the studio and make your own songs.

KENNY

Your kidding right? I could never do something like that.

ARMANDO

Why not?

KENNY

I'm too shy and with my injuries from the accident.

ARMANDO

You seem quite fine to me. Look how you remembered all those words... Not  
many people can do that.

KENNY.

Well...That was just something in the moment. I not sure I can always do that.

ARMANDO

Of course, you can! You have a great memory.

No, I don't...  
KENNY.

Yes, you do...  
ARMANDO.

I definitely do not!  
KENNY

ARMANDO  
Well. I think your limiting yourself and your abilities. Your memory seems great...  
Are you sure you were kicked in the head by a mule?

KENNY  
What are you getting at? Something's I can remember and somethings I can't.

ARMANDO  
So you can select what you remember?

KENNY  
I don't understand...What are you sayin...that sometime I remember what I want  
to remember?

ARMANDO  
Yeah something like that...you see your understanding of complicated ideas is  
good as well...

KENNY.  
Wait. What are you pushing towards here? Are you saying I am faking my  
injuries?

ARMANDO  
I'm not saying anything, but out of curiosity what is the name of the mule that  
kicked you.

KENNY.

It was this old mule named Charlie that was on this egg farm over on Cambridge st.

ARMANDO.

Really? You were working there or something?

KENNY.

Yes. Of course. Why all these questions?

ARMANDO

What happened to the mule?

KENNY

They put her to sleep. You can't be going around and kicking people in the head and getting away with it.

ARMANDO

You know that Jesus sees all... Are you a religious man Kenny?

KENNY.

We been going to church since I can remember so yes I am a religious man you would say.

ARMANDO.

Would you say God punishes for certain actions one might do in there life?

KENNY.

Yes. Yes, God does punish from what I remember of the Bible.

ARMANDO

So, if you committed a heinous act against another human being you could possibly go to hell for that action?

KENNY

Yes, I guess so, but also there is forgiveness isn't there? I seem to remember that...

ARMANDO,

You sure do remember a lot even after old Charlie has put a dent into your memory...

Kenny. Are you trying to analyzing me? Like those Jews?

ARMANDO

Excuse me?

KENNY

Yeah like those Jews up there in New York City Karl told me about.

ARMANDO

(Confused)

Huh?

KENNY

Are you trying to analyze me like those Jews in New York City who eat bagels and cream cheese with that fishy stuff, reading their New York Times newspapers, Yeah Karl warned me about people like you.

ARMANDO

I'm just trying to figure some things out. Get a better understand...

KENNY

You better watch yourself boy. Stop trying to figure me...

ARMANDO

*I am not a boy.*

KENNY

You're gettin a little too comfortable around here. Like your people say, you better slow your roll.

ARMANDO

I think you are mistaken. That is a very American statement.

KENNY

Well, what kinda nigger are you?

ARMANDO

I'm not a nigger. I'm African.

KENNY

Whatever...

ARMANDO

What I am is a curious and concerned person. Because it seems that after certain information surfaced from a man named Roberto, then all of a sudden you get kicked in the head and you loose all your memory.

KENNY

What the fuck are you talking about? What have you and Katie been talking about in your private times?

ARMANDO

Couples stuff.

KENNY.

What kind of stuff?

ARMANDO.

The things that couple talk about. Things that make a relationship strong. We talk about the deep dark secrets that tend to hold us back in our lives. These are things we have to face as a human being in order to truly love another person fully. This is what God has brought Katie, he has brought her me, someone who is not afraid to face another person whom he feels is a demon and has hurt her in ways some people can't imagine.

KENNY

What the fuck are you getting at!

ARMANDO

I am getting at the fact you touched Katie inappropriately for a number of years. And never got caught except for this one day when a man named Roberto saw you red-handed behind that shed and you panicked and ran off and even left Katie with her pants down below her ankles.

Kenny is in shock. He doesn't move.

ARMANDO

I did some research and everyone has said Old Charlie the mule was so old that he could barely gallop let alone kick someone as big as you in the head.

KENNY

You piece of shit! What are you doing down here snooping around in my parts? Like Karl said you need to take your ass back to Ghana ASAP!

ARMANDO

Where are you prepping Katie for future abuse? Where you eventually going to have sex with her???

KENNY.

FUCK YOU!!! I loved Katie Mae. How could you say stuff like this

Rage is building in Kenny.

ARMANDO

God has been watching you. And you must repent for your crimes against Katie.

Kenny slowly moves closer to Armando...and not in a loving way. We see Kenny for the evil person he really is...

KENNY

Fuck you.... (Pause) Did Katie bring you here to crucify me or something?

ARMANDO

No. I always wanted to see what the real south was like and Katie obliged to show me. She told me so much about her family and in such detail that I just had to meet them. (Pause) And especially when I heard that her uncle, who was kicked in the head by a "mule", couldn't remember anything. Well, I just had to meet "The Man With No Memory". (Pause) No memory at all. (Pause) No memory of him doing inappropriate things to her when she was a little innocent girl...

KENNY

What the fucking hell?!?

ARMANDO

I want you to admit it! Admit it to Karl that you had inappropriate interactions with Katie Mae when she was a little girl...

KENNY

I don't have to admit anything to anybody!

Armando tries to get away from Kenny, but Kenny slowly follows.

ARMANDO

How do they just let you walk around here like this? Huh?

KENNY

I think you got your wires crossed. You are making a big mistake talking like this...

ARMANDO

You should be in prison and then hell... I'm tired of hearing about your family beating around the bush with this situation and I am sick of you getting away with this charade. I came here to help Katie finally confront YOU!

KENNY

Who do you think you are? God? How can you say that about me? Huh? What did I ever do to you? I was so good to Katie. She was the love of my life.

ARMANDO

You are sick! You really believe you loved her? And that is how you showed it huh by taking advantage of her when she was so young and innocent?

Kenny snaps and grabs Armando by the neck.

ARMANDO

Get off me! GOD IS WATCHING YOU!

KENNY

You don't know nothing! (Pause) I really loved her. (Pause) I didn't mean to cause her any pain. I did everything with love.

(Pause)

Kenny squeezes Armando harder and harder.

And no one and I mean no one can know about this!!! Especially Karl...I love my family and I can not lose them. I just can't...

Kenny squeezes Armando's neck harder and harder. He can't breathe. He starts gasping for air until he not breathing at all. Armando's lifeless and Kenny lets his body drops to the ground.

KENNY (CONT'D)

(With a whimper)

No one can ever know. No one can ever know.

(Pause)

Kenny picks up Armando under his arms when Karl enters.

KARL

What in the hell is going on here?



Kenny is speechless except for a few whimpers.

KARL (CONT'D)

What have you done Kenny? Huh?

No answer.

KARL (CONT'D)

What have you done?

Still no answer. Just whimpers. Then softly Kenny answers.

KENNY

I don't know. I..I ...I.....

KARL

Kenny! What have you done?!?!?

Karl puts his ear to Armando's chest, listening for any life. He hears none.

Kenny drops to his knees and cries.

Im sorry, Karl. I'm so sorry. I know I promised to be good...

Karl stops him by gently rubbing the top of his head.

KARL (CONT'D)

I know. (pause)I know.

Karl holds his brother in his arms.

I know...

Karl takes out a cell phone and calls...

KARL (CONT'D)

Hey, We have a situation here that I need your help with.

(Pause.)

Well, you better come and see it for yourself. Ok. Ok. Well I will fill you in with details when I get into a safer place. Ok. See you in a little while.

He hangs up.

KARL (CONT'D)

Kenny let me get him out of this area till he gets here.

(Pause)

Kenny? Kenny? Look at me, Kenny...I need you stay and pretend nothing happened...do you understand me? Play your music or something.

Kenny doesn't say a word or make a movement.

Do you understand me?!?

With a whimper, Kenny shakes his head "Yes".

KARL (CONT'D)

Now you sit here, play your music and don't mention this to anyone. Do you understand? Say it....Say "I Understand"

KENNY

I understand. I'm sorry Kar..

KARL

Not another word, This is the last mess I'm goin to cover for your ass! You do it again and you will be you laying on the ground like this African boy.

Karl quickly picks Armando and drag him off stage.

A few moments go by.

Kenny takes a cassette tape out of his pocket and puts it in the boom box and presses play....

Black out.

## ACT 3 SCENE 2

Lights come up dimly.  
Armando's body is lifeless on the ground  
With Karl standing over top of him. The  
usually cool, calm and confident Karl is now  
rattled and nervous. At another end of the  
stage suddenly appears, almost ghost-like,  
A tall male figure dressed in a Ku Klux Klan  
outfit and with him is a kid also dressed in a  
Ku Klux Klan outfit.

KARL

Finally, Hey Terry...

The adult Klan member stops him from  
uttering another word, and Karl stops  
himself, realizing what he was about to say.

KARL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry...

Karl motions to Armando's body.  
The tall Klan member shakes his head with  
delight. He motions to the kid Klan member  
to look at the body. The kid Klan member  
skips over to the body and analyzes it. And  
at that same moment, the adult Klan  
member pulls out a long thick rope. He  
goes over to the kid Klan member and  
shows him how to make a noose. The adult  
Klan member makes a perfect noose. And  
then unties it and gives it to the kid Klan  
member, the kid tries, and can't figure it out.

The adult Klan member shakes his finger with disappointment. He takes the rope and ties another perfect noose, he shows the kid Klan member how he is doing it correctly. He unties it again, hands it to him and the kid tries again and this time, the kid Klan member gets it. The adult Klan member gives the kid a "congratulations!" with a pat on the back. Then the adult Klan member takes the noose and shows the kid how to wrap it around the neck of Armando, and then he pulls it tight. The kid Klan member looks with amazement. All of a sudden we see or we have always seen but didn't realized a tree with a long branch in a shadow silhouette. The adult Klan member throws the other end of the rope over the branch. He guides the kid Klan member in front of him so he can help pull Armando's body up in the air...as they pull, Karl tries to make his exit.

Bye uncle Karl!

KID KLAN MEMBER

Bye Billy.

KARL

The adult Klan member quickly stops them from speaking any further. The adult silently motions the kid to get back to pulling.

Karl exits as we go to blackout.

ACT 3 SCENE 3

Armando is hanging on a cross Like Jesus Christ.

Around him on the ground are pointy white hoods overlapping one and another in a circle. And at the same time:

NEWS REPORTER

(Off Stage)

Breaking news! A cross with a man nailed to it like Jesus Christ has been found on the lawn of an African American family in Port Arthur. They have identified the man on the cross as Armando Owusu. A 25-year-old engineer student from the University of Texas. He originated from the Likpe Todome village of Ghana, on the west coast of Africa. Mr.Owusu leaves behind a wife and 3 kids in his home country.

(Pause)

And oddly enough on the ground surrounding the cross are what appeared to be white hoods typically worn by KKK members. This is a horrific incident that hasn't been seen in decades....

In the corner of the stage, Katie can be seen crying. She is being consoled by her aunt El. Then...

KATIE

ARMANDO!!!!!!!!!!

NEWS REPORTER

(Off Stage)

There has been no real response from President Trump, only saying that he needs more facts about the situation before he can make any real statements.

Aunt El is still consoling Katie as the stage goes black.

Lights up. It's evening time so the lighting is dim. Some time has passed. Kenny and Karl are in the courtyard. Karl is sparking up the grill. They look different.

Both are wearing red hats. Kenny takes off his hat to wipe his brow and reveals a more modern hairstyle, a tight fade with the top is kind of long but slicked back... Both wearing khaki pants, a semi button down short sleeve collared Polo shirt and sandals with white socks.

Katie sits in a chair, she is in later stages of pregnancy. She stares off into the distance. Lifeless.

Auntie El comes out of the trailer with meat in a pan.  
She sits it down next to the grill.

KARL

This is sure going to be good eats.

KENNY

Sure is.

Auntie El walks over to Katie and rubs her back, kisses her forehead.

ELOISE

Are you going to eat something honey?  
(No answer.)

Well, I will make a plate anyway and see how you feel. You need to feed that baby growing inside.

KARL

Let her be El. She will come around. She is going through a very difficult time, now that she has to be a single parent and all...

El with tears in her eyes hurries into her trailer.

KARL (CONT'D)

What the hell is wrong with her?

Moments later Katie storms into the trailer following El.

KARL (CONT'D)

Whatever. Kenny fire up them lights.

Kenny takes a lighter and goes to...what we now see are Tiki torches circling the area, as he lights each one, the stage lights become dimmer and dimmer to where the stage is only lit by the torches.

KARL (CONT'D)

Yes, sir, we are going to eat well today.

KENNY

Yes, sir, we are going to eat well today.

Kenny takes a tape out of his pocket and puts it in the boom box....spilling out the radio plays **country music!** The song "I'm Not Through Lovin You Yet" by Conway Twitty.

KARL

Yes sir, I sure do love me some Conway Twitty...

Karl begins to sing along with the song and as he does that from the back of El's trailer we see two bags gently thrown on the ground, followed by El climbing out of the window. After she lands safely she turns and helps Katie delicately climb out of the window. They both put on the backpacks and slip out the back.

Karl continues to sing.

A long moment goes by.

KARL (CONT'D)

Would you look at that beautiful piece of meat Kenny?

KENNY

It sure is pretty.

KARL

Come on and get it, ladies!

No answer.

KARL (CONT'D)

Would you go get them?

Kenny goes to El's trailer. A moment later he comes back.

KENNY

They are gone.

KARL

What the hell? Katie! El!

He runs over and checks the trailer himself.

KARL (CONT'D)

EL! KATIE!

The lights slowly dim down. The song "Baby's Gone" by Conway Twitty begins to play low at first and then louder and louder until the blackout.

Katie and El are seen quickly escaping the trailer park.

KARL (CONT'D)

KATIE!! EL!!!

Black Out

The End