

PILAR'S BROTHER

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A full-length play

by

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## Cast of Characters

### JULIAN:

21 years old, male. Older brother of PILAR. Attends college and works at a mundane job. Private, keeps worlds separate and his personal needs and ambitions secret. Very protective of his sister. Immigrated to the United States from Chile when he was 10 years old. Is a US citizen.

### PILAR:

17 years old, female. Has a mental illness that is controlled by medicine, when it is taken. When it is not taken, PILAR is wild and uncontrollable, saying things that are unrelated to one another. Loves her brother more than anyone. Is mischievous and harbors anger. Immigrated to the United States from Chile when she was 5 years old. Is a US citizen.

### RAMONA:

41 years old, female. Aunt to JULIAN and PILAR. She sews for a living. Religious, favors JULIAN over PILAR, angry at her sister, maternal. Her English is frequently not grammatically correct or broken. She immigrated to the United States from Chile ahead of the family when she was 25 years old. Is a US citizen.

### ADAM:

Early 20's, male. Boyfriend of JULIAN. A model. He has an affected way of speaking and acting. Flamboyant in attitude but not dress, outgoing, excitable, sexual, adventurous, high school level education, social, ambitious, generally unemployed and poor. Likes to do things for JULIAN.

Setting:

Brooklyn Apartment

Time:

1968

Playwright notes: RAMONA, JULIAN and PILAR pronounce all Spanish names with the correct Spanish accents. ADAM pronounces JULIAN's name with an American accent, using the "J" sound. RAMONA frequently confuses pronouns. Where there is the stage direction "thumping", it is an off-stage noise to indicate thumping from an upstairs neighbor.

In this play, there is an excerpt from "West Side Story" used which is in the public domain.

Act IScene 1

SETTING: A kitchen. There is a front door and an exit to a hall where the bedrooms and bathroom are.

AT RISE: RAMONA is setting the table with three plates and forks. She is dressed nicely. A dress with a sewing kit is on a side table.

## JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 1, 1968. Dear *Mamá*. You have been gone for thirty three days. Today's schedule: got up, had breakfast, went to mass with Pilar and *Tía* Ramona, had lunch at the church, helped put together a church mailing and came home. I hope that the weather is nicer in Chile. It is very cold here. Are there any improvements in *Abuela's* health?

(RAMONA brings out a flan from the refrigerator and puts it on the table)

I have been very good about making sure to keep clean and healthy while you are gone. I always look neat at work and at the university. They say we will not receive our semester-end marks until January 6th, since there is the Christmas and New Year's holiday. So you'll be able to be here when I get them. Write soon. Love, Julian.

## RAMONA

(calling to OS hallway)

Julian! Pilar! Is time for flan!

(PILAR runs in. SHE stops short at the table)

## PILAR

Flan!

(SHE puts her finger in the side of it)

## RAMONA

Pilar!

(slaps her hand away)

We not cut it yet. We wait for Julian. Is his flan.

PILAR

(yelling)

Julian!! It's time for flan!! JULIAN! *Tía* says I have to WAIT for you!!

RAMONA

*Mi cachorrita!* You know Mr. Berger not like it when you scream like that.

(RAMONA indicates the ceiling. Enter JULIAN)

JULIAN

You don't need to yell at me, Pilar. I can't change out of my church clothes any faster if you yell.

PILAR

I want that piece!

RAMONA

Julian cuts. Is her birthday.

(JULIAN cuts the piece for PILAR)

JULIAN

Here you go. *Tía* will give you a fork.

(HE cuts two more pieces. He tries to hand one to RAMONA)

RAMONA

I have later. I keep work on Pilar dress. She need something wear to mass tomorrow.

(SHE picks up the dress and sewing box)

JULIAN

She needs to come home after the day hospital, not go to mass.

RAMONA

I am the *Tía!* You not tell me what do! She must repent!

JULIAN

(Lowering his voice)

She doesn't need to repent!

RAMONA

We not want *el Diablo* to come take soul. Saint Amabilis protect her but only if we go pray, Julian! So I take her many days.

PILAR

*Tía* says I could fall into the fire if I don't go to mass.

JULIAN

(visibly annoyed)

The flan's good. Isn't it, Pilar?

PILAR

Yes. I like flan.

JULIAN

Did you make it, *Tía*?

RAMONA

Of course I make! You think I buy flan for *mi cachorrito*? No! They not know how to make flan in America. Not how we make. We make it right. Your mama and I used to make every year for our birthdays. Every year. Is your mama's dessert favorite. How do you say I buy flan?

PILAR

When do I get flan for my birthday?

JULIAN

Your birthday is in April. That's in the spring.

RAMONA

I see woman Russian at mass today. You see her, Julian?

JULIAN

(joking)

She didn't ask you for another tablecloth, did she?

RAMONA

Yes, she did!

PILAR

More tablecloths! More tablecloths!

RAMONA

Every month! I wonder...what does she do with so much tablecloth? She give so many party she need blue tablecloth and yellow tablecloth with flowers and now she want white tablecloth with border green.

PILAR

I think I had a small piece. Can I have more flan?

RAMONA

Who know? Maybe it for Christmas or maybe she just throw out good tablecloth after he use one time only. Then he throw in garbage and buy more.

PILAR

Flan...flan...

JULIAN

Well, at least it's work. The only tablecloth we've ever had was the one from Abuela.

RAMONA

I make tablecloth for you and Pilar then.

PILAR

I want MORE FLAN!!

JULIAN

Enough, Pilar! Enough! Mr. Berger will complain again if you yell. You can have a little bit, okay? But no more after this for tonight. We'll have more tomorrow.

(JULIAN cuts her a small piece. PILAR stares at the dress)

PILAR

I could never do that. I can't use needles.

RAMONA

No, you cannot.

JULIAN

We don't want you to hurt yourself like you did before when you scaped the potatoes.

PILAR

All bloody.

RAMONA

*Si*, all bloody. And I throw out good clothing.

PILAR

I can do other things, though! I can name all the animals at the zoo! And...I can draw...and I used to write stories.

(JULIAN and RAMONA exchange glances)

I'm going to write stories again soon. The doctors said I can.

JULIAN

(carefully)

Do you remember the stories you used to write, Pilar?

PILAR

No. But the doctors said they were...

(thinks)

Hmmm...sss--...no...creative! Were they creative? Did you get to read them?

RAMONA

Pilar, you get Julian's present now.

JULIAN

You got me a present?

PILAR

*Tía* helped me.

RAMONA

*Si*. We give Julian presents now. You go get, Pilar.

(PILAR exits)

Why they tell her about stories?

JULIAN

Well, at least they told her they were creative.

RAMONA

They wrong! Well, she can not write story now. So not matter.

JULIAN

Listen, about the tablecloth, we really don't need another one. We hardly use *Abuela's*.



RAMONA

Julian, how many time your mama tell you call Grandmother, not *Abuela*?

RAMONA

You sound more smart when you're talking English.

JULIAN

It doesn't sound right to call her Grandmother.

RAMONA

You want I tell *Hermana Violeta* you forget everything she teach?

(JULIAN is exasperated)

So you say English and no more say Spanish. Then I have nothing say to him, no?

(re-enter PILAR with a brown bag)

PILAR

Here it is! Happy Birthday!

JULIAN

Thank you.

(opens the package. It is a journal)

A journal!

PILAR

Now you can write all of your thoughts into a book!

JULIAN

It's wonderful. Thank you, Pilar.

RAMONA

This is from me.

(RAMONA hands him a package. The present is a knitted scarf and hat)

JULIAN

Oh, *Tía*! They're beautiful.

RAMONA

Your old ones breaking apart. And since winter come, I think maybe you need new ones. I get wool from woman in my

building. She does knitting. You see this? She showed me how do this stitch. Is very hard.

JULIAN

Thank you. They're beautiful.

RAMONA

(takes out another brown bag)

And this one from your mama.

PILAR

How did *Mamá* give Julian a present? She's not even here!

RAMONA

(unconvincing)

She say to me to buy.

JULIAN

(JULIAN finds two new  
business shirts as his gift)

Wow! These are very nice shirts.

RAMONA

Are they right size?

JULIAN

Yes, they are just right. What do you think of my new shirts, Pilar?

PILAR

They're okay. When do I get new clothes?

RAMONA

I fix your dress. Is all new.

PILAR

It's not new.

JULIAN

Pilar, be nice. What do you say to *Tía* for fixing your dress?

PILAR

Thank you, *Tía*.

RAMONA

You are welcome.

PILAR

I have to put it away now. I can't leave clothes out. They will get dirty.

(As PILAR picks up the dress,  
SHE tucks the sewing box  
under it, unnoticed by JULIAN  
and RAMONA and exits to  
hallway)

JULIAN

It was very thoughtful that *Mamá* remembered my birthday.

RAMONA

(muttering)

Oh, yes. She thoughtful.

JULIAN

I haven't gotten a letter from her yet. Have you gotten a letter?

RAMONA

Yes, she send me many. I get letter yesterday.

JULIAN

You did? Why didn't you tell me? What did she say?

RAMONA

She writing to me to tell me about *Abuela* and her sick. He say,

(falsetto voice)

"Oh, Santiago grow so big. Is like New York. President Frei make so good things".

JULIAN

(disappointed)

So *Abuela* still needs her there.

(re-enter PILAR)

PILAR

Is it yogurt time, Julian?

JULIAN

Almost. Why don't you go get ready for bed?

PILAR

I like yogurt.

(grins at JULIAN and puts her  
finger to her lips)

Shhhhhhhhhh!

RAMONA

What is that?

JULIAN

Stop being silly, Pilar.

RAMONA

(looks at her watch)

*Dios mío!* Is so late! I have to go! Mr. Sabinsky, the Jew  
from upstairs, he fix my radio so I can hear my Spanish  
radio program and it start in ten minutes!

JULIAN

Pilar, say goodbye to *Tía* and get ready for bed.

PILAR

Goodbye, *Tía*. Thank you for the flan.

(JULIAN gestures for more)

And thank you for fixing my dress.

RAMONA

You are welcome, Pilar. Sleep well. *Hasta mañana!*

(exit PILAR)

JULIAN

Thank you for the presents and the flan. Enjoy your radio  
show.

RAMONA

*Gracias. Hasta mañana, Julian! Que Dios esté contigo.*

JULIAN

Thank you. *Hasta mañana!*

(RAMONA exits through front  
door. JULIAN locks the door  
behind her and puts on the  
chain. He takes a yogurt out  
of the refrigerator. He takes  
pills out of several bottles

and starts mashing them up in  
the yogurt. Calling OS)

As soon as you're ready for bed, come here so we can have  
yogurt time.

(beat)

Pilar! Did you hear me?

(PILAR re-enters in a  
nightgown)

PILAR

Yes. You're very loud. Mr. Berger upstairs will be very mad  
at you.

JULIAN

I was not that loud. Okay, here's the yogurt. And a spoon.

PILAR

Now!

(puts her finger to her lips)

Shhhhhh! Now! Now! And can I have a second one, too?

JULIAN

Only if you're very good about eating the yogurt. Not like  
last night when you were so difficult, okay?

PILAR

Okay. I want a second one.

JULIAN

(PILAR starts eating the  
yogurt while JULIAN sings)

I feel pretty

Oh so pretty

I feel pretty and witty and bright!

And I pity

Any girl who isn't me tonight.

I feel charming.

Oh, so charming

It's alarming how charming I feel

And so pretty

That I hardly can believe I'm real!

(points to PILAR)

See the pretty girl in that mirror there?

(PILAR laughs with delight)

Who can that attractive girl be?

Such a pretty face

Such a pretty dress  
Such a pretty smile  
Such a pretty me!

(Picks up the yogurt, looks  
inside, sees it is empty and  
takes PILAR out of the chair  
and starts dancing with her)

I feel stunning  
And entrancing  
Feel like running  
And dancing for joy  
For I'm loved  
By a pretty wonderful boy!<sup>1</sup>

(flourish ending)

PILAR

Dancing! I like the dancing!

JULIAN

You see what happens when you eat the yogurt? You get a  
special treat.

PILAR

(puts her finger over her  
lips)

Shhhhhhh!

JULIAN

(does the same)

Yes, shhhhhhh!

PILAR

Shhhhh!

(BLACKOUT. END OF SCENE.)

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from "I Feel Pretty" from the stage version of Leonard  
Bernstein's *West Side Story*.

Act I  
Scene 2

SETTING: Same. Daytime. The next day.

AT RISE: RAMONA enters from front door and frantically searches the entire kitchen.

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 2, 1968. Dear *Mamá*. You have been gone for thirty four days. Today's schedule: got up, had breakfast, took Pilar to the day hospital, went to work, had lunch with Lucy, went back to work, went to the library, studied, had dinner with Lucy, went to class, came home. I missed you at my birthday yesterday but *Tía* gave me your presents.

(RAMONA exits into the  
bedroom hallway)

Thank you very much. I will wear them to work. Lucy went away for Thanksgiving to see her parents so we will celebrate my birthday when she returns.

(Voice fades out as JULIAN  
enters from front door. Enter  
RAMONA from bedroom hallway)

JULIAN

*Tía*! What are you—what are you doing here?

RAMONA

What you doing here? Is two thirty. You should be at work, no?

JULIAN

I am. I had to cover for someone at work, so I didn't get lunch until late. What are you doing here? And what were you doing in our bedrooms?

RAMONA

I not find my sewing box. Maybe I left here yesterday? I just look in kitchen now and no find. I have woman who wants me to get some clothes done for her this week and I make that woman Russian's tablecloth still. Do you know where is my sewing box?

JULIAN

No, I haven't seen it. Are you sure it's not at your apartment? Maybe you missed it.

RAMONA

I look everywhere! What I going to do? I have to sew work for her! She pay very well. It almost half rent!

JULIAN

I'm sure we'll find it. Why don't you go back to your apartment and look more and I'll look some more here and if we don't find it, we'll ask Pilar tonight, okay?

RAMONA

(anxious)

Tío Augusto buy me sewing box when he bring me to America! Is the only thing I have left from him!

JULIAN

We will find it. I promise.

(HE looks at watch)

RAMONA

You no look good. You are sick?

JULIAN

What? No, I'm fine. I'm hungry. I have to hurry to eat lunch. My boss doesn't like it when I'm late getting back from lunch.

RAMONA

He one tough, no?

JULIAN

Yes.

(HE starts to make lunch)

RAMONA

You good worker. He see. Oh, Julian, I forget! I glad I see you. I get the next papers for you from the place Pilar go.

(SHE takes out papers from her bag)



JULIAN

(looks at papers)

This has gotten very expensive!

RAMONA

(angrily taking papers from  
him)

You should not be worrying about this thing! It is your  
mama who worry about this. You are little boy still!

JULIAN

No, I'm not!

(taking papers back)

*Mamá* said she wants me to have those papers so I have to  
know the things that are inside. I'm in charge of Pilar  
right now.

RAMONA

If I stay in your mama's room, I help with rent. You not  
worry about money.

JULIAN

*Tía*, I don't want to talk about this again!

RAMONA

Is what we do in Chile, Julian! Is right way!

JULIAN

I can take care of us.  
Everything will be fine

RAMONA

Family stay in same house.

RAMONA

Oh, you think you such big man without your mama, don't  
you?

JULIAN

I'm twenty-two now! I even voted in the presidential  
election last month!

RAMONA

Oh, yes, big wrinkly man make new president in America.

JULIAN

At least I can vote in America. *Mamá* wasn't even allowed to  
vote in Chile until she was twenty-seven and...

RAMONA

Oh, wrinkly man know everything about Chile now? Because you go to big American university and read book? Let me tell you, Julian, there are thing you no read in your books! Old man know so much, no?

JULIAN

That's not what I...

RAMONA

Big school teach you everything?

RAMONA

You no need your mama, you no need *Tía*, you no need nobody. I tell your mama when I write her next. Little Julian no need mama.

JULIAN

(sharply)

No!

(RAMONA looks taken aback.

JULIAN changes tone)

Please don't talk to *Mamá* about me in your letters, *Tía*.

RAMONA

You very rude today! You tell me what to write to your mama?

JULIAN

I'm sorry. I'm not trying to be rude.

(HE looks at watch)

I really need to have my lunch so...

RAMONA

*Tía* should go home now so big man can be in charge. Is not right, Julian. You know how to be little boy better.

JULIAN

(muttering)

I'm not...

(to RAMONA)

I didn't mean to be disrespectful.

(Indicates the papers)

Thank you for picking these up, *Tía*.

RAMONA

You are welcome, Julian. Sometimes you need your *tía*, no?

JULIAN

Yes, Tía. Sometimes I need my tía.

(HE leans over to hug her and  
kiss her)

But not always. Sometimes I can do things on my own.

RAMONA

Yes, big man. You eat. I see you tonight, *mi cachorrito*.  
Please say to me if you find my sewing box. *Por favor*.

JULIAN

I will.

RAMONA

I see if Saint Anthony help me find. *Que Dios esté contigo*.

(RAMONA exits and closes  
door. JULIAN locks the door  
with a chain. During the  
following voiceover, JULIAN  
straightens the kitchen and  
himself, etc.)

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 2nd, 1968. Page 2. Work is just awful. I never  
know if I am going to get fired. My boss is very strict and  
he is always watching to see if I make a mistake. But my  
perfect attendance record is up to two hundred fourteen  
days. I know you'll be glad to hear that.

(there is a knock on the  
front door)

I always come to work on time and dress neatly. I am hoping  
that I will get a good review of my job performance in  
January so I can get a raise. They say I can't have a  
promotion for another year.

(JULIAN answers the door.  
Enter ADAM.)

ADAM

Hello, darling.

(JULIAN pulls him inside and  
closes the door, putting the  
chain on. He turns around and  
they start kissing)

JULIAN VOICEOVER

After our final examinations are over in a few weeks, I am going to take Lucy out for a special dinner. We have been dating for eight months already! Can you believe it? She says to say hello to you.

JULIAN

I'm glad you're back.

(ADAM kisses him again)

JULIAN VOICEOVER

When you come back from Chile, I hope I can finally introduce you. I know you'll like her.

ADAM

Darling, it has been too long! I missed you so much!

JULIAN

Me too! Sit down. I'm just making us some lunch.

ADAM

(points to heart)

Flutter, flutter. I love that you wanted to have a *rendez-vous* in the middle of the day. It's incredibly romantic sneaking out of work like that.

JULIAN

(enjoying it)

I told them I had a migraine headache.

ADAM

Very devious. I had no idea you could do that, darling!

JULIAN

I didn't know when else I could see you. I just don't seem to have any time...

ADAM

You'll have more time once your semester is over, my little genius.

JULIAN

(beat)

Yes. Once the semester is over. So tell me about the shoot.

ADAM

Oh, let's see! Well, for starters, Arizona was terribly hot. Returning to this dismal New York weather is so depressing in comparison, even if the clubs are better. But, the clothes, Julian... The clothes were magnificent! I wish I could own clothes like that. Oh! Do you know if Lucy found her wedding dress yet?

JULIAN

I don't think so. She and Gregory have been too busy with exams and papers to focus on the wedding. Their mothers have been doing most of the planning.

ADAM

Fantastic! At the shoot, I met this magnificent boutique owner. She carries all the best designers for wedding dresses, Julian. Christos, Mary Quant...and I talked her into giving Lucy discounts on them! Can you believe it?

JULIAN

(smiling. Serves lunch)

Only you could.

ADAM

Wouldn't it be great to work for Mary Quant? Or Pierre Cardin. Oh, wouldn't that be fabulous! Doing shoots in Paris rather than Arizona. And then I could get some huge mansion in Hollywood, learn French, launch my career there and then move back to Paris when I'm gigantically famous.

JULIAN

It sounds like you have it all worked out.

ADAM

Oh, yes. Pierre doesn't know all this yet, but he will. You would, of course, come with me to launch your career. We'll swim in our luxurious pool during the day, then lay out and get ourselves all tan, then spend the nights dancing together and then all cuddled up in our bed.

JULIAN

How are we going to have our bed? Are we also living on a different planet?

ADAM

It's our mansion. We can do whatever we want in our mansion. What do you want in the mansion?

JULIAN

Hmm. I want us to have a view of the mountains.

(wraps his arms around ADAM)

And everywhere we look, we can see mountains. Just like in Chile. And we could watch sunsets together. And there would always be music from somewhere.

ADAM

Broadway music?

JULIAN

No. Spanish music. But it's just always there.

ADAM

Hmm, I like that. What else?

JULIAN

Maybe a theater?

ADAM

A theater! Yes, of course! And that way, after rehearsals, you can just crawl into bed with me.

JULIAN

Hmm. That's all such a long way off, though. I mean, I've got to move Manhattan first so I can do shows there. Then I have to get shows on the road and go to places like Chicago or San Francisco and then, once I'm doing well, I'll finally return to New York and I can get cast much more easily.

ADAM

(points to heart)

Flutter, flutter. I adore that you have it all planned out.

JULIAN

Yes. But I'm not going to get there doing community theater here or even those small roles I get at LaMama. I want to play a lead at a big theater!

ADAM

Oh, please, darling! It's a numbers game! What happened to all the auditions you were going to when I left?

JULIAN

(mumbling)

People cast their shows for the season already.

ADAM

You'll get there, Julian. You'll see and then one day you'll be huge! BAM! In lights! Just like Julie Andrews and Zero Mostel!

(beat change)

Now let's stop being so somber. I've been away forever. Tell me what I've missed.

JULIAN

There's nothing to tell. You've only been gone three weeks.

ADAM

Has it really only been three weeks? It feels like a lifetime!

JULIAN

(distracted)

It does feel like a lifetime.

ADAM

And don't think I've forgotten your birthday, darling! You haven't even mentioned it! I feel so terrible that I couldn't get back in time to take you out last night. We do it just as soon as I get paid for this silly shoot.

JULIAN

It's really fine. Birthdays aren't a big deal for me.

ADAM

It's decided.

(beat)

So tell me about everything. Do you have things for the end of school, too?

JULIAN

I only have one paper and I'm nearly finished. I tried to finish it before you came home.

ADAM

(points to heart)

Flutter, flutter. Perhaps some day I'll be smart like you and Lucy and Gregory.

JULIAN

You're smart.

ADAM

Not like you. You'll get the Hollywood mansion long before I will. Oh, excuse me, Broadway mansion. It's all I can do to get you out of the library.

JULIAN

I have to study a lot to get good marks.

ADAM

Maybe our next *rendez-vous* won't get you out of the library...maybe I'll keep you in it.

JULIAN

I don't like that idea.

ADAM

You're no fun today. How are rehearsals going?

JULIAN

I've learned all my lines and my songs. I'm just working on the right blocking. The director keeps changing it.

ADAM

I'm so glad you got a musical this time. It's enough with all these dramas. Sing me something!

JULIAN

No, it's bad luck to sing a song outside of play practice.

ADAM

It's so spectacularly adorable that you still say play practice.

JULIAN

Rehearsal.

ADAM

I can't wait for your opening! I'm going to be in the front row, wearing something hideously noticeable so that you can see me from the stage. Maybe some of those red leather pants that we saw in the window in Coney Island, what do you think?



JULIAN

You don't need to wear something to make me notice you. I notice you wherever you are.

ADAM

(points to his heart)

Flutter, flutter. That's the you that I missed. I have a surprise for you, darling. It's going to help your career.

JULIAN

Really? What is it?

ADAM

Do you remember that I've told you about some of my brilliantly fabulous friends who live in the Village?

JULIAN

I've told you, Adam. I don't want to do drugs.

ADAM

Oh, not that, darling! They're actors, too, and darling, the places they've worked! I mean, Judson Poets' Theater, Theatre Genesis and...you've heard of Caffe Cino?

JULIAN

Of course, I did a play there two years ago before it closed.

ADAM

You did? Flutter, flutter!

JULIAN

How do you know about Caffe Cino and Theatre Genesis?

ADAM

Darling, I know every nook and cranny of this city that's worth knowing about. How do you think I found you? Anyway, my friends used to work at Caffe Cino...but now...now they have...

(he pauses dramatically)

...agents!

JULIAN

Agents? Do you know how hard it is to get an agent? They must have been kidding around.

ADAM

No! I've met them. I have their cards. They've gotten some great auditions for my friends. One even had a Broadway audition!

(HE finds the cards and hands them to JULIAN)

JULIAN

I've heard of this agent! There was a guy at an audition a couple months ago who was using him. He's big time!

ADAM

Well, darling, he's coming to see your play on opening night!

JULIAN

What?!

ADAM

They both are! Happy Birthday, darling!

JULIAN

(stunned and excited)

They're...they're what? Agents are coming?

ADAM

I kept telling my friends how perfectly extraordinary you are and asked if they would bring their agents to the opening. And they said yes.

JULIAN

(excited)

Well, that's-

(stops abruptly. A little panicky)

Wait, no, they shouldn't do that.

ADAM

Of course they should! Just think! You won't have to spend all of those hours trying to find auditions when you could be with me! Someone will do it for you!

JULIAN

But this is a college production, Adam!

ADAM

So what if it's a college production?

JULIAN

It's not professional. They don't even have enough money for decent sets. It just...it won't look like my best work. Have them come to the next show.

ADAM

I thought you said you weren't cast in anything else.

JULIAN

I haven't been. But if they're going to bring an agent to a show, it should be worth it. This isn't professional work, Adam! Agents are professionals! I don't want to waste their time.

ADAM

You're not wasting anyone's time. Every actor needs an agent! And I believe that you, my darling, are destined to be a very famous actor! Why are you fighting it?

JULIAN

There's no destiny, Adam! There's only hard work.

ADAM

So this is the hard work. Just think of it. Julian Tamayo stars in...

(struggles a minute.  
Triumphantly)

"Hair"!

(Proudly)

I saw it with the other models when it was playing downtown.

JULIAN

(grumbling)

I have to listen to it at the library and you get to see it downtown. Unbelievable.

ADAM

I think you'd be great for it.

JULIAN

I would not be great for it. I'd be great for things like  
(dreamily)  
"Cabaret". Or "Man of La Mancha"

ADAM

Then let the agents come to the show. Are you ever going to be in a show that you're going to feel completely proud of if you don't have an agent?

JULIAN

(long beat)

Well... I would finally have to pick a stage name.

ADAM

A stage name? Why?

JULIAN

Directors have a hard time pronouncing Julian Tamayo. I would need something more American sounding.

ADAM

I like your name. I think it's exotic. Isn't that guy you're always talking about...what's his name? The one who got the Tony award?

JULIAN

Ricardo Montalbán. He didn't get the Tony award. He was nominated.

ADAM

Okay, but he has an exotic name, right? And he's doing pretty well.

JULIAN

And people still don't know how to pronounce his name. You couldn't even remember it! No, I need a new one. I've been meaning to do it.

ADAM

Okay, well, we'll think of one. Anything to see you on that big stage, darling! I just know you'll be spectacular!

JULIAN

I hope so.

(HE checks his watch)

We should go out somewhere.

ADAM

You're right. We should celebrate. But where can we go? I don't have any money. Have you gotten paid yet this week?

JULIAN

No.

ADAM

(leaning into JULIAN)

We could stay in, instead.

JULIAN

(moving away from him  
quickly)

No, we can't.

ADAM

I thought that was part of the sizzle of our little *rendez-vous* in the middle of the day.

JULIAN

Not here. What about the park?

ADAM

We wouldn't even be able to hold hands there. Come on, this a nice apartment and I've barely seen it. You can't even see the water damage. It's too bad your landlord is so horrible. Oh! You haven't said anything about the new apartment. Did you find one yet? When are we packing you up?

JULIAN

No, not yet. Maybe I'll wait until I graduate and just move to Manhattan then. What if we went to school?

ADAM

That's terribly romantic. Sneak out of work to go to school. Yawn. I just don't understand why you want to go out. We can go out tonight.

JULIAN

I can't go out tonight. I just... I really don't want to be here. Why don't we go to your apartment?

ADAM

We're always at my apartment! I've barely seen yours! I had to wait months for your preposterous landlord to fix all those leaks in your ceiling so I could even get to see your apartment!

JULIAN

Well, you've seen it. Now, let's go.

ADAM

Julian. You went to all this trouble to make up this romantic *rendez-vous* in the middle of the day. Let's just stay in. We'll go out later to the bar or something.

(HE tries to caress JULIAN.  
JULIAN pulls away)

JULIAN

I can't go to the bar tonight.

ADAM

Darling, did something happen when I was gone?

JULIAN

(beat)

No.

ADAM

Are you sure? You're just not acting like yourself. Don't you think I'm sexy?

JULIAN

What?

ADAM

(takes JULIAN's hand and puts  
it on his own groin)

Do you feel this? Do you feel what you do to me?

JULIAN

Adam, I...

ADAM

(puts his arms around JULIAN)

Darling, I missed you so much. Didn't you miss me?

(HE starts kissing JULIAN's  
ear. JULIAN glances at his  
watch without ADAM noticing)

JULIAN

Yes, of course I missed you. It's just that...

ADAM

Okay.

(HE continues to seduce  
JULIAN)

Nobody's here. Is your roommate still out of town?

JULIAN

(beat)

Yes.

ADAM

So, don't I do anything to you?

(starts kissing JULIAN's  
neck. JULIAN clearly enjoys  
it)

Well, don't I?

JULIAN

Yes.

(ADAM kisses him deeply)

ADAM

(whispers)

Let's stay in.

(HE continues kissing his  
neck)

JULIAN

I--

ADAM

Let's stay in.

(JULIAN quietly crosses  
himself without ADAM noticing  
and starts kissing ADAM.  
JULIAN eventually pulls him  
roughly towards the bedroom  
as ADAM giggles gleefully.  
BLACKOUT. END OF SCENE.)

Act I  
Scene III

SETTING: Same. Nighttime of the same day.

AT RISE: JULIAN is writing a letter at the table.

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 2, 1968. Page three. *Tía* said you broke your arm. I am going to go to the bank to send you some money to help with your medical expenses while you are there. *Tía* told me that you have moved in with *Primo* Diego. Weren't you able to find Poppa? Does he know that *Abuela* is sick? I'll start sending your mail to *Primo* Diego's house. Please tell *Abuela* that I say hello and that I am praying for her health. Do you think she'll be better enough by Christmas that you can come home? Love, Julian.

(JULIAN seals the letter.  
Enter PILAR from bedroom  
dancing and holding a letter)

PILAR  
Julian! Julian! You got a letter!

JULIAN  
(excitedly)  
I did? Is it from *Mamá*?

PILAR  
This wasn't in the mail. See?

(SHE holds it up)

JULIAN  
(disappointed)  
Oh. It's from you?  
(PILAR looks upset)  
You wrote me a letter? Really?

PILAR  
Yes!

JULIAN  
Should I open it now?



PILAR

Yes!

(HE opens the letter)

JULIAN

Dear Julian. Love, Pilar.

PILAR

I wrote you a letter! I wrote you a letter!

JULIAN

Yes, you did.

PILAR

I'm going to write letters every day just like you do! And then maybe I can write stories again! Right, Julian?

JULIAN

(beat)

It would be great if you could write stories again, Pilar.

(HE hugs her)

Did the day hospital teach you to do this?

PILAR

Yes. The doctor showed me.

JULIAN

The doctor showed you how to write? It wasn't one of the teachers?

PILAR

(thinks)

It was the teacher. I wrote one for *Tía*, too!

JULIAN

That will make her very happy.

(beat)

Pilar, have you seen *Tía's* sewing box? She was here today looking for it and couldn't find it.

PILAR

No. Didn't she take it home?

JULIAN

She thought she did but she can't find it. She has a lot of work to do, too. Can you help me look for it?

PILAR

Hmmm. Okay.

JULIAN

Okay. Why don't you check in here and I'll check our bedrooms?

PILAR

You're not supposed to go in my bedroom.

JULIAN

It's just to check for the sewing box.

PILAR

So can I go check your bedroom?

JULIAN

Fine. You check your bedroom.

(JULIAN sighs and BOTH exit  
into the bedrooms. Beat)

PILAR (OS)

It's not in *Mamá's* room!

JULIAN (OS)

*Mamá's* room? Get out of there! You're not supposed to go in there! Have you been going in there?

PILAR (OS)

No.

JULIAN (OS)

So why would *Tia's* sewing box be in *Mamá's* room?

PILAR (OS)

Why would it be in my room?

JULIAN (OS)

Go check it anyway, Pilar! And don't go into *Mamá's* room again!

PILAR (OS)

Fine! It's too dusty, anyway! My hands are all dirty.

JULIAN (OS)

Fine. Go wash your hands. And then check your room!

(re-entering)

I'll look in the kitchen.

(there is a knock on the front door. JULIAN answers the front door. Enter ADAM)

ADAM

Hello, darling. You will not believe what happened!

JULIAN

(panicked)

What are you doing here? You can't be here!

(A shriek from PILAR is heard OS)

Pilar? Are you okay?

ADAM

Oh, my God! What was that?

JULIAN

Pilar?

ADAM

Who's Pilar?

PILAR

(enters holding a pair of men's underwear away from her)

Ewwwwww! Your underwear! Your underwear!

JULIAN

My underwear?

ADAM

(loud whisper)

Oh, no, that's mine.

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

It's yours?

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I have yours.

PILAR

Ewww! It's gross! It's gross!

(SHE throws it on the floor)

PILAR

(accusingly to JULIAN)

You're supposed to fold  
your clothes and put them  
away!

ADAM

Hey, don't throw my underwear  
on the floor!

(ADAM picks up the underwear)

JULIAN

Pilar, you know you're not supposed to throw clothing on  
the floor!

PILAR

There are germs! You make germs when you don't put your  
clothing away!

JULIAN

You make a mess when you don't put your clothing away, not  
germs.

PILAR

(seeing ADAM)

Who is that? Julian, who is that with the germs?

ADAM

I do not have germs!

JULIAN

He doesn't have germs! Pilar, calm down. It's okay.

PILAR

Who is he?

(frightened)

Are you a demon coming to tempt me?

ADAM

A demon coming to tempt you? Hardly. Is this why you  
haven't been bringing me to your apartment, Julian?

PILAR

(shouting)

I won't go with you! I won't go!

JULIAN

No, Pilar! He's not a demon! He's...he's no one.

ADAM

I'm no one?!

PILAR

(maniacally)

Fold your clothes neatly. Put them away when they're clean.

JULIAN

(to ADAM)

Would you just leave? Can you just...wait downstairs or something?

PILAR

You put the clothes away  
When they're lean. Don't  
leave them on the floor,  
Pilar. Not on the floor.

ADAM

It's absolutely frigid  
outside, Julian. I'm not  
waiting outside!

PILAR

Don't leave your clothes on the floor. You'll get germs,  
Pilar. Fold your clothes neatly and put them away.

JULIAN

Pilar, stop it!

ADAM

What's wrong with her?

JULIAN

(to ADAM)

Nothing.

(to PILAR)

Pilar, look at me! Pilar!

PILAR

They make you sick. They make you SICK! You want to make me  
sick!

JULIAN

No, I don't want to make you sick. No one wants to make you  
sick.

PILAR  
(pointing to ADAM)  
He does! He wants to make me sick! He's a demon!

ADAM  
I've been called a lot of things...

(PILAR covers her ears and  
starts a low AHHHHH!)

JULIAN ADAM  
Pilar... What is she doing?

PILAR  
Fold your clothes neatly. Put them away when they're clean...

JULIAN  
Pilar, look at me!

PILAR  
Or you get sick! Germs make you sick!

(Thumping heard)

JULIAN  
(takes her hands off her  
ears)  
Germs can make you sick but...

ADAM  
She's sick?

PILAR  
Germs made me sick. Saint Amabilis saved me!

JULIAN  
Shhh. Shhh. It's okay. It's okay...

PILAR  
Made me sick, made me sick.

JULIAN  
The germs are gone. They're gone now. Okay? The demons are  
all gone now. There are no more germs.  
(to ADAM. Quietly)  
Put it away.

PILAR ADAM  
Saint Amabilis saved me from Put what away?  
the gates of fire again.

(JULIAN indicates the  
underwear and ADAM puts it  
away as PILAR crosses herself  
and puts her hands together  
in prayer)

ADAM  
(loud whisper)  
Wow, she's really got this God thing going on, doesn't she?

JULIAN  
(loud whisper)  
Yes, she does.

PILAR  
(beat)  
If he's not a demon, who is he?

ADAM  
I am not a demon. And who are you?

PILAR  
I'm Pilar.

ADAM  
I'm Adam.

PILAR  
(to JULIAN)  
Who is Adam?

JULIAN  
He's a friend of mine from school.

ADAM  
(loud whisper)  
I go to school?

JULIAN  
(loud whisper)  
Yes, you go to school with me.

ADAM

(to PILAR)

Yes, I go to school with Julian. I learn lots of things in my classes.

JULIAN

And Adam is going to go home now to his own house.

ADAM

I am? Why are you talking like that?

JULIAN

Would you please just go?

ADAM

I don't even know who this is yet, Julian!

JULIAN

It doesn't matter!

PILAR

I'm Pilar.

ADAM

(impatiently)

Yes, I know, but...

PILAR

(to ADAM)

Why did you bring the germs to tempt my soul? They make my sickness worse, you know.

JULIAN

No, Pilar, you can't get sicker because of germs. Germs cause colds or a stomach flu. Not what you have.

PILAR

How do you know? You're not a doctor! Or a priest!

ADAM

Julian! Are you going to tell me what's going on?

ADAM

A priest?

PILAR

Priests talk to God and He tells them what's wrong with me. And then I go repent for standing too close to the fire.



JULIAN

God doesn't always tell us what's wrong with you. Sometimes books tell us what's wrong with you. And I learned about things like that in school.

PILAR

(to ADAM)

Did you learn about things like that at school, too? Do you know about germs?

ADAM

Um, no. But...but Julian is very good in science. Pilar, do you live here?

JULIAN

Adam, not now!

PILAR

Of course I do.

ADAM

Not now? Are you kidding me? Julian, what is going on here?

PILAR

(mimicking ADAM)

Yes, Julian, what is going on here? What is going on?!

ADAM

Don't do that.

PILAR

Don't do that.

ADAM

Cut that out! That's very annoying!

PILAR

You're very annoying!

JULIAN

Pilar, stop it!

ADAM

This is insane! Just tell me who she is!

PILAR

I'm Julian's sister!

JULIAN

Pilar!

ADAM

His what?

JULIAN

Adam's my friend. I will tell him things, not you, okay?

ADAM

You have a sister?

JULIAN

Yes.

ADAM

Were you ever going to tell me? Don't you think that's something you might have mentioned?

JULIAN

Adam, would you keep it down?

ADAM

I mean, you had plenty of opportunities when I was talking about my parents and my brother, don't you think?

PILAR

You have a brother?

ADAM

Yes, I have an older brother.

PILAR

I have an older brother, too. Are you really Julian's friend?

JULIAN

Yes, he is.

PILAR

Then why doesn't he know about me?

JULIAN

It just never came up.

ADAM

(muttering)

Never came up.

PILAR

Do you really go to school with him?

JULIAN

Yes, he does.

PILAR

I didn't ask you! You're so bossy. Can't he talk?

ADAM

(defiantly)

Yes, I can.

PILAR

Is that your underwear?

ADAM

Ummm...

JULIAN

Yes. I was doing some laundry for him. The laundromat by his apartment was closed.

PILAR

(suspiciously)

Where's the rest of the laundry?

ADAM

I...um...

JULIAN

He already picked it up. This must have fallen out.

PILAR

(beat)

I don't think that's true. Is that true, Adam?

ADAM

What? Yes. Of course, it's true. Why else would my underwear be here?

JULIAN

Okay, Adam, I'll talk to you tomorrow or something.

PILAR

(yelling)

Talk now! Talk now! Talk now! Talk now! Talk now!

JULIAN

Pilar, stop yelling.

PILAR

I'm not yelling!

(Thumping heard)

ADAM

What was that?

JULIAN

(calling out)

Sorry, Mr. Berger.

(to PILAR)

You see? What did I say about yelling?

PILAR

(grumbling)

I wasn't yelling.

JULIAN

Okay, why don't you go to your room?

PILAR

What are you going to talk about? Are you going to talk about me?

JULIAN

It's not any of your business what we're going to talk about, Pilar!

PILAR

He's going to talk about me.

ADAM

Maybe we'll talk about what I just walked into.

JULIAN

Okay, but not now.

PILAR

Well, then, when are you going to talk?

ADAM

Yes. That's a good question. When are we going to talk?

PILAR

You can talk at school, right?

JULIAN

Pilar! Enough! Go to your room now! Because after Adam leaves, you and I are going to talk, too.

PILAR

We are? What are we going to talk about?

JULIAN

We are going to talk about what happened here just now.

ADAM

She gets to talk about that now and I don't?

JULIAN

Oh, honestly, Adam...

PILAR

*Mamá* says God made me wrong. That's why I stand close to the fire. Did you know that?

ADAM

What's with the fire?

JULIAN

Pilar, go to your room now. I mean it.

PILAR

*Mamá* left. She didn't like me.

JULIAN

(starts pushing PILAR to the hallway)

Okay, that's it. You're going to your room now.

PILAR

Stop pushing me!

JULIAN

Then go to your room.

PILAR

You don't know, Julian! She didn't let you see. She said mean things to me.

JULIAN

Pilar, *Mamá* loves you!

ADAM

All right, I think I'm going to go now...

(HE starts to head for the  
door)

PILAR

(getting louder)

She was mean to me! She's afraid of me!

JULIAN

(getting upset)

That's not true, Pilar! Other people might be but not *Mamá*!  
You're just...!

PILAR

Julian, *Mamá* told me she wished she never had me and she  
went to Chile because she didn't want to be my mother  
anymore!

(BLACKOUT. END OF SCENE)

Act I  
Scene IV

SETTING: Same. It is very late that night. The stage is dark to indicate night.

AT RISE: JULIAN has a book open and is quietly practicing dance steps. Two sealed letters are on the table.

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 2, 1968. Dear *Mamá*. You have been gone thirty-four days. This is my second letter to you today but I already sealed the first so I'm writing another. I am a little worried about Pilar. She isn't handling your departure very well. I think she misses you. Maybe it would help if you wrote her a letter. I think that she would enjoy that. I am going to brush my teeth now with a new toothpaste I found. It helps prevent cavities even more. And I will be sure to put my clothes away before I go to bed and not leave anything on the floor. Please write soon. Love, Julian.

JULIAN

(Singing quietly and doing some small accompanying dance moves)

When you meet a gent, paying all kinds of rent,  
For a flat that could flatten the Taj Mahal  
(enter PILAR. She watches him for a moment)

Call it sad, call it funny,  
but it's better than even money,  
That the guy's only doing it for some doll.<sup>2</sup>

PILAR

Is it yogurt time?

JULIAN

Pilar! You startled me! You should be asleep.

---

<sup>2</sup> Excerpt from the song "Guys and Dolls" from Frank Loesser's *Guys and Dolls*.

PILAR

I heard you wake up.

JULIAN

(putting book away)

I couldn't sleep.

PILAR

So you were dancing and singing? Does that help you sleep?

JULIAN

I don't know. I was trying anything.

PILAR

When I can't sleep, you give me warm milk. Do you want warm milk?

JULIAN

No. Thank you.

PILAR

You look sad. Are you sad? I don't like it when you're sad.

JULIAN

I'm not sad.

PILAR

Then what are you?

JULIAN

I'm not anything. I'm...I'm tired, okay?

PILAR

I'm tired, too. You should go to bed if you're tired.

JULIAN

I told you I can't sleep. Maybe you should go to bed if you're tired.

PILAR

I can't sleep either.

(beat)

Your friend didn't like me, did he?

JULIAN

I don't know.



PILAR

I think he didn't like me. That's why he left.

JULIAN

I asked him to leave, remember? He didn't leave because of you.

PILAR

I think he did.

JULIAN

He was just surprised. He didn't know who you were.

PILAR

(beat)

How come he didn't know who I was?

JULIAN

I don't talk about family at school.

PILAR

Why not?

JULIAN

I just don't.

PILAR

I talk about family at the day hospital.

(beat)

He was nice.

JULIAN

Yes, he is.

PILAR

I think he likes you a lot.

JULIAN

Well, he's a friend. I guess friends like each other.

PILAR

And they do laundry for each other?

JULIAN

(tentatively)

Sometimes.

PILAR

And I scared him away.

JULIAN

People don't always understand you.

PILAR

(Beat)

Does Lucy know your friend?

JULIAN

What?!

PILAR

Does she go to school with you, too?

JULIAN

Pilar, where did you hear about Lucy?

PILAR

Ummm...*Tía*?

JULIAN

Pilar! I know that you didn't hear about Lucy from *Tía*. You just made that up!

PILAR

No, I didn't! No, I didn't! I didn't! I heard about Lucy from *Tía*!

JULIAN

Okay. Who did *Tía* say Lucy was?

PILAR

Ummm...you eat dinner with her? And...you study with her?

JULIAN

How would *Tía* know that?

PILAR

You told her.

JULIAN

(getting angry)

No, I didn't tell *Tía* that. Who did I tell that to?

PILAR

You told *Tía*! You did! You did! You told her!

JULIAN

No, Pilar! Who did I tell that to?

(PILAR doesn't answer)

You read my letters to *Mamá*! That was private!

PILAR

Why was it private? You never told me about Lucy!

JULIAN

You can't read other people's mail!

PILAR

It was on the table!

JULIAN

That doesn't matter!

PILAR

Is she your girlfriend?

JULIAN

No!

(HE stops abruptly and  
realizes his mistake)

PILAR

No?

(Beat. Noticing what he said)  
Then why did you tell *Mamá* that she was? You said you were  
dating.

JULIAN

I didn't exactly...

PILAR

Yes, you did! Yes, you did! I saw it!

(Thumping heard)

JULIAN

(Lowering his voice)

Well, you shouldn't have! And keep your voice down!

PILAR

So, if she's not your girlfriend, who is she? Does she have to study for exams, too?

JULIAN

Lucy is a friend of mine.

PILAR

Like your friend who was here...? Adam?

JULIAN

(tentatively)

Yes. Like Adam.

PILAR

Does she go to school with you?

PILAR

Or is she from church? Or work?

JULIAN

You're not supposed to read other people's mail, Pilar.

JULIAN

Wait a minute, what did you do with that letter?

PILAR

I put it back in the envelope. You hadn't sealed it yet.

JULIAN

So you didn't take it?

PILAR

No! I don't steal! That's a sin!

(SHE crosses herself)

JULIAN

Did you tell *Tía* what you read?

PILAR

No.

JULIAN

You're sure?

PILAR

Yes. I thought you always told me things.

JULIAN

I do.

PILAR

But not about Lucy.

JULIAN

Well...

PILAR

Why didn't you tell me about Lucy?

JULIAN

Well, you read about it in my letters to *Mamá* anyway, didn't you?

(beat. Conceding)

There's nothing to tell. She's a friend of mine. My friends aren't that interesting.

PILAR

I think Adam is interesting. And he likes you a lot. But I don't think you should do his laundry anymore.

JULIAN

No, I won't.

PILAR

Did you tell *Mamá* about Adam, too?

JULIAN

No. We should go to sleep. It's very late.

(picks up the letters off the table)

And I'll take these to my room so you don't read them anymore.

PILAR

(long beat)

I make everybody go away.

JULIAN

No, you don't. You make some people go away.

PILAR

I made Adam go away. And...did you think I would make Lucy go away? Is that why you didn't tell me?

JULIAN

No, it's not that. Listen, you don't make everyone go away.

PILAR

Julian? Did I make Poppa go away?

JULIAN

What? No, not at all, Pilar. He couldn't come to America with us because of his job, not because of you.

PILAR

The girl with the green eyes at the day hospital said I made Poppa go away. Everyone there has a poppa except me.

JULIAN

You have a poppa; he's just not here. And the girl with the green eyes doesn't know us.

(beat)

Did you tell her that you have a mama who wanted to bring you here so you could have better doctors?

PILAR

No. I thought we came here so you could get smarter.

JULIAN

I could get smart in Chile, too.

PILAR

Did God tell her to come to America?

JULIAN

God doesn't do stuff like that, Pilar. Sometimes people just decide to do things.

(Beat. Relenting)

He probably did. Okay?

PILAR

So...was *Mamá* trying to save me?

JULIAN

(exasperated)

Yes. *Mamá* was trying to save you. Okay?

(PILAR nods)

Then let's go back to sleep.

(PILAR doesn't move)

Pilar. Come on. I'm not in the mood to play games. It's too late.

PILAR

Was *Mamá* trying to save you, too?

JULIAN

No, she was trying to educate me, not save me. Why would she need to save me?

PILAR

(beat)

Did you have friends like Adam in Chile?

JULIAN

(small beat)

No. I was just friends with our cousins.

PILAR

Oh. Cousins aren't friends. Cousins aren't like Adam.

(PILAR exits. JULIAN stares  
after her. FADE to BLACKOUT.  
END ACT I)

Act II  
Scene I

SETTING: Same. A week and a half later.

AT RISE: PILAR and JULIAN are moving around the kitchen having breakfast. JULIAN is trying memorize pages from the book he had in Act I, Scene 4.

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 14th, 1968. Dear *Mamá*. You have been gone for forty six days. Today's schedule: woke up, went to the library, had lunch, went back to the library, had dinner at home with Pilar and *Tía*, went back to the library, came home. My final exams begin this week and my final papers will need to be turned in before Christmas. I have been studying very hard and will get good marks. I have a perfect attendance record for the semester. I know you'll be glad to see me graduate in May and we can celebrate together. Since I don't know who is getting your mail, I wanted to be careful so I will start sealing my letters with tape.

(voice fades out)

PILAR

Why can't you study for your exams here? Can't you bring the books home from the library?

JULIAN

Not these books. If I could stay here and study, I would. Finish eating. *Tía* said she wanted to go to the market with you when she gets here.

(JULIAN tries to memorize the  
page in his book)

PILAR

What are you doing?

JULIAN

I have to memorize some things.

PILAR

I can memorize things, too.



JULIAN  
I know.

PILAR  
I can.

JULIAN  
Do you want orange juice?

(puts book down and goes to  
refrigerator. PILAR goes to  
the book)

PILAR  
Who's Nathan Detroit and Nicely-Nicely? Hey, you're not  
supposed to write in your book!

JULIAN  
(Yanking the book away)  
Pilar! You're not supposed to read other people's things!

PILAR  
It's not a letter. It's a book. That's not private. Nicely-  
Nicely is a funny name.

JULIAN  
If you're done eating, then go get washed up. *Tía* will be  
here soon.

PILAR  
Nathan Detroit! Nicely-Nicely! Nathan Detroit! I can  
memorize too!

JULIAN  
Yes, you can memorize but you can't respect other people's  
things! Go wash up.

PILAR  
Did they do something famous?

JULIAN  
Go wash up!

PILAR  
(dancing out of the room)  
Nathan Detroit! Nicely-Nicely! Nathan Detroit!

(JULIAN returns to his book.  
Beat. There is a knock at the  
front door.)

JULIAN

Pilar! Hurry up! *Tía* is here!

(JULIAN quickly puts the book  
in his bag and answers the  
door. Enter ADAM)

Adam! You can't be...

ADAM

Darling, I've been trying to find you for days!

JULIAN

This isn't a good time...

ADAM

Lucy gave me your letter.

JULIAN

That's good. We should talk about it later.

ADAM

Listen, Julian! That letter only explained some things, not  
everything.

JULIAN

Okay, we can talk about it, but not now!

ADAM

Darling, you'd think you would make the time for someone  
who is ready to forgive you for keeping so many things from  
me.

JULIAN

I do want to make the time, Adam. And I'm glad that you  
understand everything. But I just can't do it right now. I  
have to...

(enter PILAR)

PILAR

(delighted)

Julian! It's your friend! He came back!

JULIAN

Pilar, get your coat.

PILAR

But he's back! Now you can be happy again!

ADAM

(gleefully)

Was he terribly sad?

(JULIAN closes the door and  
puts the chain on)

PILAR

Yes, he was very sad that I made you go away.

ADAM

Oh, you're just adorable! You didn't make me go away.

(turning to JULIAN)

Darling, you were sad! Flutter, flutter!

JULIAN

Adam, would you please...

PILAR

He likes you a lot.

ADAM

Is that so? Did he tell you that?

JULIAN

(suddenly shouting)

Pilar! Would you go get your coat!

PILAR

(to ADAM)

He yells a lot, doesn't he?

JULIAN

I didn't yell.

PILAR

He's very bossy.

JULIAN

I'm not bossy.

PILAR

Yes, you are! Yes, you are! Bossy, bossy! You're bossy!

(dances around)

Bossy, bossy...

ADAM

Maybe you should get your coat.

PILAR

Okay. But I'm only going because he's  
(points to ADAM)  
not bossy!

(PILAR exits)

ADAM

Do you know how many times I've come by in the past week  
and you haven't been home?

JULIAN

(beat)  
What? You've been coming by?

ADAM

Yes, I wanted to talk to you after I read your letter.

JULIAN

Was anyone here?

ADAM

Obviously not, darling, or I would have left a message. You  
know, you should really join the rest of the world and get  
a telephone in your own apartment. It would make things  
much easier.

JULIAN

The one downstairs is fine. And don't come by anymore. If  
you need to find me, find me at school.

ADAM

I don't know where to find you now that your classes are  
over. I had to get up on a Saturday morning...a morning,  
Julian, just to find you!

JULIAN

You know I'm in play practice, Adam! What else do you think  
I'd be doing when we open tonight?

ADAM

I know. It's so exciting! I have an outfit all picked out!  
And, of course, I have confirmed that my friends are  
bringing their agents. We can all go out afterwards.

JULIAN

I'm not sure about going out afterwards. But...

ADAM

Darling, I must teach you about schmoozing people.

JULIAN

What's smooshing? It sounds like something you made up.

ADAM

Schmoozing. It's Yiddish, darling. It's their word for working the crowd. Meeting the important people. Getting your name out.

JULIAN

Okay, fine. You'll teach me about schmoo-shing. But right now, I need you to go.

(starts pushing him towards  
the door)

ADAM

When can we talk?

JULIAN

After play practice. Come by the theater at 4:30. I'll have a break before we have to be back for the show.

ADAM

But then you'll see my outfit! I wanted it to be a surprise!

(key heard in lock)

JULIAN

Oh, no!

(pushes him towards the  
bedroom)

Go to my bedroom.

ADAM

Why? I—

(the chain prevents entry)

RAMONA (OS)

Julian! Why the door is locked like this?

JULIAN

Just go!

(ADAM exits offstage to  
bedrooms. JULIAN hurriedly  
goes to unlock the chain.  
Enter RAMONA)

RAMONA

Why chain is on door?

JULIAN

I put it on last night when we went to sleep and forgot  
about it. Sorry.

RAMONA

Is good you do that. Is safe not always in this streets.  
(RAMONA closes the door while  
JULIAN starts cleaning up  
from breakfast)

Julian, I have to ask for your favor.

JULIAN

What is it?

RAMONA

I know I say I stay with Pilar today but I cannot.

JULIAN

(alarmed)

What? Why?

RAMONA

I feel very bad. But I get some time on sewing machine at  
the Chinese lady's store down the street to do work. And  
Pilar not able to come.

JULIAN

There's nowhere she can stay in the store?

RAMONA

No, is too small and Chinese lady leaves needles  
everywhere. How he can find anything in that mess? I try to  
find little thread and it get lost because she make so many  
mess. No, too many needles. Is not safe for Pilar.

JULIAN

But, *Tía!* I have to...

RAMONA

*Por favor, Julian! I have to finish dress for Irish lady to wear to wedding and four more people asking for work for the Christmas! It take me all week to finish Russian lady's tablecloth because I have bad needles now without my sewing box. Sewing machine go faster. If I do not work, I cannot pay bills for light and water! Por favor!*

JULIAN

But, my professor just gave us new study materials. And a lot of them are at the library! I really need to study today. I have to pass my exams. Can you do the sewing tomorrow?

RAMONA

No, he not there tomorrow. Julian, you say you study at library tonight, too! Stop worry so much. You always do good on your examinations.

JULIAN

Because I study!

RAMONA

*Por favor, Julian! Is the only time that I can get to the sewing machine! You study here until...three? Four? I can get many work done by four. Then I stay with her. I will! I stay with her tomorrow, too. What you think?*

JULIAN

I really can't...

(enter PILAR in coat)

RAMONA

Oh! Good morning, Pilar.

PILAR

Good morning, *Tía*.

RAMONA

Something is wrong, *mi cachorrита?*

PILAR

No. Nothing's wrong.

RAMONA

You have your coat on.

PILAR

Yes, Julian told me to get ready to go with you. Let's go.

(starts for the door)

RAMONA

Pilar, I... You stay with Julian until afternoon.

JULIAN

No, Tía!

RAMONA

Please, Julian!

PILAR

But Julian said he needs to study Nathan Detroit and Nicely-Nicely for his exams.

RAMONA

(JULIAN freezes for a moment)

Who is Nathan Detroit and Nicely-Nicely?

PILAR

(Proudly)

They're famous.

RAMONA

Julian studies here until later and then I come stay with you. We go market and get some nice fish for dinner. And maybe we go mass Saturday and...

JULIAN

No, Tía! No extra masses! We're going to mass tomorrow morning! That's enough mass for her.

RAMONA

Julian, you not decide when she go mass! Maybe you go extra mass, too, no? Maybe *Díos* like see you at more mass!

JULIAN

I can see *Díos* once a week also.

PILAR

Julian said he couldn't stay home with me because he has to go to the library. He already said no.



RAMONA

I not have my sewing box! If I don't use the Chinese lady's machine, I can not do work!

(JULIAN pulls RAMONA aside)

JULIAN

(quietly)

What if I give you some money to pay your bills? Just until you can use the sewing machine again.

RAMONA

(offended)

Julian!

(she slaps him)

*No me insultes!* I will not take money from you! You are boy only! You think you big man but you are boy only! Boys don't give money to *tías!* *Por favor!* *No me insultes!*

JULIAN

Okay, I'm sorry. I was just trying to fix things.

RAMONA

Shame, Julian, shame on you! What matter with you?

JULIAN

I said I'm sorry.

RAMONA

Your mama be very angry that you say to *Tía* to have your money!

JULIAN

(lowering his voice)

I didn't mean to disrespect you, *Tía*. It's just really important that I get to the library today. And tonight.

RAMONA

It important you not disrespect your *tía*, too!

(defiantly)

I be back at four. You go then.

(JULIAN starts to protest)

No disrespect again! I make promise. I be back at four. You go study then.

(exit RAMONA)

PILAR

Julian? You're not supposed to say bad things to *Tía*.  
That's why she slapped you.

JULIAN

I didn't say bad things. I was trying to...  
(frustrated)  
Never mind!

PILAR

(beat)  
You're sad. If you didn't have to stay with me, you  
wouldn't be sad, right?

JULIAN

I'm not sad. I'm frustrated!

PILAR

You are angry at *Tía* and the Chinese lady?

JULIAN

Pilar, will you please be quiet a minute? I need to think!

PILAR

Okay.  
(beat)  
What about the man?

JULIAN

What man?

PILAR

The one you put in the bedroom.

JULIAN

Adam.  
(JULIAN walks to hall  
entrance)  
Adam, you can come back now.  
(Beat. Enter ADAM)

ADAM

Do I know why I'm hiding now?  
(looks at JULIAN)  
What's wrong?

PILAR

He's mad at the Chinese lady.

JULIAN

I'm not mad at the Chinese lady, Pilar.

ADAM

Who's the Chinese lady? Your terrible landlord?

JULIAN

No. Adam, I just...I need to...

PILAR

He can't go to the library so he can study.

ADAM

You're studying before rehearsal?

PILAR

What's rehearsal?

JULIAN

Part of my exam. It's out loud. We have to rehearse out loud.

ADAM

Julian calls it play practice.

PILAR

(confused)

Can I play practice out loud?

JULIAN

No, Pilar. Okay, look, I need to...I need to call my study partner.

(JULIAN goes to a dish and takes change from it. ADAM pulls him aside)

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I thought you were supposed to be at your rehearsal! It's the final one before you open!

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

I know that but I have to be here.  
(loudly)

I'm going to call my study partner.

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I thought you were so nervous about the agents. Don't you need to rehearse more for them? They'll be there at opening night!

PILAR

(loudly)

What are you talking about?

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

Would you stop it? You're not making this easier, you know?

PILAR

Julian! What are you talking about?

JULIAN

Nothing, Pilar. I'm going to call my study partner to cancel.

PILAR

Maybe Adam could stay with me.

JULIAN

What?!

ADAM

Yes! That's a great idea!

PILAR

Really?!

JULIAN

No, it's not!

JULIAN

Adam, you don't know anything about taking care of her!

PILAR

I can tell him.

ADAM

Yes, she can tell me. Julian, this is a way I can help you!

JULIAN

No, it's really not helping!

PILAR

Is it a way I can help you?

JULIAN

No, Pilar.

ADAM

(loud whisper)

Listen, Julian, I have had to take care of people in much worse condition than her. I'm talking bad trips, overdoses, all kinds of nasty, horrible things. Just think: all of those drugs you despise will finally pay off!

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

She's not on drugs, Adam!

ADAM

(loud whisper)

Oh, darling, I know that!

(beat)

You'll want to look your best for the agents, won't you?

(JULIAN looks torn)

PILAR

I don't want to make you sad, Julian. I'll be very good. I promise. You have to study Nathan Detroit for your exam.

(to ADAM, proudly)

I can memorize, too! Nathan Detroit is famous. Did you know that?

JULIAN

It's just...it's not a good idea.

PILAR

You're supposed to get good marks in school.

JULIAN

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I do!

Remember your name in lights...  
It's your destiny. We don't  
want to waste that stage  
name, do we?

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

Stop it with the destiny already.

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I told you I would do anything to help your career. So let me help.

JULIAN

(whispering) You're doing  
enough with the agents.

PILAR

No more whispering!!

ADAM

(loud whisper)

It won't matter if I bring the agents if you're not ready,  
will it?

(Long beat as JULIAN looks at  
ADAM then at PILAR. JULIAN  
takes PILAR by the shoulders)

JULIAN

Pilar, listen to me.

PILAR

He wants to spend time with  
me, Julian!

JULIAN

Yes. Listen, if I leave you here with Adam, do you promise  
to be very, very good?

PILAR

Yes! He likes me! I like him!

(looks at ADAM)

I like you!

ADAM

I like you, too.

PILAR

See? He's not scared of me!  
I didn't make him go away.

JULIAN

Pilar! This is very  
important.

JULIAN

I really don't want to leave you here with Adam so I need  
to know that if I do, you are going to behave.

PILAR

(solemnly)

I promise to behave. I want you to not be sad.

(beat. She hugs him)

I'll be good. Don't be sad.

JULIAN

(deep breath)

Okay.

(PILAR starts clapping)

I will be back by...

(looks at watch. Muttering)

I'll be back at three. Do not let anyone in the house.

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I thought you said rehearsal ended at 4:30.

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

I'm going to have to leave early.

ADAM

(loud whisper. Teasing)

Another migraine?

JULIAN

(Thinks. Loud whisper)

No, I'll think of something else.

(normal voice as ADAM sighs)

Do not take her out of the house.

ADAM

I won't.

JULIAN

She cannot use the stove or touch anything sharp. And she can't touch anything breakable.

PILAR

I can't open windows.

JULIAN

That's right. No windows.  
And no slamming doors. We  
don't want to make Mr. Berger

ADAM

Okay, nothing breakable..

angry again. Right, Pilar?

PILAR

Right. We can write letters! I wrote a letter to Julian!

JULIAN

Yes. You can practice writing letters with Adam. Now, lock the door when I leave and put the chain on. This is the phone number for the...

(looks at PILAR)

library.

(scribbles on a piece of paper)

There is a phone downstairs. Only in an emergency should you leave the apartment. And never leave her alone. Ever. Always be in the same room.

ADAM

What if I have to go to the bathroom?

JULIAN

Go now.

ADAM

(beat)

What?

JULIAN

Go now. When I'm still here.

(HE points down the hall.  
ADAM looks at him  
uncertainly)

ADAM

So I really can't ever leave her?

JULIAN

No.

ADAM

Will she hurt herself?

JULIAN

She could.

PILAR

I don't hurt myself!



PILAR

(ADAM looks from one to the other and exits to the bathroom)

I don't hurt myself!

JULIAN

And don't read his letters or anything else that belongs to him. Okay?

PILAR

Okay.

(beat)

Julian?

JULIAN

Yes?

PILAR

(puts finger to lips)

Shhhhhhh. Right?

JULIAN

Yes.

(puts finger to lips)

Shhhhhhh. And we're never doing this again. This is special. Never again. Okay?

PILAR

Okay. Shhhhhhhh!

(re-enter ADAM)

ADAM

What are you doing?

PILAR

Shhhhhhhhhh!

JULIAN

Okay, Pilar, your turn.

PILAR

My turn for what?

JULIAN

For the bathroom.

PILAR

I don't really have to go now.

JULIAN

Adam has to be in the same room with you.

PILAR

Fine!

(SHE stomps OS into hall)

JULIAN

Adam, nothing can go wrong, do you understand?

ADAM

Darling, everything will be fine.

JULIAN

It just doesn't feel right to be leaving her like this. You need to take care of her as if she were your own sister.

ADAM

Of course, darling. Julian, listen. We'll write letters, it'll be fine. You just worry about learning your songs and dances for tonight when we'll make you a star!

JULIAN

I'm supposed to be taking care of her.

ADAM

You are. And I'm taking care of you. Come on, darling. Won't you smile a little? It'll all be fine. You'll see. You'll get to do such magnificent things once you land an agent. Won't you?

(JULIAN starts to smile)

Ah! There it is! Anything to get that Broadway mansion. Right, darling?

(HE tries to hug him. JULIAN pushes him away)

JULIAN

Are you crazy? What if Pilar sees us?

ADAM

JULIAN

She's still in the bathroom. We can't do that here!

JULIAN

(calling)

Pilar! Are you done? I have to get to the library!

(PILAR re-enters)

PILAR

All done. And I washed my hands, too.

JULIAN

Okay, I'm going to go. I'll be back at three. At three, Pilar. Right?

PILAR

Yes. I'm going to write letters.

JULIAN

Okay, good. I can read them when I get home.

(HE gives her a hug)

*Te quiero mucho.*

PILAR

*Te quiero mucho.*

JULIAN

Thanks, Adam. I'll be back as soon as possible.

(ADAM walks him to the door)

ADAM

And we are going to talk...

JULIAN

We will. Before tonight. I promise. Lock the door and put the chain on after I leave. Goodbye, Pilar.

(JULIAN exits. ADAM locks the door and puts the chain on)

PILAR

Goodbye, Julian.

(PILAR and ADAM look at each other. FADE to BLACKOUT. END SCENE)

Act II  
Scene II

SETTING: Same. A short time later.

AT RISE: PILAR and ADAM are sitting at the table writing.

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 14, 1968. Page two. The toothpaste that I told you about is working very well. My teeth look brighter already. Tía has told me that you have stopped writing about Abuela. I am worried about her. I wish she could come to America so she could get better doctors. How is she eating?

(voiceover fades out)

PILAR

Very good work, Adam. We can write a real letter next.

ADAM

Good. I think we've practiced enough.

PILAR

It's very important to practice. I practice all the time. The counselor says I'm the best one at letters and stories. Everyone else is very, very bad. The boy with red hair was so bad that he had to go back to the other hospital.

ADAM

What other hospital?

PILAR

The one I used to be at.

ADAM

You were at a different hospital?

PILAR

I didn't like it. I had to sleep there overnight.

ADAM

Oh. That kind of hospital. How long were you there?

PILAR

Lots. I didn't like it. They made me have bad dreams.

ADAM

That's terrible!

PILAR

After I came back home, Julian used to sleep outside my door to protect me when I had the bad dreams and then they would stop.

ADAM

(aside)

Flutter, flutter.

PILAR

(doesn't hear him)

*Mamá* said it was God's will that I go there. God is strange sometimes, don't you think?

ADAM

I was in the hospital once.

PILAR

You were?

ADAM

I broke my leg.

PILAR

It doesn't look broken.

ADAM

It was a long time ago. They fixed it in the hospital.

PILAR

They fixed my brain there, too. That's why I go to the day hospital now.

ADAM

They fixed your brain?

PILAR

Well...*Mamá* said my brain needed to be fixed. She said my brain had...

(thinks)

...schi-no, no. It has lots of names.

(thinks)

Schi-tzo...

ADAM  
Schizophrenia?

PILAR  
No...it sounds like that.  
(thinks)

Schizo...bipe...I can't remember. My counselor knows what *Mamá* thinks I have. She thinks my brain needed to be fixed because I acted strange and said strange things. She said I had the mark of the Devil. She made me take medicine for it but Julian doesn't make me. He knows I don't really have that.

ADAM  
You don't?

PILAR  
No. Did your leg take a long time to fix?

ADAM  
Maybe six weeks. But I wasn't in the hospital all of that time.

PILAR  
Julian hasn't been in a hospital.

ADAM  
Never?

PILAR  
No. He never had to get his brain fixed. *Tía* gets sick a lot but she doesn't go to the hospital even though *Mamá* tells her to.

ADAM  
Who's *Tía*?

PILAR  
*Tía*.

(ADAM looks blank)  
*Tía* Ramona. She makes clothes.  
(ADAM looks blank. Annoyed)  
*Tía* Ramona!

ADAM  
I don't know what that means. Is that Spanish?

PILAR

I don't know. Is it?

ADAM

I don't know. I don't speak Spanish.

PILAR

I don't speak Spanish either.

ADAM

But...you're from Chile. Didn't you learn Spanish?

PILAR

I don't think so.

(beat)

I like that Julian has friends like you.

ADAM

(carefully)

Yes. Well, friends are important to have.

(PILAR nods)

Who are your friends?

PILAR

I don't know. People don't like me. I scare them.

ADAM

Oh. Well, I could be your friend.

PILAR

(beat)

You can?

ADAM

Sure.

PILAR

I can't do laundry, though.

ADAM

That's okay. Not all friends have to do laundry. That was special.

PILAR

Yes, it was. Your clothes weren't very clean.

ADAM

Oh. Well...

PILAR

Julian isn't very good at laundry. Right, Adam?  
(smiles and puts her finger  
to her lips)

Shhhhhh!

ADAM

Um, okay.

(beat)

So what else do you learn at the...day hospital? Is that what  
it's called?

PILAR

Yes. We do art. I like to draw. And I'm learning how to get  
a job.

ADAM

You...are going to get a job?

PILAR

Yes! The teachers are showing me.

ADAM

What...what are you going to do?

PILAR

I'm going to make clo-

(SHE claps her hand over her  
mouth)

ADAM

What?

PILAR

No. It's a surprise!

ADAM

Did you say you were going to make clothes? Like...Tíar...  
someone? Is that what you think?

PILAR

It's a surprise! It's a surprise!



ADAM Julian doesn't know about this?  
PILAR I'll show you!

(PILAR exits offstage to bedrooms. ADAM starts to follow her)

ADAM  
Pilar, you're not supposed to be in another room from me.  
(exit ADAM. Offstage)  
Pilar!

PILAR (OS)  
Here!

(re-enter PILAR, carrying the dress that RAMONA fixed, followed by ADAM)

PILAR  
See? I fixed that. Right there.

ADAM  
(examining the dress)  
You did this?

PILAR  
I'm good at it. Everyone needs to have clothes made or fixed. I'm good, right?

ADAM  
This is really good. I'm hideous at sewing.

PILAR  
I could teach you! You're very good at learning.

ADAM  
Oh, hardly.

PILAR  
My teacher said you have to have conf...conf...confidence! Now, we need something to sew. Do you have any clothes to fix?

ADAM  
Not here. Do you have any that need fixing?

PILAR

Hmm. I'll see.

(SHE exits into the hallway.  
ADAM follows her)

ADAM (OS)

I have to be in the same room with you, remember?  
(beat)  
Did you find anything?

PILAR

(as they re-enter. She  
carries a messily sewn cloth  
and RAMONA's sewing box)  
This isn't done yet. But we can use it to show you how.

ADAM

(about cloth)  
What is it?

PILAR

I haven't decided.

ADAM

You know, I work with clothes, too. I'm a model.

PILAR

What's a model?

ADAM

Oh, you've never heard of a model?  
(PILAR shakes her head)  
Well, a model gets to do the most fabulous job of all! We  
get to WEAR the clothing and have people take pictures of  
us to try to sell more clothing!

PILAR

My counselor showed me pictures of people wearing clothes  
in the newspaper. Is that where your pictures go? Are you  
famous like Nathan Detroit and Nicely-Nicely?

ADAM

Oh, I wish. My photos haven't made it very far. Maybe I get  
put in a catalogue or a circulation. But not newspapers.

PILAR

Maybe you could wear the clothes that I make and have pictures taken for newspapers! And then I could show it to my teachers and my counselor at the day hospital!

ADAM

Do you make men's clothes?

PILAR

Ummm...

(nods)

...hmm-hmmm.

ADAM

What have you made?

(PILAR thinks and then exits  
into bedroom. ADAM follows)

Pilar! You need to tell me when you're leaving the room!

(he exits. OS)

What are you doing in Julian's room? I'm sure you're not supposed to be in there.

PILAR (OS)

Here!

(SHE re-enters carrying  
JULIAN's shirts from Act I,  
Scene 1)

See? I made these!

(ADAM follows her)

ADAM

You made shirts for Julian?

(PILAR nods)

Pilar, these are phenomenal! I'm terribly jealous of...

(stops and holds up label  
from shirts)

Pilar, you didn't make these.

PILAR

Yes, I did.

ADAM

I know designers. My friend has done modeling for Yves Saint Laurent. And trust me, no matter how good you are, you're no Yves Saint Laurent. None of us are.

(PILAR angrily takes the shirts out of his hand and exits OS into bedrooms. Following her)

Pilar!

PILAR (OS)

I don't like you anymore!

ADAM (OS)

Come on, Pilar. I'm sorry. I just... Look, we only practiced writing letters. We could still do that, can't we?

(PILAR re-enters. ADAM follows her)

Okay.

(Beat)

So, who are you going to write your letter to?

PILAR

I don't want to write letters.

ADAM

Oh, come on.

PILAR

I made those shirts. I don't lie. Lying is a sin.

(SHE crosses herself)

ADAM

I wasn't saying that you were lying.

PILAR

Yes, you were. You were! You said I didn't make them!

ADAM

Okay, well...that's true. But, Pilar...

PILAR

I make clothing. You don't know how good I am. Only my counselor and my doctors know I'm good. They say I'm the best.

ADAM

Wait a minute. The doctors let you sew? Didn't Julian say that you're not allowed to touch anything sharp?

(indicates the sewing box)

You have needles in there.

PILAR

This is different. And I don't hurt myself.

(beat)

I have to be clean and put my box away. I can't leave things out.

(SHE picks up the box and starts to exit. ADAM exits after her. Beat)

ADAM

(as they re-enter)

Okay. Who should I write to? Let's see...I could write to my mother. I haven't talked to her since I got back.

PILAR

No! We can't write to *Mamá*.

ADAM

Not your mother. My mother.

PILAR

No! We can't write to *Mamá*! We can't write to *Mamá*! I want Julian to come home!

ADAM

He only just left. What's wrong?

PILAR

(fearfully)

He needs to come back.

ADAM

He will come back. I promise.

PILAR

No! I want him to come home now! Now!! Now!

ADAM

Why don't you...why don't you write him a letter to read when he comes back?

PILAR

Julian needs to come home now!! NOW!!

PILAR  
 NOW!!! I want Julian to come home NOW!!

ADAM  
 Pilar, he can't come home yet...

ADAM  
 Shhh. Don't yell. Why are you yelling?

PILAR  
 (at the top of her lungs)  
 I'M NOT YELLING! I'M NOT YELLING! I'M NOT YELLING!

ADAM  
 (very panicked)  
 What are you doing? Stop it! You told Julian you'd be good, remember?

(Throughout the following shouted lines, PILAR starts running around the kitchen, throwing things on the ground)

PILAR  
 I'm not yelling! I'm not yelling!

(Thumping is heard. ADAM looks around)

ADAM  
 What was that? What happened to you? I thought we were going to have a good time.

PILAR  
 I'm not yelling!  
 (at the ceiling)  
 I'm NOT yelling!!

ADAM  
 Oh. Was that your neighbor? You see? You have to stop yelling.

PILAR  
 No, I don't! I don't!

ADAM  
 Stop it! Stop it! You said you were going to behave!

(Thumping heard)

PILAR  
 You don't know anything! I'm behaving!

ADAM

It's not behaving when you're yelling and throwing things at me, is it? You're not supposed to do that to your friends.

(PILAR stops)

PILAR

(worried)

Did I scare you?

ADAM

Well, yeah. A little. But maybe you can make it up to me by helping me clean.

(HE starts cleaning)

PILAR

(pouting)

Julian has other friends, you know! I don't have to be friends with you.

ADAM

Yes. I know.

(suddenly)

Wait, do you know them? His other friends?

PILAR

Do you?

(long beat as they look at each other. FADE to BLACKOUT. END SCENE.)

Act II  
Scene III

SETTING: The scene is the same.

AT RISE: The mess is mostly cleaned up, though there are still some signs. ADAM and PILAR are sitting at the table writing.

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 14, 1968. Page three. I hope that *Primo* Diego is taking good care of you. I haven't received any letters that you might be sending. Maybe you're not using enough postage. I miss you. I hope you'll be back for Christmas. Write soon. Your son, Julian.

PILAR

All done!

(she holds up her letter)

See!

ADAM

Yes, I see.

(HE continues writing)

PILAR

I have to put it in an envelope now.  
(SHE does so, then looks bored and wanders around)  
Are you still writing? You're slow.

ADAM

I have a lot to say.

PILAR

I have a lot to say, too.  
(looks at her envelope)  
Don't forget to write Julian's name on the envelope, Adam. I have to do that. Do you want to watch?

(There is a knock on the front door)

PILAR

Julian!



(SHE runs to the door. ADAM follows her)

ADAM  
Wait. We have to make sure we know who it is. Who is it?

JULIAN (OS)  
It's Julian.

PILAR  
See?  
(tries to unlock the door for him but forgets about the chain)  
It...won't...open!

ADAM  
Let me try.  
(HE unlocks the chain and opens the door. Enter JULIAN. PILAR hugs him as ADAM returns to the table to continue writing)

PILAR  
You came home!  
JULIAN  
(closing door and putting chain on)  
Of course I came home. Hi, Adam.

ADAM  
Hello.

JULIAN  
Were you good for Adam?

PILAR  
(nodding)  
Hmm-hmmm.

JULIAN  
(glancing at ADAM)  
Really? You didn't give him a hard time?

(PILAR shakes her head.  
JULIAN picks paper out of her  
hair)

Pilar...

PILAR

I was good!

JULIAN

(holding up the paper he  
picked out of hair)

Was she?

ADAM

Oh, yes. We became very good friends. Right, Pilar?

(PILAR nods enthusiastically)

JULIAN

(nervously)

Oh, good. Well, tell me what you did.

PILAR

We wrote letters. See?

(SHE gets her letter and  
gives it to JULIAN)

JULIAN

Dear Julian. Love Pilar.

PILAR

I wrote a letter! I wrote a letter!

JULIAN

Yes, you did.

PILAR

He didn't finish his yet. He has a lot to say.

JULIAN

Who is he writing to?

PILAR

You. We both wanted to write to you. He wanted to write to  
*Mamá* but I told him that we couldn't write to *Mamá*.

JULIAN

He wanted to write to Mamá?

ADAM

Not your mother. My mother.

PILAR

But I said no writing to *Mamá*.

(beat)

You write long letters to *Mamá*.

JULIAN

You're not supposed to know how long my letters are to *Mamá*, are you, Pilar? Adam, I have some things to do here. But why don't I meet you back at the library at 4:30?

ADAM

(warily)

The library?

PILAR

Weren't you at the library?

JULIAN

Yes, I need to go back so Adam can help me study. But I can't get there until 4:30.

ADAM

I actually need to go run some errands.

JULIAN

(startled)

You do? But I thought...I thought we were going to study this afternoon.

ADAM

I'll have to study with you another time.

PILAR

Don't you have to get good marks on your examinations, too?

ADAM

I did a lot of studying today already.

PILAR

When did you study? You were here with me.

ADAM

And it was very illuminating.

JULIAN

Wait. When are we going to...are you still going to come to the library tonight?

ADAM

Yes.

(ADAM starts for the door)

JULIAN

But...we really do need to go over the material. Don't you think?

ADAM

I think I've got it taken care of.

(HE opens the chain and the door)

JULIAN

Wait!

(turns to PILAR)

Pilar...can you...? Why don't you...Why don't you go wash your hands? I'm sure they're dirty from making this mess.

PILAR

I didn't make a mess! Adam did!

JULIAN

Well, we're going to need to clean it up before *Tía* gets here. She doesn't like a mess. You know that.

PILAR

She yells about a mess.

JULIAN

She doesn't yell.

PILAR

Won't I get messy when I'm cleaning up? Shouldn't I wash my hands afterwards?

JULIAN

No, Pilar. Wash them now.

PILAR

Are you going to tell secrets?

JULIAN

I don't tell secrets.

ADAM

(mumbling)

Not to other people.

JULIAN

Adam! Why would you say that?

ADAM

It's just been my experience.

(Long beat)

PILAR

(tentatively)

It's been my experience, too.

JULIAN

No, it hasn't, Pilar!

(turns back to ADAM)

Look, I know we have a lot to talk...to study.

ADAM

I have a lot of errands to do.

JULIAN

You never have errands to do! You hate errands!

ADAM

Well, I still need to do them!

PILAR

Adam, friends aren't supposed to yell.

JULIAN

What?

PILAR

Adam said you're not supposed to yell at friends.

(pleased)

We're friends now.

JULIAN

Did you learn that because you were yelling at him?

ADAM

I have to go.

(HE opens the door and starts  
to exit)

JULIAN

Wait, Adam...

ADAM

I'll see you later, Julian.

(HE exits and closes door  
behind him)

JULIAN

(Angry)

Pilar, I don't know what you did...

PILAR

I didn't do anything! He's my friend, too!

JULIAN

You did something!

PILAR

No, Julian, this time you made him leave.

(BLACKOUT. END SCENE)

Act II  
Scene IV

SETTING: Same. It is late that night.

AT RISE: The mess is cleaned up. RAMONA is sitting at the table. She has fallen asleep in the chair.

ADAM VOICEOVER

My darling Julian. I hope that your opening goes well tonight. I know that you will be wonderful. I will be there with the agents and I hope you will impress them. I know that you will need go home right afterwards so I'll go to the bar with them for a little bit and come over later, after I'm sure that it's just you who is awake. I know that they'll just adore you! Love, Adam.

(JULIAN enters from the front door. RAMONA doesn't stir)

JULIAN

*Tía.*

(RAMONA jumps)

RAMONA

Julian! You scare me!

JULIAN

I'm sorry. I didn't mean...

RAMONA

What time it is?

JULIAN

It's eleven thirty.

RAMONA

Julian! Why you come so late home?

JULIAN

I'm sorry. I didn't realize what time it was until they said they were closing the library.

RAMONA

How you do not see time? You eat dinner, no?

JULIAN

Yes, I ate dinner. I had a lot of new material to read. I'm sorry.

RAMONA

Pilar still needs her yogurt since you say I can not give it to her.

(SHE stands and starts  
putting her coat on)

JULIAN

She just likes how I do it.

RAMONA

If you be so late, she have to learn to like how I do!

JULIAN

I'll wake her up and give it to her. It'll be fine.

RAMONA

And now I walk home in the dark late all alone. Is not right, Julian.

JULIAN

I said I'm sorry!

RAMONA

This not be problem if I live  
in your mama's room! Oh, yes,  
you are sorry. You are sorry  
if *Tía* is all over sidewalk  
in morning.

JULIAN

Oh, come on, *Tía*! I'd be scared to run into you at night.

RAMONA

I had things I was do at home before I go sleep, Julian. I have not been home since morning! If I live here..

JULIAN

(interrupting)

You could have taken Pilar home with you for dinner.

RAMONA

I can not do nothing when Pilar there. Is done. Just not do again, Julian. You watch time better! *Si?*



JULIAN

Okay. I will. I'm sorry.

(walks to the door)

Get home safely.

RAMONA

(does not move to door)

Julian, I know you not want me to move into your mama's room. So...your mama want you to rent room to stranger.

JULIAN

(beat)

Her room? She wants me to rent her room?

RAMONA

*Si. Tía* not look so bad now, *si*?

JULIAN

No one's moving into her room except her. I don't understand. Is she worried about money? Because we're doing okay.

RAMONA

You are very good boy to your mama. She never know how good.

JULIAN

No, I mean it. We've been doing fine. I might get a raise soon and when she comes back, she'll be working for Father Winston again.

RAMONA

*Si.* You sleep and think and say to me tomorrow.

(she starts to exit)

JULIAN

There's nothing to think about.

RAMONA

Okay, okay. You tell me tomorrow when I come get you and Pilar for mass.

JULIAN

But there's nothing to...

RAMONA

*Buenas noches. Que Dios esté contigo.*

(SHE exits out the front door. JULIAN closes the door. He takes a book out of his bag. He opens to a page)

JULIAN

Scuttle the ship! Beware, you'll scuttle the ship. Scuttle, scuttle. What does that mean, anyway?

(sings softly)

The people all said beware  
Beware, you'll scuttle the ship...

(stops singing)

Scuttle, scuttle. Idiot. How could you get that wrong tonight of all nights? Scuttle the ship. Scuttle. Scuttle.

(HE looks at his watch)

Come on, Adam...where are you?

(HE opens the door and looks down the hallway, closes it. Moves around restlessly. A soft knock at the front door. JULIAN runs to front door and opens it. Enter ADAM.)

Finally! What took you so long?

ADAM

Not everyone bolts out of the theater the way that you do, darling.

(JULIAN closes the door and puts the chain lock on)

JULIAN

I had to get home.

ADAM

I know that.

JULIAN

So...what did you think?

ADAM

Oh, darling, you don't care what I think. You care what they think.

JULIAN

I do care what you think!

ADAM

Well, of course, I thought you were marvelous. I mean, truly spectacular. But what I think doesn't really count right now, does it?

(tentatively)

Is Pilar awake?

JULIAN

No, she's sleeping. We'll just have to keep our voices down. Do you want to sit?

ADAM

Okay.

(THEY sit. JULIAN looks at ADAM expectantly)

They adored you.

JULIAN

They did? What did they say?

ADAM

Shhhhhhh! You don't want to wake Pilar! Or...  
(looks up)

Your neighbor.

JULIAN

Did you give them my headshot and the resume with the new name?

ADAM

Of course I did! Darling, I do know how to do this, you know!

JULIAN

Okay, sorry. Go on.

ADAM

Well...

(dramatic pause)

One of them wants you to come speak with him in his office.

JULIAN

In his office? What for?

ADAM

To talk about working together, darling! What do you think?

JULIAN

Really? He wants to talk to me? An agent wants to talk to me? Are you sure you had that right?

ADAM

Darling, I know when a man wants to talk to another man. Look, he gave me his card.

(pulls a card out of his pocket and hands it to

JULIAN)

He wants you to call him to set up an appointment.

JULIAN

Adam, he must be really serious! Agents never want to talk to you in their office if they're not serious!

ADAM

Don't you think I know that, darling?

JULIAN

I just can't believe someone wants to talk to me. I even screwed up a lyric tonight, did you know that? I said "shuttle the ship" when it was supposed to be...scuttle.

ADAM

I'm sure only you noticed, darling. The other agent said something about having an opportunity for you already.

JULIAN

What?! Are you kidding me?

ADAM

No. He said you just need to go in and do the audition.

JULIAN

Okay, well, an audition doesn't guarantee me the part. I mean, everyone goes to auditions.

ADAM

No, he said the part would be yours.

JULIAN

That's crazy! How could I-- What's the role?

ADAM

I have no idea.

(beat)

Julian, this is gigantic. Do you understand that?

JULIAN

(faintly)

Sort of. We're not there yet...

ADAM

Yes, you are! And you'll get to do all of these amazing things now. Once you get an agent and you're cast in something, all kinds of doors open. Other shows will want you. Oh, and the glamorous parties we'll be invited to...!

JULIAN

Parties?

ADAM

Oh, darling. It will be wonderful! We'll get to spend more time together. And then you'll get to go on the road, like you wanted. Maybe we'll even be working in the same places, me doing photo shoots and you doing your shows. It'll be like our rehearsal for the mansion. Wouldn't that just be phenomenal?

JULIAN

Wait. Is this show on the road? Is it going to Chicago?

ADAM

I don't know.

JULIAN

When did you say it was going to be?

ADAM

He said it starts right after Christmas.

JULIAN

(deep breath)

I don't know if I'll be able to do it.

ADAM

What do you mean?

JULIAN

I can't believe it. But I just...it was hard enough to get through the rehearsals and performances of this show. I don't even know how I'm going to do tomorrow night's show and...

ADAM

Julian, these things don't just happen whenever you're ready! They happen and you grab them! Do you think Ricardo Matleband...

JULIAN

Montalbán...

ADAM

... Montalbán...would have said "Sorry, I'm busy. Catch me next time."? Maybe he wouldn't have won a Tony award if he had said that.

JULIAN

He didn't win the Tony award, he was nominated! I've told you a million times!

ADAM

Well, nominated then! You don't get nominated by sitting at home, Julian!

JULIAN

I just can't do it right now. I'll talk to them. Maybe they'll understand.

ADAM

(getting angry)

No, Julian! They won't understand!

(beat)

You were out there doing auditions! It's not like this was some brilliant flash only in my head! You wanted this, too!

JULIAN

I know! And I do! But my mother's in Chile, Adam! I can't do anything while she's in Chile! I have to take care of Pilar!

ADAM

(Thumping heard. Beat)

So what does that mean for these shows?

JULIAN

My mother will come back soon and she'll take care of Pilar again. Then I'll be able to move out and work with the agents.

ADAM

And soon is whenever your grandmother dies.

JULIAN

(annoyed)

It's when she gets better. Pilar told you about my grandmother?

ADAM

Someone had to.

JULIAN

What else did she tell you?

ADAM

It doesn't matter...

JULIAN

It matters to me!

ADAM

It matters to you now!

(long beat. Quietly)

They're not going to wait, Julian. They'll find someone else. It's very important right now for you to keep meeting people in the industry.

(beat)

And if more shows come up, what are you going to do?

JULIAN

I'll think of something. Maybe...maybe I can tell them that I have plans to be out of town for Christmas and won't be back for a little while. Or that I'm working on another show.

ADAM

(beat. Disappointed and sad)

So you're going to make up more stories.

JULIAN

This would be special. It's not like I make up stories all the time.

ADAM

(listing on his fingers)

Reasons why you can't take the audition for a part you're guaranteed; where you really are when you say you're at the library...

JULIAN

That's different!

ADAM

...who you actually live with...

JULIAN

Who I'm actually dating? It's not like you can't tell anyone that either.

ADAM

(shouting)

Why didn't you trust me?

JULIAN

I trust you.

ADAM

With what? Not with you. Because, after eight months, I'm only just finding out who you are, Julian! And not even from you!

JULIAN

Look, Pilar doesn't always tell the truth about things.

ADAM

Neither does her brother.

JULIAN

Things in our family are private. That's just how it is.

ADAM

Yes. It is how it is.

(sighing)

All right. I'll tell the agents that you're not interested.

JULIAN

What? No! Don't do that! Things will calm down when my mother gets back. They will. And I'll be able to work with the agents.



(takes ADAM's hand)  
 And I'll have more time to spend more time with you.  
 Everything will be fine when my mother comes back.

ADAM  
 (beat)  
 Well, then...call me when it's fine.  
 (pulls his hand away)

JULIAN  
 What?

ADAM  
 (turning around. Sadly)  
 I really want our mansion, Julian. I thought you wanted it,  
 too.

JULIAN  
 What are you talking about? I do want it.

ADAM  
 (Long beat. Hands him a card)  
 Well, then, here is the card for the other agent. If you  
 really want it, you'll call him and stop making excuses not  
 to. And I do hope you call because I think you're  
 stupendously talented, Julian. I really do.

(HE starts for the door)

JULIAN  
 Wait, where are you going?

ADAM  
 Julian, does your mother know that you're trying to be an  
 actor?

(JULIAN is silent)  
 I didn't think so. So it's not really going to be fine when  
 she comes back, is it?

JULIAN  
 You don't understand! Acting really isn't respected as a  
 career in my family..

ADAM  
 So, you're still going to have to lie about what you're  
 doing, where you're going, who you're with and who you are.  
 Julian, I don't want to be here for that!

JULIAN

My mother gave up everything to come to this country! Everything! Her marriage to my father, her job, she left her mother and all of her things! You have no idea how angry my mother would be if she found out that I was wasting my American education on being an actor. I could get disowned, Adam. By my own mother! Why do you think I had to have a stage name?

ADAM

(long beat)

Well, you said it was so directors could pronounce your name. That's what you said. So I believed you. My mistake.

(ADAM exits through front door. BLACKOUT. END SCENE.)

Act II  
Scene V

SETTING: Same. It is early the next morning.

AT RISE: The kitchen is empty.

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 15th, 1968. Dear *Mamá*. You have been gone for forty seven days.

(beat)

You have been gone for forty seven days.

(sounds of frustration.

Yelled)

You've been gone for forty seven days, *Mamá*! When are you coming home?!

(Front door bangs open.

RAMONA enters, wearing black church clothes. SHE exits into bedroom hall)

RAMONA (OS)

Julian. Julian.

(knocking heard OS)

JULIAN (OS)

*Tía*? What time is it?

RAMONA (OS)

Is early. Come. Be quiet. We leave Pilar asleep.

JULIAN (OS)

What's wrong? Is something wrong?

RAMONA (OS)

You no look good. Come. I make coffee.

(re-enter RAMONA. JULIAN follows, pulling on a robe over pajamas)

JULIAN

What's wrong?

RAMONA

Today we go mass early.

JULIAN

Why?

(PILAR stomps into the kitchen angrily in her pajamas with a robe on)

PILAR

(accusingly to JULIAN)

You WOKE me UP!!

JULIAN

I didn't wake you up! *Tía* just woke me up! Just sit down. *Tía* is trying to tell us something.

PILAR

See? She tells me things.

JULIAN

Stop it!

RAMONA

Why today you are angry?

JULIAN

We're not angry.

PILAR

I'm angry!

RAMONA

Why you are angry, Pilar?

PILAR

Because Julian-

JULIAN

(quickly interrupting)

You said we have to go to early mass today. Why do we have to go to early mass?

PILAR

We have to go to early mass?

RAMONA

I get letter from your Mama when I get home last night.

JULIAN

You did?

PILAR

I don't want to go to early mass.

RAMONA

Pilar, *¡basta!*

(hesitates)

*Abuela* went to God.

(SHE crosses herself)

JULIAN

When?

RAMONA

I think is week last.

(JULIAN crosses himself)

PILAR

Is God fixing *Abuela*?

JULIAN

No, Pilar. *Abuela* is dead.

PILAR

What is dead?

JULIAN

Not alive. Not coming back ever.

(PILAR looks confused)

Like *Tío* Augusto.

(PILAR understands and crosses herself. To RAMONA)

Is *Mamá* okay?

RAMONA

She say she is sad.

JULIAN

Are you okay?

RAMONA

Oh, *si*. *Abuela* is dying since I was little girl. When your mama and I small little girls, we did housework because *Abuela* is dying always. We not see our friends or *primos* because *Abuela* need us. Did your mama tell you *Abuela* not there when you born because she is dying? I say is good she finally be done with dying and move on to *Dios*. Let Him judge her now. But it is right we go to early mass and say prayers for her.

JULIAN

Yes, of course. I'll just...I'll go get dressed.

(starts to exit into bedroom

hallway, then turns around)

Oh! So this means that *Mamá* is coming home soon.

PILAR

*Mamá* is coming home?

JULIAN

Yes, of course! She'll be home and she can take care of you again.

PILAR

No! I don't want her to take care of me again!

JULIAN

Will she be home for Christmas?

RAMONA

No.

JULIAN

Oh, she has to go to the funeral and everything. But maybe after...?

PILAR

I don't want *Mamá* to come home!

RAMONA

Pilar! *Detente!*

JULIAN

Will she be back by New Year's?

RAMONA

No. She... She *desconsiderada!*

JULIAN

No, she's not! She flew all the way down to Chile to be with *Abuela* when she was sick!

PILAR

(starts chanting)

Inconsiderate! Inconsiderate!

JULIAN

She probably has to make funeral arrangements for her! She has a lot of responsibility! Pilar, stop it!

(PILAR stops chanting)

RAMONA

Pilar, go get dressed for mass.

PILAR

How come Julian doesn't have to?

RAMONA

He will. You go now. We leave soon.

(PILAR exits into bedrooms)

Why you fight with Pilar today?

JULIAN

She's being difficult.

RAMONA

She *niña difícil*. You not difficult. You better. You not fight more. Julian, you always want be big man. Not need his *tía*. Is time you act like big man.

JULIAN

Okay.

(HE turns to leave)

RAMONA

(beat)

Your mama stay in Chile. For home.

(JULIAN is stunned. Beat)

JULIAN

What? But she lives here now! This is home! Brooklyn is home! *Mamá* is in mourning. She doesn't know what she's

saying. People do that, you know...say things when they have all this...

(re-enter PILAR, carrying  
JULIAN's bag, unnoticed. She  
puts the bag down)

RAMONA

For you and Pilar, Brooklyn is home. Brooklyn should be your mama home, too, but he not see it like that. She see only Chile. She not coming back to Brooklyn.

PILAR

(delighted)

Is *Mamá* dead, too?

JULIAN

No. She's just in Chile. She'll come back. I thought you were getting dressed.

RAMONA

Julian...

JULIAN

She will!

PILAR

But you said she's not coming back. That means she's dead. That's what my books say.

JULIAN

Your books?

PILAR

Yes, my books.

(picks up the bag)

I have to go to school to study.

RAMONA

What you mean?

PILAR

(to RAMONA)

You pick him up from the day hospital. I'll be back after school.



JULIAN

Oh, no. I forgot the yogurt last night!

RAMONA

Julian, I remind you! How you could forget?

(goes to kitchen and takes  
out yogurt and pills)

So distract you are, Julian! What matter with you? Why you  
can not remember to make yogurt?

JULIAN

I don't know. I was really tired and...

PILAR

And, *Tía*, no extra masses. Bring him straight home.

RAMONA

You see what you do, Julian? You show you can not give  
yogurt like big man supposed to! Now you need your *tía*!

JULIAN

Pilar, listen to me. You didn't have your yogurt last  
night. You need to have your yogurt.

PILAR

I have to go study! I have to go study Nathan Detroit for  
my exams! I have to memorize!

(JULIAN grabs her arm)

Let go! Let go! You're sick! You have to stay here because  
you're sick! Let go of me!

JULIAN

Pilar! Give me my bag!

(THEY start to struggle)

RAMONA

(hurrying over)

No fighting! *Deténganse!*

PILAR

They're mine!

RAMONA

Para Pilar! Give Julian her  
bag!

JULIAN

You don't go to school! You  
don't have exams to study  
for!

RAMONA

Enough!

(pulls them apart)

Here. You eat the yogurt.

PILAR

Go ahead, Julian. Eat the yogurt. It's good for you.

JULIAN

What?

PILAR

Eat the yogurt so I can go, Julian. I don't have time to sing to you today! I have to go play practice out loud!

RAMONA

What that mean? Play practice out loud and sing?

PILAR

Julian, I know you're going to miss me, but *Tía* will pick you up after the day hospital! And then you can go repent!

(the bag comes free and the sewing box tumbles out.  
RAMONA gasps)

RAMONA

(picking it up quickly)

Is my sewing box!

(JULIAN puts the chain lock on the door)

PILAR

No, that's mine! I have to go sew things for the Chinese lady!

RAMONA

No, Pilar! You can not touch needles! Is dangerous for you!

PILAR

NOOO! It's mine!

(Thumping heard)

RAMONA

How you could steal from *Tía*?

PILAR

I DIDN'T steal! It's mine! It's mine...

JULIAN

It's not yours, Pilar. It's *Tía*'s.

RAMONA

I lost time many and work because you steal from me! I pay bills late! How you can come into my house anymore and I think you do not steal? You can not!

JULIAN

Come on, *Tía*. I mean, how are you going to take care of her if she can't even come to your house?

PILAR

I didn't steal from you! Stealing is a sin!

(SHE crosses herself)

RAMONA

*Si*, is sin! You did sin, Pilar!

(gasp. Sudden realization)

Oh! You fell into fires! *El Diablo* put his hand on you and finally take you!

(puts her hand on the cross  
on her necklace. Points at  
PILAR)

*En que se han convertido! Ay Dios mío!*

JULIAN

*Tía!*

PILAR

No, I didn't! I was good! I fixed your dress for mass!

(Thumping heard)

RAMONA

You fix my dress for mass!

(turns to JULIAN)

You see what happen when you not give Pilar the medicine? *El Diablo* know! He come and take her soul when she weak! Now she lost!

PILAR

(to JULIAN)

I made your shirts!

JULIAN

No, Pilar. You didn't. And you didn't fix *Tía's* dress for mass. She fixed yours. Now why don't you sit down and have some yogurt?

PILAR

No, I can't. I have to go meet my boyfriend to study Nathan Detroit!

RAMONA

She think she have boyfriend now?

PILAR

Adam.

(to JULIAN)

You know Adam.

JULIAN

Pilar, is Adam one of the doctors? Or your counselor?

PILAR

He said he's going to wear the clothes that I make with my sewing box...MY sewing box... and he's going to put them in newspapers!

JULIAN

You're confused, Pilar. There is no Adam.

PILAR

Adam is my boyfriend!

RAMONA

Oh, *si*? You meet him at church, Pilar?

PILAR

No! He took care of me yesterday when Julian went to the library!

RAMONA

I here when Julian went to library!

PILAR

The FIRST time he went, Adam was here! He wasn't afraid of me!

JULIAN

You don't know what you're saying.  
 (to RAMONA)  
 We need to call the doctor.

RAMONA

We need call *Padre* Winston!

JULIAN

Pilar, please eat this.

(HE tries to hand PILAR the yogurt again but SHE knocks it to the ground)

PILAR

NO! Adam was here! He took care of me! You went to the library! You said  
 (puts her finger over her lips)  
 SHHHHHHHH! You said it was special.

JULIAN

You're very sick without your yogurt.

PILAR

You're sick without your yogurt! You lie!

JULIAN

What?! I lie?

RAMONA

You no more say bad things about Julian!  
 (RAMONA goes to the kitchen sink and gets a bar of soap)  
 I wash your mouth out!

JULIAN

Tía! No!

RAMONA

Your mouth fill with evil talkings!

(RAMONA grabs PILAR and wrestles her into a chair to

try to put the soap into her  
mouth. PILAR starts  
screaming)

PILAR

No, stop it! Even *Mamá* knows! *Mamá* said Julian is a liar  
and has the mark of the Devil!

JULIAN

No, she didn't! *Mamá* knows I'm good!

PILAR

No! She said you're going to  
hell!

RAMONA

You not spread your  
darkness on him!

(PILAR breaks away from  
RAMONA)

PILAR

You lied about Adam! You were lustful with him!

(RAMONA gasps, crosses  
herself and starts praying)

JULIAN

No, I wasn't! I wasn't! Adam is only a friend!

RAMONA

You say he Pilar boyfriend. You not know.

JULIAN

Yes, that's right. I just...

PILAR

He's not my boyfriend! *Tía*, didn't *Mamá* tell you that  
Julian had the mark of the Devil? Didn't she?

(RAMONA starts to nod)

JULIAN

*Mamá* said what?

PILAR

You see, Julian? I'm not lying!

JULIAN

I don't have the mark of the Devil!

RAMONA

Pilar is right. Your mama try to say to me. She say *el Diablo* come take your soul. But I tell her Julian good little boy.

JULIAN

I am!

PILAR

No, you're not! You're just like me! You sent her away, too, because Adam is your boyfriend!

JULIAN

Pilar!

RAMONA

(falls to knees in prayer)

Nooooo! Noooo! No take my Julian!

(Thumping heard)

JULIAN

She doesn't know what she's saying! The fire's taken her! *El Diablo* got her!

RAMONA

What make you so weak that you let *el Diablo* get you, Julian?

JULIAN

He doesn't have me! Pilar is wrong! I didn't make *Mamá* go away! I didn't!

(aside to PILAR)

Why are you doing this to me?

PILAR

(aside to JULIAN)

You never got your brain fixed. I have to save you.

JULIAN

No, I don't need saving! You need saving! You're the one in that hospital all day!

RAMONA

*Si*, she lost, Julian, but you can fight! I help you fight *el Diablo*!

PILAR

No, it's not just me! He has the mark of the Devil, too!  
*Mamá* didn't come back because of Julian, too!

JULIAN

No! I didn't make her leave! She's wrong! We have to tell  
 her she's wrong!

(pulls out paper and pen)

I will tell her...December 15th, 1968. Dear *Mamá*...

RAMONA

She gone, Julian. Your mama cannot come back.

JULIAN

You have been gone for forty-seven days...

RAMONA

Julian! Listen to your *tía*! Listen to me!

JULIAN

No, I'm writing to *Mamá*!

RAMONA

She cannot come back, Julian! America make very difficult  
 to get immigration papers. Your mama made choice when she  
 go Chile.

JULIAN

(long beat)

What? She knew? She knew she was leaving us?

PILAR

Inconsiderate! Inconsiderate!

JULIAN

I can't believe it. How could she just leave like that?

PILAR

Inconsiderate! Inconsiderate!

JULIAN

Be quiet, Pilar!

RAMONA

Julian, you can still choose  
*Dios*. He forgive if you ask.  
 We still can save from  
*infierno*.



JULIAN

If *Mamá's* not coming back, what am I supposed to do about...

(looks at PILAR)

RAMONA

No look at her, Julian! *El Diablo* tempting you! You need throw him from you! Send away!

(SHE pushes PILAR away and  
pulls JULIAN to his knees)

We call *Santa Gertrudis* together, yes? Now, say prayer to *Santa Gertrudis*. Say, Julian!

JULIAN

You knew about this, *Tía*! How could you not tell me?

RAMONA

Julian Manuel Martinez Tamayo! Pray *Santa Gertrudis* right now!

JULIAN

Don't try to distract me! How long were you going to wait to tell me, *Tía*?

RAMONA

*Eterno Padre:os ofrezco la mas Preciosa Sangre...*

JULIAN

I'm talking to you, *Tía*! Why didn't you tell me?

(PILAR kneels and starts to  
pray)

PILAR

I'll say it for you. Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most precious...

JULIAN

Pilar, stop it! Get up! We're not praying right now!

PILAR

If I don't pray for you, God will send you to hell, Julian! What would I do if you went to hell?

JULIAN

(sudden yelling)

There is no hell! God doesn't even exist, Pilar!

RAMONA

(Beat then sudden wailing)

Nooooooooooooo!

(thumping heard)

PILAR

Julian!

RAMONA

(Beats her fists on the floor)

Noooooo!

JULIAN

Okay, I didn't mean that!  
I didn't mean that!

RAMONA

*Virgen Santísima, ayúdanos  
por favor!*

JULIAN

Tía!

RAMONA

(clutches heart)

You turn away from *Dios*, Julian? You turn away! Noooo!

JULIAN

No, I...

RAMONA

How you can say? I see fire pull you in! You let *el Diablo* win? I cannot save you now. You dead to me! You suffer judgment from *Dios*. Now I only save Tía!

(SHE stands and starts for front door exit)

JULIAN

You can't leave! What am I going to do about Pilar?

RAMONA

She always dead. You supposed be good. But now... *Que Dios se apiade de tu alma!*

(SHE exits out front door)

JULIAN

No! *Tía!* Don't leave! Don't leave me here! Don't leave me here! The Devil didn't take me! I'm not dead!

(HE starts to grab the doorknob to pull it closed behind him as he runs out but sees PILAR. Long beat. HE looks at her with resentment. VOICEOVER begins as JULIAN resignedly comes back and closes the door)

JULIAN VOICEOVER

December 18, 1968. Dear Sirs. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity you have given me to have you represent me. However, it is with deep regret that I tell you that I will not be able to accept your generous offer. I hope that you will accept my apologies for taking up your time. Sincerely, Jonathan Emmanuel.

(SLOW FADE TO BLACKOUT. END OF PLAY)