

the Olmos Family play

by Matthew Paul Olmos

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Developed in part by
Primary Stages' Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group

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the family

josette – mexican-american; twenty-eight

angelique – josette's cousin; twenty-eight

bryan – josette's husband; caucasian

raul – josette's dad

jeanne – josette's mom

manny – angelique's something

christmas in los angeles

prologue

Lights up on ANGELIQUE and JOSETTE sitting in the cold and painful of a hospital.

Silence between them.

In the distance we hear the sounds of children sometimes crying; talking; an occasional laughter; it sounds as if outside is a world of children muffled.

Every now and again, both JOSETTE and ANGELIQUE will look up; hearing something in particular, and then find their silence again.

In the distance we hear a young girl yelling in pain; both notice, but try not to. A moment.

ANGELIQUE

...prolly that's what we sounded when *we* was in there.

(JOSETTE rolls her eyes)

I don't mean when we was just born/I mean like when we had *them*. When we was screaming for *our* moms, even through our epidural.

JOSETTE

I stayed natural.

ANGELIQUE

You know what I mean.

JOSETTE

And I didn't scream for my mom.

ANGELIQUE

Least you had your parents there.

JOSETTE

Was just Bryan in the room, so...

ANGELIQUE

Yea, you had all kindsa shit I ain't. Husband in the room. Two parents waiting. Wha'd I have, huh? I had everyone in the family whispering shit behind my back so stupid, I had—

JOSETTE

You had a son, maybe you oughta just been happy with that.

ANGELIQUE

Yea, on my own I had him.

JOSETTE

Awh, but yer not on yer own no more, why now you got yerself *Manny* ta help raise'him.

ANGELIQUE

Why don't you ever just leave Manny alone.

JOSETTE

Oh, I do.

ANGELIQUE

...you were also twenty-two. All adult an shit.

JOSETTE

Yer legs.

ANGELIQUE

Excuse me.

JOSETTE

Was yer teenaged legs went open. Not mine.

ANGELIQUE

Least I had a reason to open'em. What were you, outta high school already when you barely got touched?

JOSETTE

Yea, wish I could be more like you. Yer doing great.

ANGELIQUE

Eff this.

(ANGELIQUE gets up. An young boy is heard crying. Both stop. Listen.
Feel. ANGELIQUE sits back down)

...Jo...

JOSETTE

...

ANGELIQUE

Can't I even—

JOSETTE

...

ANGELIQUE

They're just kids, they don't—

JOSETTE

Were. They *were* kids.

ANGELIQUE

Damien has apologized *so*—

JOSETTE

I *do not* want to hear his fucking name.

ANGELIQUE

He has though, Jo. He's said he was sorry so many times—

JOSETTE

Sorry for what?

ANGELIQUE

...

JOSETTE

Go on. Tell to me what your son's so sorry for. Go on, say it.

ANGELIQUE

Josette.

JOSETTE

Angelique.

ANGELIQUE

Please, just...

JOSETTE

...

ANGELIQUE

An what about Christmas.

JOSETTE

...

ANGELIQUE

Look, if you want him to apologize some more, if you want him to maybe like sit down with Dallas an—

JOSETTE

My son's name, off limits to you, I swear to God I mean it.

ANGELIQUE

...okay. I won't say names. Not his, not Damien's—

(JOSETTE gets up to leave)

ANGELIQUE

He's *my* son I'll say his name if I—

JOSETTE

No. Not around me. Not ever again. Do you understand me? Angelique, do you understand me?

(ANGELIQUE nods. JOSETTE takes a moment, then sits back down)

ANGELIQUE

You know he'll—*We'll* do whatever you want, whatever you need to make...all...this—

JOSETTE

There is no this. This, right here, is fucked and there is nothing you can do to make it un'fucked.

ANGELIQUE

Jesus Christ.

JOSETTE

What, is it the word—

ANGELIQUE

We're in a hospital.

JOSETTE

...

ANGELIQUE

So, what, me an him just don't get to go to anything no more? What about all his aunties/uncles, how'bout his cousins?

JOSETTE

You two can see whomever you want whenever.

ANGELIQUE

Oh, so what, yer just gonna keep you guys all separate from the entire family, and everyone'll just look at me, blame me—

JOSETTE

...

ANGELIQUE

Kids make mistakes.

JOSETTE

This was not a fucking mistake.

ANGELIQUE

Yes. It was. That's what kids do. They mess up. They don't think right.

JOSETTE

They don't what?

ANGELIQUE

Think right.

JOSETTE

What would be *right* is getting your *son* some fucking help.

ANGELIQUE

Please don't talk like—

JOSETTE

Fuck, fuck, fucked, never un'fucked.

ANGELIQUE

So, what, I just don't bring him to Christmas; ever. Easter. He's just by his'self every holiday; just a stranger to all his—

JOSETTE

No, you can bring *it* to every holiday you like. *It* can be surrounded by everyone all the time always, but not me. Not my family. Not in a thousand years, not ever.

ANGELIQUE

Josette

JOSETTE

Angelique.

ANGELIQUE

If you don't show up everybody's gonna ask me about it; how come we didn't take the same car; didn't I see you before I left my house—

JOSETTE

You can tell them, Angelique, that me an my family are sitting At Home, Alone this year. And if they ask why, why don't you color them a fucking picture of what your Damien is really like.

(A horrific scream of a child is heard too close. The overhead lights flicker. The hospital feels impact, like those first beautiful notes of an earthquake, like when you aren't entirely sure what's to come. Both hold onto something; listening intently. ANGELIQUE begins to cry. JOSETTE doesn't give attention. A few moments of ANGELIQUE trying to stop tears before pulling a messy wrapper from her purse)

ANGELIQUE

You want gum? Es got that teeth whitening whatever.

(JOSETTE doesn't take)

Clinically shown or whatsitcalled; against stains.

(Beat)

JOSETTE

So why didn't you let *Manny* drive you anyways? His "phone broke" again, can't remember where he left his truck?

ANGELIQUE

...he's at work.

JOSETTE

Oh, an where does he work again?

ANGELIQUE

Shut up.

JOSETTE

No, really, did you even find out where he was all that time? Do you two talk at all? Wha'd'you talk about? Did you tell him about this? Oh, I bet you did, I bet you called him up/left a

JOSETTE(cont)

voicemail, nah texted, that there's something you really need to talk about, can he call you right right back.

ANGELIQUE

...

JOSETTE

So, what'd he say? When you told him. (pause) No, really, I wanna know.

ANGELIQUE

You know Manny—

JOSETTE

No, I don't. Nobody does. *Manny* just stares out the windows; an if he *does* speak, nobody even knows what the hell he's talking about.

ANGELIQUE

He's in his head a lot—

JOSETTE

Oh, is that where he tells you he goes?

ANGELIQUE

He's never done nothing but nice to you.

JOSETTE

Tell me what he said. Entertain me.

ANGELIQUE

He wanted to know if your *son* was alright. That was the first thing he asked. And I told him that he would be; of course he would be.

JOSETTE

And how to do you know that exactly? Hmm??

ANGELIQUE

Because...he has you. And Bry.

JOSETTE

What was the second thing? (pause) You said that was the first thing, what was the second? Was there a third?

ANGELIQUE

He talked to *my son*. He said he wanted to hear him; let him say things out loud, y'know. They talked for almost an hour, Jo.

JOSETTE

What did they talk about?

ANGELIQUE

...

JOSETTE

You have no idea what they—

(ANGELIQUE embarrasses)

Angelique. You let some fucking guy—

ANGELIQUE

He's not some—

JOSETTE

—let him talk to your son for an hour and you have no idea what they even—

ANGELIQUE

Manny just listened to him. Heard him out, his side of things.

JOSETTE

You're his fucking mother, maybe you hear him out his side of things.

ANGELIQUE

I've heard his—

JOSETTE

No, I don't think you could have. Otherwise you wouldn't fucking be here. *You* would be at a different kinda hospital altogether, where it'd be *your* son—

ANGELIQUE

...Manny said he'd be alright—

JOSETTE

Oh, *Manny* said?! *Manny* said?! Well what the fuck am I even doing here then, I should be out on the street asking any motherfucker with a neck'tat to give my Dallas a listening'to!

ANGELIQUE

...I'm gonna go. Please tell—

JOSETTE

No. You know what, stay.

(JOSETTE exits. Another scream, this one not as godawful; but it still hurts. ANGELIQUE tries to cover her ears as the sounds of a child screaming fill the space. Lights out)

scene one

Lights up on Josette's home; a tight living room with a large stationary television on the floor with a large pillow left in front of it, as though for a child to hug while he watches. Slightly offstage is a cramped kitchen with glass doors leading to the junked backyard.

BRYAN perplexes over an invisible Christmas tree, then speaks to JOSETTE, who is in the kitchen.

BRYAN

Yo, this shit right?

JOSETTE

(offstage) "Yo"???

BRYAN

Yo, c'mon, check it. You know you want to.

(JOSETTE peeks her head in; looks around)

Tree's right there, yo.

JOSETTE

...I was just looking around to see who you're trying to impress.

BRYAN

You know I gets flava on Christmas.

JOSETTE

You did not seriously use the word "flava."

BRYAN

Flava...motha'fuckasss....

JOSETTE

Awh, are you feeling nervous that we're having it at our house this year, are you scared how my Dad's gonna react with how white you're turning his daughter an grandkids?

BRYAN

Excuse me, you're in the kitchen making soup with intestines in it—

JOSETTE

I'm making pozole, jackass. Pozole has pork.

BRYAN

Yer face has pork.

JOSETTE

Okay, g'bye.

(JOSETTE returns to kitchen)

BRYAN

Nah, c'mon. This shit tilted or what—come look at this shit.

JOSETTE

(offstage) Maybe if you use the word 'shit' more.

BRYAN

Keep talkin' that way, I'm gonna bust into that kitchen, throw you over my shoulder.

(JOSETTE stands in the doorway)

JOSETTE

How about your back?

BRYAN

How about *your* back?

JOSETTE

Yer not tough, you know that we all know that, right?

BRYAN

C'mon, yer already in here. Just look. See. It's like our house is crooked or...

(JOSETTE steps towards the invisible tree, while BRYAN gets on the floor and tries to check what's keeping it from being level)

JOSETTE

What're you, like, listening to see if the tree says it's tilted or not?

BRYAN

Shh'shh'shh'shh'shht.

(BRYAN listens to the tree, nodding in agreement)

JOSETTE

Well...? What's it saying.

BRYAN

You really wanna know?

JOSETTE

No, I don't. May I go?

BRYAN

Fine go.

JOSETTE

Bry.

BRYAN

No, go finish cooking pork guts or pigs feet or whatever shit you insist on feeding—

JOSETTE

Yer mouth, Jesus Christ. What the fuck.

BRYAN

...

JOSETTE

Well, are you gonna tell me what the tree said or what already?

(BRYAN pulls JOSETTE into him aggressively/sexually, he whispers into her ear; at first she grins, however this turns to disappointment)

...y'know, Bry, I'm messing up in the kitchen, I prolly messed up with most uh their presents, and yours; I don't need anymore shit on top—

BRYAN

Shit on top??? Wow. Charm me.

JOSETTE

Look, I just—I just don't feel like that right now—

BRYAN

Right now?

JOSETTE

Lately/whatever. An you with all yer bringing it up all the time—

BRYAN

Aaright, aaright, can you at least look at it one more time; tell me if its straight.

(She glares at him)

The tree, I meant the tree. (pause) It's like leaning.

JOSETTE

So. You lean, like to the left, an I still keep you around.

(JOSETTE smiles, shows him a little something before exiting)

BRYAN

(to offstage) Yo, Dallas, Ava, who wants to help me decorate the tree?! (pause) I'm only asking once, otherwise I'm just gonna do everything myself, including lights.

(A sound indicating two children running in. BRYAN reacts as though they are in the room; we do not see them)

Alright, now Ava you grab up all the little icicle'thingys and just start hanging'em all over, as far up as you can reach.

(The television switches on. Channels change)

Hey, Dally, you just gonna let yer little sister do it all on her own?

(Channel changes)

BRYAN(cont)

You know this tree'll be gone in a week. Maybe less if you don't get yer ass up.

(Channel changes)

I'm asking nicely. I could ask *un*'nicely.

(JOSETTE puts her head in)

JOSETTE

(to BRYAN) Hey...que pasó?

(BRYAN waves her off. The television shuts off. JOSETTE goes back to the kitchen)

BRYAN

Alright, now since yer a little older, you get the bulbs, be careful though, they're glass. And spread'em out so it's you know, proportioned. (pause) Pro-portion-ed. It means...like not all together in one...like spread out/separated...like *proportioned*. (pause) Now go on, so we can put the lights.

(BRYAN watches his invisible children decorate an invisible tree)

Alright, soon as yer ready, grab that string of lights an wrap it all around starting at the bottom. But be careful not to knock the...

(BRYAN watches them wrap the tree with a string of lights; he then goes to an outlet with an extension cord)

There ya go, lookit that how good. Awh its okay, it don't have to reach the top. (pause) Alright...here we go...

(BRYAN plugs the extension cord, we see a beautiful illumination fill the room; against a wall the shadow of two children looking up at the tree: a boy aged around six, and a girl just a little shorter)

(to JOSETTE) Hey, mama'bear, c'mon, come look how good yer monkeys did.

(JOSETTE enters; a bit taken aback by the tree. A moment of JOSETTE and BRYAN standing looking at the beauty of the lights and perfect

silhouetted children between them. A few moments. Broken by the sound of a car pulling up. BRYAN unplugs the cord; lights back to 'It's-Not-Christmas-Yet')

BRYAN(cont)

(to children) Hey, you know what to do, go see if they need help carrying anything. Go on.

(The children exit; the front door opens and stays open. We hear the voices of RAUL and JEANNIE greeting their grandchildren; they enter carrying bags of wrapped gifts)

RAUL

Hey Jo, tell yer kids if they even so much as put even a tear in any of these presents, I'm taking all of'em back for myself. Me an yer mom have our own extra Christmas. (pause) You little mocos musta been extra good this year, lookit how much presents! Hey Jo, I bet you could stuff half of this up the chimney—

JOSETTE

We don't got a chimney, Pop.

RAUL

An after I'm gone, you can just keep pullin' gifts from there every year; like a Christmas layaway.

JOSETTE

Will you set'em down already.

(RAUL begins carefully placing his gifts)

RAUL

Nah, I leave mine right back here, see, an then when Efren come with all his trick'wrapped oversized shit he won't dump'em all over. Let Cathy's get all buried an who knows what Madeline's gonna show up with, prolly just gift cards anyways so she don't count. Hey Bryan, where the hell's everything at, you ain't even got the table set up, where's the chairs—

BRYAN

Yo, just go easy, Daddy, y'ain't got shit to worry about.

(All stare at BRYAN)

RAUL

So uh... Bryan, Jo tells us past couple uh Christmases you've been feeling a little outta place with all the family. That you been feeling, what was it she tol'us, Jeannie?

JEANNIE

Uh, white. Said he was feeling white.

BRYAN

Awh, c'mon, y'all wanna beer?

RAUL

Mijo, relax, huh. Just calm down. This ain't a trailer park.

JOSETTE

Be careful, Pop, I just found out something this morning.

JEANNIE

What's that, mija?

JOSETTE

Bryan informed me this morning that this year at Christmastime he'll be getting some "flavor."

(All look at BRYAN)

JEANNIE

Flavor, huh? What kinda flavor, mijo?

BRYAN

Shit, c'mon, lay off, you two wanna put yer stuff—

JEANNIE

Oh, I see it. Hey, shit's a good flavor, mijo. Very flavorful.

BRYAN

Raul, Jeannie, would two like to put your stuff down and may I offer you a drink?

JEANNIE

Mijo, don't let these two change who you are. They think tha's how you should be talking all the time, "would you like," "may I offer," but I like your flavor. Es nice. Now c'mon, gimme a little of it right here.

(JEANNIE gives BRYAN a hug and a kiss on each cheek)

JEANNIE(cont)

Merry Christmas, huh.

BRYAN

Merry Christmas.

JEANNIE

(to RAUL) Well, go on, wish him Merry Christmas already, estupido.

(RAUL shakes BRYAN's hand)

RAUL

(to BRYAN) You got two decks?

BRYAN

Sheeit, I got them bitches set to go.

(JOSETTE rolls her eyes)

RAUL

How'bout for chips?

(BRYAN holds a plastic baggie of Monopoly money)

BRYAN

Thought we'd go Monopoly, maybe even Dallas or Ava could—

RAUL

You didn't tell Efren that did you? You know he'll bring his own stash. Shit, he'll tell what's his name, try an team up. What's Madeline's fool named again?

JEANNIE

Oh, stoppit, you know his name.

BRYAN

Diego.

RAUL

Yea, well we're tellin' Diego this year none uh that No Peek, this year it's Guts. An how' about Cathy, what's her vato called?

JEANNIE

(to BRYAN) He's only messing, mijo. Diego and Speedy practically like the sons I never gave him.

RAUL

Nu-uh. Diego *maybe*, cuz he loans me his van. But Speedy, I don't like that guy.

JEANNIE

You the one introduced her to him!

RAUL

(to BRYAN) You like that guy?

BRYAN

Motherfucker makes me laugh.

JOSETTE

Don't say motherfucker.

JEANNIE

Ay, just let him. He prolly just nervous everybody gonna know what kinda white he got under that turtleneck.

BRYAN

It's a long sleeve shirt thing.

RAUL

Yea, keep telling yerself so.

JEANNIE

Es a nice shirt thing, mijo.
Jo, did you get that for him?

JOSETTE

Ew. No.

RAUL

So wha's that give us then, that's me, you in your shirt thing, Efren, Diego, that Speedy motherfucker; that's one, two, three, four, five. Shit, we barely have enough this year; almost makes me wish we had Manny—

JOSETTE

Pop.

RAUL

What, Manny sat in with us last year.

JEANNIE

Hey, estupido, cállate.

RAUL

Hey, no. We been playing poker till midnight every Christmas Eve since even when my ol'man was around. Since I was sixteen. *That* many years. An rule always been: if you sit with us once an you don't get kicked off the table or pass out, then you always welcome. No matter what. Always Welcome.

JOSETTE

Unless you're a woman.

(Beat)

RAUL

Hey, tha's tradition—

JOSETTE

Well, in my house, I think that's stupid. And if Dally *or* Ava wanna play, they can.

RAUL

Man needs ta have something tha's his.

JOSETTE

(to RAUL) That's the stupidest thing ever come outta yer mouth.

RAUL

Lemme tell you something—

JEANNIE

Ay, Raul, everybody knows about yer shitty father. An we felt bad for you. But now you talked about it too much.

JOSETTE

Dally, Ava go finish yer rooms.

(She watches her children leave the room)

JEANNIE

You know nobody listening to you, right?

RAUL

(to BRYAN) See, every Christmastime, it'd be we ain't seen him in five, six months, since summertime, an then come December he'd just wander in. Like he's goin' hold up the joint. 'Cept, instead of uh gun, he'd be holdin' a plastic bag fulla boiled eggs in one hand and a bag fulla panty hose in the other. Big ol' grin across his messed up teeth. Like we goin' run up an gather into his arms. Like he some savior come again.

BRYAN

You guys go through a lot of panty hose—

RAUL

And d'you know how long he'd stay?

BRYAN

Until you ran out...of panty hose?

JEANNIE

(to BRYAN) Y'don't haffta listen to him—

RAUL

Three, five weeks; tha's it. Then one day at breakfast, he'd say, "I'm goin' run down to the market, get us some peppers, green onions. You guys need anything?" An there he'd go. Wouldn't see him again for another five months, maybe six. (pause) Now, y'talk to any uh my sisters an they tell you he just crazy. He just drunk. But you wanna ask me why *I* think he go like that?

BRYAN

I do, but I don't really.

RAUL

Es cuz he had a whole line uh families. One here, one there, who knows. Most of'em in México proolly. But we was his Gringos. We was who he ignore where-he-come-from with.

(Beat)

JEANNIE

An how about the pozole, Jo, did you blend up half can uh hominy?

(JOSETTE clearly didn't, exits to kitchen, JEANNIE follows. An awkward guy moment between RAUL and BRYAN)

RAUL

So for reals though, why's the tree look like that?

BRYAN

It's just something new we're trying this year. Everything Leaning. Lotta Hollywood people are doing it.

RAUL

So...did you saw off part of the bottom yerself, or you just went with what the tree-guy did?

BRYAN

Uh, little of each.

(RAUL rolls his eyes)

RAUL

Sheeit, no wonder it look like that. Here, c'mon, we'll take it out back an—

BRYAN

What, are you gonna kick the shit outta the tree, "take it out back," nah, c'mon just leave her be. It ain't her fault.

RAUL

Dime, Bryan, does your family find you funny?

BRYAN

Only when they're drunk. So, in the morning mostly, and on schoolnights.

JOSETTE

(from offstage) Pop, if Bry doesn't wanna undo the tree then we're not undoing the tree. An don't be messin' with him today; he's feeling manly.

(RAUL looks BRYAN up an down)

RAUL

That for truth, mijo? You feeling...manly?

BRYAN

...man'ish, man'light maybe...I dunno if you can smell, but got a little musky something going on here...

(BRYAN wafts to RAUL)

RAUL

Alright, you two wanna have crooked Christmas, tha's on you. Where's the ice chest?

BRYAN

Was just gonna bring her out...

(BRYAN drags in a plastic ice chest, opens it, gets two beers. RAUL begins placing his own beers carefully inside)

RAUL

(to offstage) Hey, Jeannie, you wanna beer?

JEANNIE

(offstage) No, I tol'you, Tequila Mist.

BRYAN

(to RAUL) What is that, like some new Tequiza thing?

RAUL

Hey Jeannie, Bry thinks es like Tequiza—

(JEANNIE peeks her head in)

JEANNIE

Mijo, es just you take some tequila, put a little ice, then you pour Sierra Mist the rest of the way up. You want me to make you one?

BRYAN

Nah, tha's okay, had a big glass of whiskey an orange soda for lunch. There's some Sprite in the door tho'.

(JEANNIE disappears. RAUL is looking at him)

What?

RAUL

Why you gotta get Sprite on Christmas for?

BRYAN

I...don't know...

RAUL

This Christmas already all fucked up; half-drunk tree, no Sierra Mist...

BRYAN

Would *Diet Shasta Lemon-Lime* work? I think we still have some down in the basement from the 80's.

RAUL

Don't be smart. Who the hell drinks Sprite on Christmas. (pause) C'mon, let's bring in the rest of the chairs.

(RAUL moves towards the kitchen, BRYAN hesitates)

What's a matter with you?

(BRYAN looks to tell him something, but retreats. Beat)

BRYAN

Nothing.

RAUL

Dime.

BRYAN

Just...think we got enough chairs already.

RAUL

How the hell we got enough—

(RAUL looks at BRYAN)

BRYAN

Just, go easy, huh. You got—

RAUL

What, what I got?

BRYAN

You got no idea, man. If you knew what I what I got in my head, what I wanna put my hands—

RAUL

I know, mijo, I—

BRYAN

No. You don't. This is like...I can feel this shit growing inside me, this fucking—

RAUL

I got it too, in here.

(RAUL taps his chest)

BRYAN

I wanna hurt Angie's fucking kid, Raul. An...not like something you say, not like my imagination. I wanna take his fucking hands an just—

RAUL

Alright, alright, cálmate, cálmate. C'mon, you don't wanna be all red-in-the-face when everybody get here. Or white in the face, or pink; whatever it is you people get.

(RAUL notices a guilty look from BRYAN. Beat. RAUL looks around at the house, checks the time)

RAUL(cont)

Hey, Jo, who bringing the tamales? Madeline or Cathy? (pause) An how'bout dessert, it ain't Efren is it?

JOSETTE

(offstage) *We* got dessert. Everything's/everything's already here, Pop.

BRYAN

Tamales are in the pot. Red kind, green kind.

RAUL

Jo, get yer ass out here.

(JOSETTE and JEANNIE stand in the kitchen doorway)

JEANNIE

Hey, at least this way we don't haffta be walkin' all over Madeline's big ass house ta say thank you to everyone for presents. With only us, we can just yell across the room.

RAUL

(to JOSETTE) How you gonna let them kids be the only ones here.

JEANNIE

The kids're fine. They barely even come out here. They with their eyes on the game or whatever anyways. They don't see no difference. An Raul, you keep your quiet, huh? They hear you, they *are* gonna know a difference.

RAUL

Josette.

JOSETTE

Pop.

JEANNIE

Raul.

BRYAN

...Jeannie...

(JOSETTE and JEANNIE look at him)

BRYAN(cont)

...sorry, I's just goin' along...

RAUL

Josette, you were supposed to call everyone.

JEANNIE

Ay, we're here already, food is on, drink/drinks're out. We got ice. Raul, you like ice. C'mon, why don't you put some ice in your face, huh?

RAUL

What're they supposed to do, just play by they'selves all night? You think they not in there thinking the rest of the family's gonna pull up any second?

BRYAN

They know it's just us.

RAUL

They kids. They don't take your word, they always think there's a chance.

JEANNIE

Put something cold in your mouth, Raul.

JOSETTE

(to RAUL) And I wanna thank you for making this easier on me.

BRYAN

Should I get the ice...or was that more metaphorical..?

RAUL

Hey, I ain't concerned about making anything easy on anyone cept them kids. *My* grandkids missing an entire Christmas. What about Easter, same shit? Just us for brunch?

JOSETTE

An the year after, an the year after an every other year after. So woo hoo for us.

RAUL

What Dallas needs now is what he grew up with. Ava too

JOSETTE

Excuse me, I have to finish fucking up pozole for the worst Christmas he'll ever remember.
Thank you.

(JOSETTE goes back to the kitchen; JEANNIE points accusingly at RAUL, then follows. Awkward moment between BRYAN and RAUL who begins half'assedly re'arranging the presents)

RAUL

Lookit this. Don't even go all the way around the crooked tree.

BRYAN

...so...what the hell'd you get Jeannie anyways?

RAUL

Did Jo even call them? Any of'em?

BRYAN

She didn't want to right before the holidays an—

RAUL

So they all at Madeline's thinking we still goin'show up.

(BRYAN looks away)

...unbelievable.

(Beat)

BRYAN

Hey, so we got the kids one of those tablet things. They're always on about this app thing or that, or what you can do with it. But they know, they know we can't get shit like that, so when they open it up, they're faces are gonna be all like—

RAUL

Tha's a good distraction, mijo.

BRYAN

Course, soon as they go to sleep, me an Jo gonna try it out. I heard they got this—

RAUL

How you pay for it with all the—

BRYAN

We were just gonna tell 'em that Best Buy had some sorta clearance or whatever.

RAUL

Alright, but me, I'm askin'.

BRYAN

My boss won it at some charity event. Didn't know what to do with it, so she just—

RAUL

Gordo's gonna know it ain't from—

BRYAN

Nah, got original plastic an everything.

RAUL

He'll still know. You know he likes ta register the serial numbers whatever.

(Beat)

BRYAN

Hey. I's thinking maybe we let Dallas have his first sip tonight.

RAUL

(to JEANNIE) Hey Jeannie, "let him have his first sip" he says. Talking about Gordo tonight.

(RAUL and JEANNIE share a laugh; she stands in doorway)

JEANNIE

Gordo already had *sips* with me three times already.

RAUL

Yea, she teach him how ta chase an everything.

BRYAN

Chase? Wow. That's... (pause) Jo...

JOSETTE

(offstage) Yea, they tol'me. An you know, when I asked Dally about it, he don't say nothing. Just grins all embarrassed'like.

JEANNIE

It'll be good for him later, you know, when all the other little kids wanna have their first sip, Gordo will be all experienced. Be like the leader.

BRYAN

...

JEANNIE

What, what is it, mijo?

BRYAN

You thought, what, I didn't wanna have a first drink with my—

RAUL

Hell, when we's little, sonovabitchh used to give us teaspoons uh tequila cuz wanted us ta sleep before it was even dark out. Four in the afternoon an he'd have us eyelids all heavy. First drink don't mean—

BRYAN

Well, I ain't that sonovabitch, okay.

JEANNIE

Hey, me, I'm sorry, mijo. I didn't mean nothing by it. Was just tequila...an Sierra Mist...

(JOSETTE stands in the doorway)

JOSETTE

(to BRYAN) Hey, estupido, what's a matter, why you gettin' all weird for?

BRYAN

Whatever.

JOSETTE

Hey. What is it?

BRYAN

I don't care if it's his first fuckin' black eye, I oughta be there for it. Right in the schoolyard, I don't care. I'd rather Dallas get the shit beat outta him—

JOSETTE

Bry, shut yer mouth.

BRYAN

— just so I could be there when it happens.

JOSETTE

It's tequila and Sierra Mist, we weren't gonna give him that mess anyways. An I swear to God don't you ever say about—

BRYAN

Just so I could grab whatever bully out the schoolyard, grab him by the arm an break it all the way back behind him so he can't move no more—

(JOSETTE physically quiets BRYAN. Tension. Beat)

JEANNIE

So it's settled. No Sierra Mist or Tequila for Dallas. An don't let Bryan near any schoolyards.

JOSETTE

(to BRYAN) Hey. Hey.

BRYAN

Yea, I hear you.

JOSETTE

Good. So sit yer ass down an—

BRYAN

I am, I will—

JOSETTE

I am literally asking you to sit in front of the T.V. and pour alcohol inside you—

BRYAN

Can you not cut me off, please. I—

RAUL

Hey, alright, enough, the two of you.

JOSETTE

Pop, this my marriage, not yours. Stay out of it.

RAUL

I—

JEANNIE

Raul, *cállate*.

(BRYAN starts trying to fix the tree)

BRYAN

I told you, lookit this crooked fucking thing—

JOSETTE

It's fine, don't touch it, you're gonna mess up the—

BRYAN

I'm just trying to get it straight—

JOSETTE

You're gonna make all the bulbs fall off—

RAUL

Coulda done that shit *before* I put the presents around all nice.

JEANNIE

That's nice?

BRYAN

If I can just—

JOSETTE

Leave it.

BRYAN

I will, I—

JOSETTE

The presents are gonna get all wet from the—

BRYAN

Will you let me—

JOSETTE

Leave the fucking tree alone, it's the only fucking Christmas thing in this God fucked house!!!
(All look up at the two invisible children standing in the doorway. Lights out)

scene two

Morning lights on the tiny living room of Angelique, centered by decent television with various DVDs strewn about; there is also a small Christmas tree with little effort. ANGELIQUE is passed out on the couch. She is in party attire. After a moment, she jumps up hungover, looking around; finally finding her phone on the floor. She picks it up and reads several texts. She wanders to the front door and pulls her keys from the outside lock. She tiptoes quickly to an offstage room, we hear a door open, then close. She hurries back into the living room and begins arranging wrapped presents around a small and invisible tree.

She then goes out the front door; we hear a trunk open and then shut. She returns with two shopping bags of already opened gifts. She places them by the wrapped presents at the foot of the tiny tree. She looks at the spread of gifts.

ANGELIQUE

I wish it you'd wake up already, Damien. Got yer Santa presents all ready. From me too. An I didn't really get to see what you got last night. (pause) One uh these Christmases, Damien, I know I'm gonna come out to the living room an you'll have been up for hours so excited; so smiling.

(ANGELIQUE picks up a present)

An you'll look to see Santa's name written.

(ANGELIQUE pretends handing off the present)

An I'll watch you rip it all over; just like boys do. An then you'll open mine up. An show me how you did last night. Shit, I bet you an me have a Christmas just as good as even the ones we see on the T.V..

(ANGELIQUE loses focus; begins to talk with less quiet for somebody sleeping in the other room)

ANGELIQUE(cont)

But I bet yer not even sleeping, are you. What kinda kid sleeps in on... (pause) Could you believe that shit last night? How do they know your Auntie Josette an them didn't just go have Christmas with Bryan's family this year. Es not even that big a deal, okay. (pause) I'm sorry we didn't get to hang out that much last night. Thought you'd at least come downstairs ta watch Efren try an cheat at the poker. Tha's okay though, I know you have fun with yer cousins...same like I used ta have fun with mine. (longer pause) I know you ain't asleep, Damien. I know you can prolly hear me. I want you to wake up, Damien, I want you to get yourself outta bed. Because you're my son. An I don't care what anybody says, I believe what you said to me. That you didn't mean to, that you didn't know what—

(A noise is heard from offstage; ANGELIQUE shakes back to reality)

(to offstage) Hey Damien, get yer ass up already! We need to get ready for mass. (pause) You up?

(We hear movement offstage)

You know some moms an sons don't even get to spend Christmas together, how'd you like that?! C'mon, Up an Adam! An why don't you wear this shirt your Auntie Cathy got you; es nice. (beat) Also, hey, so, Manny's gonna come by later. Did you hear me? That's cool, right, if he comes by? Damien?

(We hear a door open. ANGELIQUE quickly rearranges the presents, holding one in her hands; she does her best to create a smile as her invisible son enters)

Morning, sleepyhead; you ready for yer Christmas?

scene three

Lights up and JOSETTE and BRYAN looking exhausted in the living room. There are strewn about boxes and wrapping paper. In an offstage room, we hear the laughter an exclamation from two children in the glow of Christmas morning.

BRYAN

Tol'you, we ain't gonna see them for hours...

(BRYAN reaches out for JOSETTE playfully/sexually)

An if they do come out, we'll hide under all the wrapping.

JOSETTE

Stoppit.

BRYAN

What, I ain't opened my Christmas yet.

JOSETTE

Well then, you shoulda been at church with us this morning.

BRYAN

Hey, you know I don't sleep that good at church.

JOSETTE

You know if you really wanna be unwrapping me later, you better shape up.

(Beat)

BRYAN

Hey, y'ever think how, as an adult, even with kids, how Christmas kinda...it kinda still just a day, y'know. Twenty-fifth don't change nothin', just a lotta lead'up. Whatever. ...'M goin'back ta sleep.

(BRYAN gets up)

JOSETTE

This morning, I was imagining he was here. In our house. What I'd do if he was just standing in our doorway. I pictured myself screaming at him. So loud that he'd get so scared run out the house. An, me, I run after him. Right into the street. Then this tan Oldsmobile comes from around the corner all fast. So I stop. Right at the curb. An I just watch as it runs him over. I don't scream. I don't do nothin. I just watch. I don't cry. I just stare, looking my look to under the car. I can't even make anything out, but I know what it mean.

BRYAN

What it mean.

JOSETTE

That we could go back to how it was for Dallas. Like before. All cuz some Oldsmobile. Cuz some accident. Cuz it could be so easy, if that kid we can't say the name of would just...get lost under some engine an stain our street.

BRYAN

...well, that's a shit'ton nicer than what I think about.

JOSETTE

Tell me.

BRYAN

Es Christmas.

JOSETTE

Barely. (pause) What if this is just the beginning of things. What if every Christmas Eve is just like last night an I just look like some bitch who cut off her entire family over some stupid—

BRYAN

I'm sure after last night they have at least an idea...

JOSETTE

If everyone *did* find out, *he'd* be the one cut from the family; nobody would let him even in their house—

BRYAN

He'd be like the ghost, you know, in the Ghostbusters poster, with that red line through him.

(She looks at him. Beat)

BRYAN(cont)

We could always spend time with my family.

JOSETTE

Ew. Don't be gross.

(They share a laugh)

BRYAN

Yer family ain't stupid, Jo, they'll know pretty soon it ain't Angie we avoiding.

JOSETTE

So they're gonna find out anyways—

BRYAN

What, you wanna just phone everybody up?

JOSETTE

Maybe that's it, maybe everyone knowing everything, no matter how ugly, it'll just be something we all have to deal with.

BRYAN

...yea.

JOSETTE

What.

BRYAN

No, it's just, Dallas is...starting to act like himself again; an we're gonna what, mess with that—

JOSETTE

Or maybe this is exactly what Dally needs to actually get past all this. Ava too. (pause) Maybe this is—an I can't even believe I'm thinking this, but maybe if the whole family knew, Angie would have to get him some actual help. She'd have to. She couldn't take it everyone talking about him, about her.

BRYAN

So do it then.

JOSETTE

Me?

BRYAN

Hey, this yer family all fucked up around us. Mine at least fucked up at a distance.

JOSETTE

I'd haffta tell Angie first.

BRYAN

What for. You know she just gonna call everybody up an say her side; try an make it look like—

JOSETTE

I'll call her tomorrow.

BRYAN

The twenty-sixth, how thoughtful.

JOSETTE

I'll tell her that I decided, that *we* decided, that all of us should be dealing with as a—

BRYAN

She's goin'say no, she's goin'bitch about how she ain't got nobody, how she—

JOSETTE

Well, I'm goin'do it anyways.

(Beat)

BRYAN

Well. Fuckin'Merry Christmas to us, huh?

(A moment, they share a laugh)

Hey, just imagine how fucked up any Christmas after this haffta be to be as bad as this one. One of us'd haffta like get cancer or some shit—

JOSETTE

Ay, don't talk like that.

BRYAN

Don't hate the flavor, hate the...

JOSETTE

Yer so stupid, you can't even finish what you—

(He reaches for her)

No, stop. I can't. We still gotta clean this place up.

BRYAN

Leave it. I'll get it.

(She looks at him)

I ain't say I'll get it *right now*, but I will. C'mon, you wanna go back to bed?

JOSETTE

What'd I just say—

BRYAN

I wasn't talkin' about that you stupid Mexican; I meant bed. Y'know, like laying horizontal next to each other. Maybe later we can dial it back, make out...like teenagers; do some over-the-clothes action; oh you know, you 'member.

(She smiles)

JOSETTE

"Over-the-clothes." You stupid.

(They share another laugh, then sit in a quiet as they listen to the sounds of their children happily distracted in their Christmas morning. A slight sputter from the Christmas tree lights as lights go out)

scene four

Lights up on ANGELIQUE, dressed in church clothes, getting out of her car. Drives up, RAUL, he steps out of his car. ANGELIQUE holds a plastic red cup.

ANGELIQUE

...morning, Uncle, everything alright?

RAUL

What'd you, catch the eleven o'clock or something.

ANGELIQUE

No, we were at the nine-thirty, but my friend Yaz was having something after...so we went...

RAUL

Damien in the house?

(ANGELIQUE nods)

What's the cup?

ANGELIQUE

...just a cup. Had his soda in it.

RAUL

Yea? Lemme see it.

ANGELIQUE

Uncle, es trash.

RAUL

Alright, so I'll throw it away for you.

(He motions for the cup)

ANGELIQUE

You came over to throw out my trash? Hold on, lemme get the kitchen an the bathroom, you can—

RAUL

Angie, gimme the fuckin' cup.

(She hands it to him; he smells it)

ANGELIQUE

Was a party. Like you never—

RAUL

Hey, last time I looked in the mirror I ain't you.

ANGELIQUE

Course. There's me and then there's everybody else. You all on one side an me on—

RAUL

Wasn't like that last night.

ANGELIQUE

...

RAUL

Christmas Eve an they the whole time by they'selves. Playing just them two, none uh their cousins. Meanwhile Damien get to run all over Madeline's house with—

ANGELIQUE

Look, Uncle, Josette and I got into a—

RAUL

Angie, I look like stupid to you? Huh?

ANGELIQUE

...

RAUL

Now I don't know what about if you an Jo will work things out, but — (pause) Dally an Ava, they deserve to be with their cousins, just like you had growing up. They didn't do nothing.

ANGELIQUE

Oh, but es okay for Damien ta be—

RAUL

Damien *did* do something, didn't he.

ANGELIQUE

Uncle, you only know her side, you only know what she—

RAUL

You got a *side* you wanna tell to me, go on then, tell it.

ANGELIQUE

...what do you want me to—

RAUL

I don't care.

ANGELIQUE

An how about Damien?

RAUL

Who.

ANGELIQUE

Don't be a shit—

RAUL

What about him?

ANGELIQUE

Don't you think he deserve to grow up with his cousins too?

RAUL

I only know what's right. An last night, was some *bullshit*. (pause) Hey, you listening?

ANGELIQUE

...yea.

RAUL

So you heard me?

ANGELIQUE

I said yea.

(RAUL puts the cup back into her hand)

RAUL

An enough with this shit. You think he don't notice? How you gonna feel when he gets his license thinking he can do the same. Kid already uncoordinated as shit, already gonna be driving all Asian all over the place. So knock it off.

ANGELIQUE

I'm sorry, uncle. I'm sorry I fuck everything up, I'm sorry I—

RAUL

Hey, that act only works on boys; an it only work cuz they tryin'ta—

ANGELIQUE

Ew, don't be gross. Es Christmas.

RAUL

Yea, it is. So go inside. Tell Damien I was just checking how the car was running.

ANGELIQUE

Thank you again for replacing the—

RAUL

Yea, yea, yea. Merry Christmas from me an Jeannie, huh. (pause) Hey.

ANGELIQUE

What? What else did I do—

(RAUL hands ANGELIQUE an envelope)

RAUL

Take him somewhere with that. For the day. The two uh you. An I find out you spent it on anything else—

ANGELIQUE

Thank you, Uncle.

RAUL

You get the gifts Jeannie dropped off?

ANGELIQUE

Yea, I tol' him he's gotta call to thank you himself.

RAUL

Yea, well he can thank Jeannie, I didn't pick that shit.

ANGELIQUE

Yer such an asshole.

RAUL

Speaking of, where's Manny at? Thought he was gonna be here with you today.

(ANGELIQUE shrugs)

You two have a fight?

ANGELIQUE

Manny don't fight. Never even raises his voice. It's really fuckin' annoying actually.

RAUL

So, where is he then?

ANGELIQUE

I don't know where he goes, I don't ask.

RAUL

Well, did you call him up an ask him *nice*ly to spend the day with you an—

ANGELIQUE

He knows.

RAUL

He forget what day it is?

ANGELIQUE

Ay, leave him alone.

RAUL

You never know where the hell he been, where he at, never picks up his phone, never—

ANGELIQUE

SO...Merry Christmas then...? To Auntie too.

RAUL

What about her.

ANGELIQUE

Uh, tell her Merry Christmas for me...???

RAUL

...alright, go be with yer son. An lemme know where you take him. Maybe Jeannie'll go with you.

(RAUL gets back into his car and drives off. ANGELIQUE stands in the driveway; she hears something. She looks slightly offstage, squinting; finally spotting something)

ANGELIQUE

...Manny? Hey, Manny, I can see your feet, you know. Yer so fuckin' weird sometimes.

(ANGELIQUE looks up an down the street)

Hey, where's your car at? You didn't lose it again, did you. (pause) Alright, well, I'm cold, I'm going back in the house. You come in when yer done playing hide an seek or whatever yer doin'.

(ANGELIQUE rolls her eyes, goes back towards the house. Lights out)

scene five

Lights up on RAUL driving. In the backseat is JEANNIE, she looks out the window.

RAUL

Y'know you're just right there on the border of me havin' to take you to a mental doctor. Lookit you, hiding out from yer brother's kid like some—

JEANNIE

Stoppit.

RAUL

Nah, for reals, this like celebrity rehab kinda shit.

JEANNIE

Ay, I just didn't want her ta feel like we were ganging up on her. How you think it woulda looked if we both got out the car to—

RAUL

So why didn't you just stay home???

JEANNIE

Cuz. I still wanted to listen.

RAUL

What, I ain't reliable?

JEANNIE

You wouldn't tol' me nothing.

(RAUL scoffs)

Everyone think you never-shut-up. And you don't. 'Cept when yer at home.

RAUL

I talk when needs talkin.

JEANNIE

Fine. From now on I'll screw when needs screwin'.

(They fall into a laugh. Beat)

RAUL

So...??

JEANNIE

What?

RAUL

What you mean what? You hide out in the back seat an now you don't wanna say nothing?

JEANNIE

I just hope Manny goes to her.

RAUL

He'll prolly show up the middle of the night. Carrying a used Christmas tree or a buncha them free sandwiches he always talkin' about from one uh the shelters downtown.

JEANNIE

Ay, why you gotta pick on him all the time for.

RAUL

Something goin' on with that guy. Where's he go all the time?

JEANNIE

He works.

RAUL

Works where? An how come even Angelique can't ever tell us what it is he do.

JEANNIE

Prolly she's embarrassed. Maybe he works in a kitchen or something. You ever look at his hands. They working hands.

RAUL

Prolly he's got some whole other life. Whole other... (pause) Hey, wouldn't it be funny if in his other life, Manny like this put'together guy, high-paying job, nice'ass house

JEANNIE

Not every one have secret families all over the place. (pause) I like Manny.

RAUL

A man wouldn't be away this much. Not without telling anyone how come. So he either don't really love her or he got something else in his life, something—

JEANNIE

Or maybe he just careful.

RAUL

What careful?

JEANNIE

Maybe Angelique don't really love Manny. Maybe Manny stay away cuz it hurt to be around somebody what don't love you back. (pause) But for truth...I wish you'd look at me the way Manny look at Angelique sometimes.

RAUL

What, all confused?

(JEANNIE gets lost in the window)

Hey, Jeannie. (pause) Jeannie...?

JEANNIE

What, I'm sorry, I wasn't listening.

RAUL

How does Manny look at her?

JEANNIE

Oh. ...like he believes in her.

(JEANNIE looks back lost in the window; RAUL watches her)

scene six

Later that night. ANGELIQUE sits laughing on the couch with MANNY, rough, tattooed. It's difficult to tell what age he is. They drink. The T.V. is on.

ANGELIQUE

What'd I tell you, see that, yer a punk.

MANNY

Yo, who you callin' a punk, eh?

ANGELIQUE

Me, I'm callin' you that, fool. C'mon, here—

(ANGELIQUE tries putting her drink to MANNY's lips, he pushes it away, some spills on the couch)

MANNY

Ay, see that!

ANGELIQUE

'S your fault. If you'd just take a drink like a actual man, then I wouldn't have to—

MANNY

Hey, es your couch, wha'do I care.

ANGELIQUE

You *better* care, cuz this couch is the only thing yer gettin' anything on tonight.

MANNY

(quieter) Hey, ease up, huh.

ANGELIQUE

What.

MANNY

You're being kinda loud, don't you think.

(ANGELIQUE grabs the remote, raises the volume)

ANGELIQUE

There, you happy?

MANNY

Me, I always happy.

ANGELIQUE

You are not.

MANNY

Sure I is. Tell one time you seen I didn't have a good time. Shit, I turn any motherfucker into a blow out.

ANGELIQUE

Hey, no bad words.

MANNY

What??? You got the worst mouth I ever—

ANGELIQUE

You really wanna be saying something bad about my mouth tonight, do you, hmmm?

MANNY

(quieter) Will you cut that shit. He can hear you.

(ANGELIQUE speaks to somebody sitting in front of the T.V.)

ANGELIQUE

(to invisible son) Hey, Damien, yer not listening right?

(ANGELIQUE mutes the T.V.)

Right?

(ANGELIQUE listens for his response, then puts the sound back)

See, he so wrapped up in that shit he don't care how we do.

MANNY

And how we do?

ANGELIQUE

We watching T.V. with my son. Why what'd you come over for, huh? (pause) Tell me.

MANNY

Es Christmas.

ANGELIQUE

Yea, so.

MANNY

So wha'dyou mean 'so'?

ANGELIQUE

What'd you come over here for then?

MANNY

Damn, you on fire tonight. You always so hot Christmas night?

ANGELIQUE

I dunno, why don't you stick around for next year an take my temperature.

MANNY

C'mere, lay back—

ANGELIQUE

Hey, I'm trying to watch T.V.

MANNY

Tha's what I'm trying to get you to do.

ANGELIQUE

No you're not. You're trying to lure me to do bad things, unforgivable things. Me, I'm just trying to watch the—

MANNY

Yea, what's on then. Without looking. Tell me.

ANGELIQUE

...

MANNY

Well, tell me.

ANGELIQUE

Don't tell me what to do, I don't like it.

MANNY

I ain't tellin' you what to do, I'm just askin' if you even know what your son is even watching that we're here sittin' with him for.

ANGELIQUE

Hey, I know what my son is watching, okay.

MANNY

Aaight, aaight, you don't gotta be all—

ANGELIQUE

All what? I ain't all anything. I'm just me. Sitting here. Trying to get on a little drink so I can enjoy my Christmas. Why *you* gotta be all? Look at you. Sitting there nursing shit like some fuckin'...nurse.

MANNY

...I gotta drive in a bit.

ANGELIQUE

What you gotta drive in a bit??? You walked here, remember idiot?

MANNY

Don't call me that.

ANGELIQUE

Why.

MANNY

Why what?

ANGELIQUE

Why shouldn't I call you that. Idiot. Yer the one can't even remember you walked here.

MANNY

I parked up the street. Cuz I wanted to surprise you. But then yer uncle came an I didn't know what to do.

ANGELIQUE

So you just stayed there in the bushes like the fuckin' Night Stalker?

MANNY

Night what???

ANGELIQUE

You know, Richard fuckin' Ramierez; fuckin' the Night Stalker.

MANNY

I don't know who that is.

ANGELIQUE

His creepy fuckin' sketch was like the most famous...remember, he had those eyes...

MANNY

I don't see things like that.

ANGELIQUE

You don't *see* things like that???

MANNY

...

ANGELIQUE

Awh, what're you too sensitive for bad things, huh? You little frightened bitch in the corner?

(MANNY returns to the TV)

If you want I can tell Damien to put on some cartoons. Hey, Damien—

(MANNY urges her to be quiet. Beat)

...where you gotta *drive* to anyways. You ain't got nowhere to go. Nobody invited you anywhere. 'Cept *me*. Where you got to drive to? Huh? Tell me.

MANNY

Nowhere. Just my house.

ANGELIQUE

What your house? Yer barely even at yer house, what d'you gotta go to yer house for. Shit, this prolly more yer house than—

MANNY

No, this you an Damien's house.

ANGELIQUE

An what the fuck's that supposed to mean? (pause) Huh? (pause) Don't get all quiet now, what's that supposed to mean.

MANNY

Can we just watch? With your son.

ANGELIQUE

Why you keep saying shit like that!

(ANGELIQUE stands up in confrontation; MANNY tries to get her to sit back down; she pushes him off hard)

Damien, go in the other room.

(The TV shuts off quickly. We hear a door shut offstage)

Don't you ever put your hands on—

MANNY

I's just trying to stop you from—

ANGELIQUE

Do you even know why you're here? Do you? I don't need you to surprise me okay? I don't need you to be all playful or whatever you think. Yer no fucking saint, yer just my fucking present. Did you know that? Yea, see I didn't get much of anything this year, an *tha's* how come yer here. So I could at least open something the fuck up. So I can at least forget; for a little goddamned while. An what the fuck, you can't even let me do that?

MANNY

Es supposed to be Christmas, es supposed to be his day, not yers.

(ANGELIQUE tosses the liquid of her drink at him)

ANGELIQUE

Least I'm not the asshole who shows up at some bitch's house to get his dick wet on fucking Christmas; *when* her fucking son is home.

MANNY

You know—

ANGELIQUE

No, I don't know. Idiot.

MANNY

Man, I wasn't gonna say anything. But for truth, I came over here because I thought maybe you were feeling lonely, and that yea, maybe you thought Damien might could use with some extra company besides you to watch TV with. I *thought* you invited me over for his sake. But then I get here, an just from your breath I know that ain't the reason you texted me. So go on then, I wouldn't wanna get in the way of this Christmas you had planned all special. This year especially.

(to offstage) Hey Damien, I'm headed out, yo. Merry Christmas an all that. I don't know when I'll see ya, so hope you have a good New Years too.

(MANNY exits. ANGELIQUE sits with herself for a few moments; then turns on the TV)

ANGELIQUE

(to offstage) Damien, what were you watching? (pause) C'mon, maybe there's a movie on. What's that one you like? C'mon, I'll even watch it with you, I won't make fun, I promise...

(Sounds of a radio being turned on offstage)

Okay... I guess I'll just watch it by my...

(ANGELIQUE trails off. She sits staring at the screen. She tries changing a channel, but immediately just lets the clicker fall without a care. She looks around, picks up the house phone instead. She dials a number by heart)

ANGELIQUE(cont)

(into phone) Hey Diego, lemme talk to Madeline. Thanks. (longer pause) Hey, no, no everything's alright. (pause) Yea, course Manny's here, we all just watching TV...(pause) Madeline, look, so...me an Jo, we didn't really have a fight about the property or whatever...

(Lights dim as ANGELIQUE continues speaking)

scene seven

JOSETTE and BRYAN on the couch; she stares blankly at a quiet television, while he tries to figure out a tablet. The house phone rings, they both startle. JOSETTE answers it.

JOSETTE

(into phone) Mom? What is it, what's wrong? (pause) WHAT?

(Josette's mobile begins to ring, BRYAN picks it up)

(into phone) Wait, hold on.

(to BRYAN) Who is that?

BRYAN

(to JOSETTE) It's Madeline.

JOSETTE

(into phone) Shit, Madeline is calling. Angie must've told *everybody*.

BRYAN

(to JOSETTE) So, what do I tell her?

(JOSETTE motions him to hold on)

JOSETTE

(into phone) Mom, what do I do?

BRYAN

(to JOSETTE) Can't I just tell her you're asleep?

JOSETTE

(into phone) Mom, what am I gonna do, I don't even know how to— (pause) Okay, okay, I will. Uh huh. Kay.

(to BRYAN) Tell her we were sleeping and I'll call her first thing.

(JOSETTE hangs up then watches BRYAN handle the phone call)

BRYAN

(into phone) Hey Madeline, actually you know what, I was out here watching T.V., an I just went in to get her for you and yea, she's snoring up a shitstorm. You know how she is. (pause) Yea, she was up way ass early dealin' with the Santa presents an all that. I'll have her call you when she wakes. (pause) What? (pause) No, pretty normal; good Christmas. We missed you too. I'll have her— (pause) Alright, yea. Merry Christmas. (pause) K. Thanks. Alright, g'night.

(He hangs up)

JOSETTE

Wha'd she say?

(JOSETTE's mobile rings, she looks at it)

Shit.

BRYAN

Who is it?

JOSETTE

Cathy.

(The house phone rings)

Don't answer it!

BRYAN

No shit.

(He turns the ringer off, then silences her mobile)

Let's just leave'em. They can leave messages all night if they have to. We'll answer when we know how to.

(JOSETTE goes to him; she cries)

JOSETTE

They're all thinking about Dally right now. Everyone is thinking about him like that. I don't want them, I don't want anyone thinking about him like that. I don't care who they are...

BRYAN

C'mon, we'll figure it out for tomorrow.

JOSETTE

I can't sleep knowing what they're thinking about him.

(BRYAN shuts the TV off)

BRYAN

I know, I know.

(They hold each other on the couch, lit by the Christmas tree. We see the flashing of Josette's phone, then Bryan's; BRYAN quickly gets up and covers them both up)

JOSETTE

Do you think that...

BRYAN

What?

JOSETTE

Do you think that people know?

BRYAN

Know what?

JOSETTE

Don't you ever kinda know when people are talking about you, or thinking things about you. Like you can feel it in your guilt, in your worry.

BRYAN

No. I don't think that. That's just nerves an we *think* we feel that shit, but it's all just nerves.

JOSETTE

I can feel them. All of them. The entire family. I can feel them right now.

BRYAN

Well, maybe you can. But Dallas can't.

JOSETTE

I won't let him. I'll feel everything for him instead. So he won't have to

BRYAN

Don't worry, nobody can hurt him, nobody can—

JOSETTE

There isn't anybody who can get to him, I won't let anybody get to him again ever.

(JOSETTE begins crying, BRYAN comforts her. In the darkness we hear the repeated vibrating of a mobile phone, the vibration intensifies as though it is a force from the Earth, as though the middle horrific notes of an earthquake. The house shakes, fixtures begin to rattle, windows crack, items fall. BRYAN covers JOSETTE as she cries through it all. Lights to black)

scene eight

In the darkness we hear/feel Angelique's house settle. Soon it is lit by the flickering of the small Christmas tree and we see ANGELIQUE asleep on the couch under a blanket.

Just as the house comes to stillness, a strange sound is heard; like tree branches cracking very fast. ANGELIQUE stirs. Suddenly an enormously loud crash is heard and felt from on top of the house. ANGELIQUE leaps up and rushes instinctively to an offstage bedroom.

We hear a door close offstage. ANGELIQUE returns to the living room whispering into her mobile; looking up at the ceiling. She hangs up, then goes to the kitchen and returns with a flashlight. She goes out the front door and we see her flash light moving around. A few moments. A gasp from ANGELIQUE. The flashlight becomes erratic. ANGELIQUE enters as though she's seen a ghost. ANGELIQUE locks the front door, then backsteps towards the kitchen. She checks the time on her mobile. A few moments of her waiting. She puts on some Christmas music very light and grabs a hammer. End of ACT ONE)

Act Two
scene nine

Back inside Angelique's living room, she sits nervously holding the hammer. We hear a car pulling up. Enter RAUL, he looks frantic, just out of bed, and holds a baseball bat. They speak discreetly)

RAUL

Alright, you stay inside. Lock the door.

(RAUL grabs the flashlight and exits; we see the flashlight moving up the house)

RAUL(cont)

(offstage) ...what the shit?

(ANGELIQUE opens up the door)

ANGELIQUE

What, what is it?

RAUL

(offstage) Keep the door shut!

(ANGELIQUE closes the door. We see the flashlight move away from the roof, we hear RAUL going around back. ANGELIQUE moves to the kitchen, looking out the back window. We hear rickety metal being carried to the front of the house. We see the flashlight return to the roof and we see the silhouette of a large, metal ladder being placed against the front of the house. RAUL begins to climb it. We hear footsteps on the roof. ANGELIQUE worriedly grabs the hammer; looking up at the ceiling. We hear something metallic being dragged across the roof. We see something fall past in the window followed by the crash of loose metal falling onto front grass. We then hear/see RAUL climbing very slowly back down the ladder. A few moments of ANGELIQUE staring out the living room window, unable to make out what she is seeing. A few moments before she unlocks the door and RAUL re'enters, he looks a bit exhausted and strange)

ANGELIQUE

Well the hell's all that—

(He walks to the kitchen and returns with a 2-liter of Sierra Mist and a bottle of mid-level tequila; he makes himself a drink and downs it, then makes another. ANGELIQUE stares at him)

Uncle...what're you—are you gonna tell me what's all that on the—

RAUL

... 'm not sure I know.

ANGELIQUE

Wha'dyou mean yer not sure you—

RAUL

It's...got red.

ANGELIQUE

What, red like blood, oh God is it an animal.

RAUL

Nah. Es heavy. There's all this metal. Then there's this...

ANGELIQUE

What, what?

RAUL

Thing.

ANGELIQUE

What thing?

RAUL

It's all wrapped up, all tight, like in a blanket.

ANGELIQUE

Well, how'd it get up there???

(RAUL looks at her)

ANGELIQUE(cont)

What? What is it?

RAUL

Looks like it fell.

ANGELIQUE

Fell???

RAUL

Like it crashed. Onto yer roof.

ANGELIQUE

What is this, why do you sound like that?

RAUL

Like what?

ANGELIQUE

Like...weird.

RAUL

What did you hear, when you heard it?

ANGELIQUE

Just...loud. Like a crash. I don't understand, what does *it*—

RAUL

I dunno. But es all painted'up; like gloss.

(ANGELIQUE grabs the flashlight and exits)

(offstage) ...what the fuck...? Uncle, come help me with this...

(RAUL joins her outside. A few moments. They both enter carrying something wrapped in a dirty red blanket; they lay it carefully on the couch. RAUL stands above her as she unwraps it a bit. They both stare.

ANGELIQUE wells up, RAUL comforts her. Both look down at the unwrapped something on the couch. Lights out)

scene ten

BRYAN and JOSETTE asleep on the couch.
Bryan's phone vibrates; it wakes him, he looks at it
oddly, then nudges JOSETTE, then nudges her
again.

JOSETTE

No you can't put it anywhere I'm sleeping!

BRYAN

Yer mom just *texted*.

(JOSETTE sits up a bit; confused. BRYAN shows his phone)

JOSETTE

...she *texted*...?

BRYAN

Says she's outside.

JOSETTE

Outside???

(JOSETTE gets up and quietly open the front door, enter JEANNIE. She walks
inside casually. They both stare at her)

Uh, mom...???

JEANNIE

Yea, I'm here.

JOSETTE

What're you—

JEANNIE

Didn't you read my texts?

BRYAN

Well, there were three of them. The first two were...I dunno.

(JEANNIE pulls her mobile)

JOSETTE

Mom, nevermind the texts. What is it.

JEANNIE

I dunno, Angie call Raul that something happened, so he went over. Then he call me from her house an say that something funny happened over there and I should come over here to make sure you two an the kids are alright.

JOSETTE

Something funny happened at Angie's so you should come here???

BRYAN

He's over at Angie's now?

(JEANNIE goes to the back window by the kitchen)

JEANNIE

Yea, you could prolly see him if you two didn't put that fence so high.

JOSETTE

I don't understand, what *funny* happened at Angie's?

BRYAN

Is she alright?

JEANNIE

Well, she called *him* an not the police so es prolly not a that bad a funny.

JOSETTE

Mom, you could've just called to see if we were alright.

JEANNIE

Raul tol'me I had to come.

BRYAN

If he's at Angie's he coulda just checked on us himself.

JOSETTE

Is he really at Angie's, or did you two have a fight?

JEANNIE

You want me to warm a plate?

BRYAN

Jeannie, why did Raul want you to come over here. Is there something wrong at your house?

JEANNIE

Ay, no. I already told you, first Angie call him an then—

JOSETTE

Alright, alright. I get it, I got it. So, what, yer just gonna...wait here all night?

(BRYAN gets JEANNIE tequila, a bottle of Sprite, and a glass with ice)

BRYAN

Maybe I should go over there and see what—

JEANNIE

How's the kids?

JOSETTE

The kids are asleep, Mom, how else would they be.

BRYAN

He's probably just worried, an didn't want her at the house by herself.

JOSETTE

She's always at the house by herself.

JEANNIE

I dunno. He sounded pretty funny when he called.

JOSETTE

Okay, did he actually use the word 'funny,' or is that you saying that?

(JEANNIE takes her drink to the back window)

JEANNIE

...still funny...that she bought the house right behind you. I used to think maybe you two should just not have that fence. Just have one yard for the kids all to run around in. We could have all the get'togethers right out there. Like our own little park just for us. Never haffta save for tables or get looks for being loud. We could even put music.

JOSETTE

Mom. (pause) Mom, how long do you think he'll be? Did he say?

(JEANNIE sees something, tries to get a better view)

JEANNIE

Hey, what's that?

BRYAN

What?

(Both BRYAN and JOSETTE look to where she is looking.
JEANNIE walks to the back window and looks up)

JEANNIE

In the tree...there.

BRYAN

Where?

(JEANNIE points)

JOSETTE

Mom, there is nothing—

BRYAN

You mean right there...?

JOSETTE

Where. How can you even see, it's completely dark out—

BRYAN

Up there. See. It's like...dangling.

(All stare a few moments. BRYAN moves to the kitchen)

JOSETTE

Bry, what're—

JEANNIE

I should call Raul.

JOSETTE

Mom. No. Relax.

(BRYAN reenters with a flashlight and a baseball bat)

JEANNIE

Yip. Definitely calling.

(JOSETTE takes JEANNIE's mobile and walks after BRYAN. JEANNIE calmly walks to the house phone and begins dialing)

JOSETTE

(to BRYAN) Um, what are you doing???

BRYAN

I'm gonna check it out.

JOSETTE

Check what out.

BRYAN

Whatever's out there.

JOSETTE

Whatever's out there??? This isn't a horror movie, okay, we have kids.

BRYAN

"I'll be right back."

(BRYAN exits)

JOSETTE

Yer not tough!

(JEANNIE hangs up)

What was that? Did you just call Dad?

(JEANNIE nods casually, fixes another drink)

What is the matter with you.

JEANNIE

He still sounded funny. This is funny.

JOSETTE

How is this funny?

JEANNIE

Not funny like...but...funny.

(JOSETTE looks out the back window)

JOSETTE

What is he doing?

JEANNIE

Looks like he's trying to touch it with the bat.

JOSETTE

Touch what? How can you even see out there?

JEANNIE

You never had good eyes.

JOSETTE

I see fine.

JEANNIE

I mean at night. You never saw good.

JOSETTE
What're you talking about, I—

JEANNIE
No, even when you were little, I had to get real close before you realized it was me. At night.

JOSETTE
Yer old.

JEANNIE
Oh, look, see, he got it.

JOSETTE
Got what?

JEANNIE
See, you can't see. At night.

JOSETTE
Got what?

JEANNIE
Whatever's in the tree. He's moving it around with the bat.

JOSETTE
Why is he doing that.

JEANNIE
Prolly he wants to see what it is.

(JOSETTE glares at JEANNIE)

JOSETTE
Fine, what's happening now?

JEANNIE
Almost. Aht, yea, think its gonna...

JOSETTE
Gonna what?

(We hear a dumping of metal landing on dirt)

JOSETTE(cont)

The hell was that? Is he okay?

JEANNIE

Yea, yea, yea, he's still there. But whatever it is, it fell.

JOSETTE

I'm gonna go out there.

JEANNIE

No, Dad said.

JOSETTE

Said about what?

JEANNIE

Not going outside.

JOSETTE

Did you start medication, why're you—

JEANNIE

Ay, I just told him that something was happening outside in yer tree and he said whatever we do *do not* go outside.

JOSETTE

And this was right before you stood there an watched my husband go outside?

JEANNIE

Yea, uh huh, right then.

(Enter BRYAN. He looks odd. He sets the bat down and fixes himself a Sprite and tequila, he downs it)

JOSETTE

Well???

BRYAN
Well, it's down.

JOSETTE
What is, what's down?

BRYAN
From the tree.

JOSETTE
Is everyone in this family fucking catatonic???

BRYAN
It's all...red.

JEANNIE
Red's not good.

JOSETTE
What do you mean, red? Like blood? Is it an animal???

BRYAN
No, its...part of something, I don't know. Like a piece of something.

JEANNIE
Raul said whatever it is, not to mess with it too much.

BRYAN
You told Raul?

JEANNIE
Yea, he said not to mess with it too much. Geez.

JOSETTE
ButWhatTheFuckIsIt!?!

BRYAN
Well, it's metal. Or partially metal anyways. There's also some material mixed in.

JOSETTE

Mixed in???

BRYAN

Well, it's all tangled or—

JOSETTE

Does it look like *anything* resembling *anything*???

BRYAN

Funny thing.

JOSETTE

I swear to God I'm gonna shoot somebody.

BRYAN

There's these brass things. Attached. They're all smashed, but I can see them still attached. All dented.

(BRYAN takes a drink)

JOSETTE

(to both) Do you have any idea what time it is, do you have any idea what kinda day this has been for me? Do you?

BRYAN

Jo, I ain't messing. Go outside.

JEANNIE

No, Raul said not to.

BRYAN

I can drag part of it in here if you want.

JEANNIE

Ay, I know I always say not to listen to Raul, but this time we should.

BRYAN

It's right there, you can see it from here.

JOSETTE

...whatever you two are doing is not fucking amusing. I swear to God...

BRYAN

Fine. You can look in the morning. I'll go out there with you.

JOSETTE

I'm calling Dad.

(JOSETTE dials on JEANNIE's mobile)

(into phone) Pop? No, it's me. Are you really at Angie's— (pause) Wait, what? (pause) Wha'dyou mean you can't talk about it??? (pause) Yea, he did. He says its metal and its part of something. He's a fucking genius. (pause) Unh-huh. (pause) And where is Angie now? Can I talk to her? (pause) Can't talk??? How convenient. (pause) Oh, you have to go, unh-huh, sure, okay, you go....do whatever.

(She hangs up, then looks between BRYAN and JEANNIE)

(to both) Well, whatever this is, my head is shit. And today was godawful.

(JOSETTE moves to leave, but takes a quick pull of tequila first, then exits. JEANNIE and BRYAN look at one another)

BRYAN

...you didn't have anything to do with that thing out—
Nevermind. Stupid question. What else did Raul say?

JEANNIE

He sounded like how you sound.

BRYAN

Sound how.

JEANNIE

Funny.

(They say nothing more. They drink in silence. Looking out the window.
A few moments. Then... a movement is heard coming from the roof;

both JEANNIE and BRYAN look upward. We hear the clear sound of slow footsteps walking across the roof.

Re'enter JOSETTE, who is looking up at the roof; her walking is in perfect synch with the footsteps as she moves towards JEANNIE and BRYAN; it almost feels as though they are connected. Once JOSETTE is with JEANNIE and BRYAN at the glass doors by the kitchen, the footsteps stop. All three look at one another.

Through sound and movement in the glass, we see somebody climbing down the side of the house from the roof. BRYAN backs JEANNIE and JOSETTE up, looking for a weapon of some sort. We hear a person land just outside of the glass doors. The glass doors begin to open. BRYAN tries to push JOSETTE and JEANNIE back away, but they are transfixed; nobody can speak. The glass doors open, a slight hint of smoke and dust enters the house, we see the silhouette of a man standing in the darkness of the doorway. He enters.

Into the light of the kitchen, enter MANNY, all tore up; he wears the same clothes we saw him in last, however there are scraps of a red velvet coat barely hanging on, and black boots all scuffed up. His face is scraped up and his eyes look dizzy. He stumbles in and falls to the floor. JOSETTE and BRYAN rush to him)

MANNY

...water...

(BRYAN rushes to the kitchen. JEANNIE backs her way to the front door and slips out. Lights out)

scene eleven

ANGELIQUE still kneeling by the unwrapped something on the couch; with RAUL behind her. A few moments, before we hear running up the walkway, enter JEANNIE. Only RAUL notices, he waves her to him; he pulls her into his arms; holding her close as she tries to look at what is in the blanket on the couch.

RAUL and JEANNIE speak softly; respectfully.
ANGELIQUE pays no mind.

JEANNIE

...what is it?

RAUL

Es...a boy. Looks like a boy anyways. See how he's carved. But lookit how the wood is cracked right up the side like that. Musta fell from I dunno how far.

JEANNIE

Fell from where?

RAUL

I'll go up there in the morning.

JEANNIE

Jo got something in her tree back there. Was stuck in the branches. Bry said it was metal. Red.
(pause) Oh, and Manny come down off the roof too.

(All attention on JEANNIE)

ANGELIQUE

What?

RAUL

Come down how?

JEANNIE

Like...the falling kind.

ANGELIQUE

Fell from where?

JEANNIE

Somewhere higher up I guess.

ANGELIQUE

Is he hurt???

JEANNIE

Probably. But then I came here.

(ANGELIQUE re'wraps the blanket, gets up)

You two go, go on. I'll stay here in case Damien wakes. Go.

(RAUL pulls ANGELIQUE with him and they exit. JEANNIE peaks into the blanket. She sits by it and runs her hand along the damage. Lights out)

scene twelve

JOSETTE tends to MANNY, giving him sips of water. BRYAN re'enters with antiseptic; he hands it to JOSETTE who begins applying it to MANNY's face.

JOSETTE

Are you sure there's nothing hurting inside; nothing feels like it might be broke or—

BRYAN

Do you wanna try moving your arms an legs, just to see—

JOSETTE

I think we should just take him to the emergency room anyways; what if he can't tell, what if—

MANNY

nah...I'm okay.

BRYAN

You sure—

JOSETTE

But you don't know, you could be—

MANNY

Awh, I been gutted worse than this an still went to work after.

JOSETTE

Manny.

MANNY

Hey, I'm good even after the worst kinda thangs. Tha's jus'how I do.

BRYAN

What the hell happened??? What the hell were you even—

(Enter RAUL and ANGELIQUE, who rushes to MANNY)

ANGELIQUE

Manny, omigod, are you okay, where are you hurt? C'mon, show me.

MANNY

I guess all over, but not that bad.

RAUL

Wha'dya mean 'not that bad'? Look at you. You look like you fell off the—

(MANNY tries to get up, everyone tries to stop him)

ANGELIQUE and JOSETTE

Whoa, whoa, whoa!

RAUL

Don't try nothing, just stay down, huh.

MANNY

Es okay, I can—

(MANNY pulls himself up onto a chair. ANGELIQUE and JOSETTE help him; awkward moment between them)

JOSETTE

Here, drink some more water.

ANGELIQUE

Bryan, can he have something else to drink? (pause) For the pain.

(BRYAN moves to get something)

MANNY

No, es okay. I don't need nothin'. Actually, I kinda like it. How it feels. Adrenaline helps. Lotsa times...I don't even need to drink nothin'. Even on holidays. I just get a like *natural* thing that happens.

ANGELIQUE

Manny, what're you talking about.

MANNY

I dunno what it is. Ever since I was a kid. Every holiday, I'm just...good. Es like when you go to Vegas when yer still little. All the lights. The ringing from the machine slots.

ANGELIQUE

Manny, nobody has a clue what you're even talking about.

MANNY

Just that I don't need anything to drink for my hurt.

JOSETTE

I think you need to take him to the emergency room, what if he has a concussion.

RAUL

You hit yer head at all?

(MANNY shakes his head)

MANNY

Landed on my legs, I think.

BRYAN

Landed???

RAUL

Manny, yer face is all—

MANNY

Nah, es just cut up from the things piling up on me.

JOSETTE

What piling up on you?

RAUL

How'd you even get up there?

BRYAN

Was that stuff in the trees, was that from you???

ANGELIQUE

What stuff in the trees?

BRYAN

Was all caught up in the branches; the ones that hang on both sides.

ANGELIQUE

...was it red colored?

BRYAN

Yea. It was.

(All look at MANNY)

ANGELIQUE

Manny, the shit's going on? What were you doing up in our tree, is, is the stuff on my roof from you?

(MANNY stands up on his own; everyone stares)

JOSETTE

What...what are you wearing?

MANNY

I'm sorry. I'll take care of it. All of it. I'm sorry.

ANGELIQUE

Take care of what?

MANNY

From the roofs. An the trees. Both houses.

JOSETTE

What from the roofs, what's in the trees?

ANGELIQUE

Manny, the shit is going on???

RAUL

Hey, Manuel, people talking to you.

MANNY

Do you think, do you think that maybe I could use your bathroom? The sinkwater. My face. A towel would be soft.

BRYAN

Of course. It's back down on the left.

MANNY

Thank you.

(JOSETTE and BRYAN move to guide him, but MANNY assures them he's a survivor; all watch as he exits. A moment)

BRYAN

Angie, what'd you hear on your roof, did you see anything? (pause) Angelique.

JOSETTE

Angie, Bry's talking to you.

RAUL

Easy, Jo.

ANGELIQUE

...no...no I ain't see nothing. Just I heard.

BRYAN

Heard what?

ANGELIQUE

...was a crash. I...I didn't know what. Thought like it was some intruder. Or even some piece of a star. How the fuck should I know what—

BRYAN

So what, he was in the trees trying to get over to your roof???

JOSETTE

What the hell would he be trying to—

RAUL

(to ANGELIQUE) Something off with him, mija.

BRYAN

Maybe I stand outside the bathroom, in case he—

RAUL

Let him be.

JOSETTE

Where's mom.

RAUL

She stayed in case Damien woke up.

JOSETTE

How could he not wake up.

BRYAN

Same what ours are prolly doing, pretending to be asleep.

JOSETTE

I'll go.

(JOSETTE hurriedly exits to an offstage bedroom)

BRYAN

Raul, what d'you think all this is?

RAUL

I dunno, mijo. I really don't.

ANGELIQUE

Uncle, you know I was never scared for Manny; eventhough how he act. But what if something wrong with him, like in his mind wrong.

RAUL

We're all worried, mija.

BRYAN

Shouldn't someone call his family?

ANGELIQUE

He don't really got one. Not like us, I mean.

RAUL

He'll be out right now.

ANGELIQUE

But I think tha's what's worrying me.

BRYAN

What.

ANGELIQUE

Wha's he been doing all these years? This year he was with me, but how about all those years growing up on his own or whatever; what'd he do when he was little?

BRYAN

What happened to his family?

ANGELIQUE

He don't like to talk about it. But it was bad. I think.

BRYAN

Bad how?

ANGELIQUE

I dunno.

Uncle, you think he alright?

RAUL

Shit, I coulda tol'you he been through something from when you first brought him to the house. His eyes don't look even towards you when he talk. *If* he talk. His limbs all fucked up. Shit, he walked funny even before this. An how he always laugh all outta nowhere, when nobody even talking to him. Then when you ask him what, he just shake his head like he from a different language.

ANGELIQUE

You don't think he...he'd like come apart or lose his—

BRYAN

Hey. He's just in the bathroom, washing up, he'll be—

ANGELIQUE

Uncle?

RAUL

If he don't come out right now, I'll go check on him, make sure he not...

BRYAN

Me too.

ANGELIQUE

We'd hear him right? If anything was wrong. If he wasn't alright.

(BRYAN and RAUL head reluctantly offstage to the bathroom.
ANGELIQUE looks around the house; she looks uncomfortable. She
pulls her phone and dials. Lights out)

scene thirteen

JEANNIE sits comforting the wooden boy in the blanket. Her mobile vibrates, she answers it softly.

JEANNIE

(into phone) Hey. (pause) No, I can hear him snoring back in his room. (pause) You okay, mija? (pause) Okay, okay, I'm doing it right now, k?

(JEANNIE keeps the phone to her ear as she walks to an offstage bedroom. We hear a door open, we hear a child's soft snore; a few moments. Then we hear a door close, and JEANNIE re'enters the living room)

Yea, he's completely out. Hogging up all the bed (pause) Yes, mija, I'm sure. (pause) Yes, I saw his face; he's lying on his back all sprawled everywhere. (pause) Yes, I'll keep checking. (pause) How's Manny? (pause) Oh. Well, don't worry, mija; you got yer uncle an Bryan there, an— (pause) I like Manny. Even that time you first brought him around. Even with him so quiet, I liked him already. Know how come? (pause) Cuz he drove. (pause) Yea, we were at Efren's an I kept watching the entire time, he was pretending to drink with us, but really he was just sipping. An I tol'myself, if he takes Angie's keys and drives her home, then I like him. An that's what he did. Don't worry, mija, I don't know about all this, but I know Manny something brighter than what people think. (pause) K. Just let me know. (pause) Bye bye.

(JEANNIE hangs up. She looks around the living room. She goes and finds the plug for the Christmas tree, she lights it. The room turns extraordinary. JEANNIE delicately unwraps the blanket and sits up a cheaply carved wooden figure on the couch; which, in that light, resembles a boy; she gets lost staring at it; then almost without her knowing begins to speak)

If Josette was a boy I was gonna name her Damien. After Father Damien, who went ta live with the lepers. D'you know what lepers is? (pause) Lepers is when the skin gets sick an begins to fall off. And if you get near somebody who's a leper then you become one too. And so all the lepers were kept on Molokai; tha's an island. That way nobody else could get the sick. But Father Damien, he didn't care. He went to Molokai to be with them anyways. An pretty soon he was a leper too. I tol'yer Mama an Josetty that story when they was real real little. An then whenever yer Mama'd come over the house she'd ask for me to tell it to her again. I always thought it was cuz she liked ta hear gross stuff, wanted to hear about the skin falling off. But when she named you Damien, I knew it was cuz she wanted you to be a good kinda person. See, I think she knew

JEANNIE(cont)

that she wouldn't be ready for all this. Not at her age, not with how things were with her mom an dad. I think she named you Damien because no matter what, you would always have something good in you. (longer pause) An hey, listen, I know you don't understand really what you did. Me, I hardly do an I'm supposed ta be an adult. Anyways, es not good. It's real real bad. The kinda bad that Josette proolly wishes she could send you away to your own island, or maybe take her an Dallas to their own island just to keep him away from how bad. And she a stubborn girl, even when she was a little shit. So I don't bother talking to her about it. But I just hope, whatever all this turns into, I hope you do okay. And I'm sorry. That maybe I can't visit you as much as I'd like. I'm thinking of you though. An all the good you'll do. No matter how sick. No matter what kinda island.

(JEANIE kisses the broken of the wooden boy. Lights out)

scene fourteen

In the darkness we hear the jingle of a weak bell.
The Christmas tree lights come up on
ANGELIQUE who stands alone in Josette's living
room. ANGELIQUE goes to the outlet, trying to
figure out how to turn them off. JOSETTE enters.

JOSETTE

Where's my dad an—

ANGELIQUE

They checking on Manny.

JOSETTE

Both of them?

(JOSETTE moves to exit)

ANGELIQUE

Wait. (pause) I couldn't figure out the timer.

JOSETTE

What?

ANGELIQUE

The lights. I don't really feel like Christmas lights right now—

JOSETTE

Did you try unplugging—who turned'em on?

ANGELIQUE

They just come on. I thought Bryan musta had some system.

(JOSETTE looks closer at the outlet, and the cords leading to it)

JOSETTE

Maybe he does, have it set up or something.

ANGELIQUE

Prolly. Men do shit like that.

JOSETTE

Well, you can ask him then. I'm gonna—

ANGELIQUE

Please don't.

JOSETTE

Don't what.

ANGELIQUE

I don't wanna be alone in here. Please.

(JOSETTE stays)

Thank you.

JOSETTE

I should call my mom—

ANGELIQUE

I just did. It's all fine. Or, everything's okay there.

(An awkward silence between them. Beat)

JOSETTE

You got some strange fuckin'tastes.

ANGELIQUE

I guess we'll find out.

JOSETTE

Find what out?

ANGELIQUE

My tastes. Maybe Manny *is* messed up an me I'm messed up too so there ya go—

JOSETTE

I think you should take him to the hospital. I don't care what he says.

ANGELIQUE

Who.

JOSETTE

Manny, Angelique, we're talking about *Manny*.

ANGELIQUE

He said he's—

JOSETTE

He is not doing well. You gotta make the decision for him. You gotta take the care.

ANGELIQUE

I dunno we're even together anymore.

JOSETTE

He landed on the roof of your house, Angelique, I'd say you're pretty together.

(Beat)

ANGELIQUE

I'm sorry I told Madeline.

JOSETTE

I'm not talking about this.

ANGELIQUE

I was too alone with it, Jo.

JOSETTE

If you can't not talk about it, I'm going in the other room.

(Beat)

ANGELIQUE

...what if all this time Manny needed special care an I couldn't even tell.

JOSETTE

Well, Bryan an my Dad are here—

ANGELIQUE

I know, but—

JOSETTE

What.

ANGELIQUE

What if it's me, that can't see things. What if it's me can't tell what's good from what's—

JOSETTE

You an Manny, I swear to God. What The Hell are you trying to say, Say It.

ANGELIQUE

...what if there were like signs. What if I just didn't see them in time.

JOSETTE

Me, what I see is somebody that need help. An they can't get it on their own.

ANGELIQUE

I almost don't know which one yer talkin' about, Manny or—

JOSETTE

Manny's not your son, Angelique. He just some...

ANGELIQUE

Tell me what to do.

JOSETTE

Tell you?!

ANGELIQUE

Yes, just tell me what to do an I'll do it, I swear to God I will.

JOSETTE

Atta girl, Angie. You just wait by. You just stand there with that look all over yer face, until something changes for you, until you don't have to make a goddamned decision about fuck'all. (pause) Y'know what, get outta my house, get outta my house an take yer *whatever* with you.

ANGELIQUE

Let him be, he didn't do—

JOSETTE

He crashed into my house, he's all doped up or—

ANGELIQUE

He's hurt.

JOSETTE

He's a fucking lunatic.

ANGELIQUE

And he's not *on* anything, he barely even drinks.

JOSETTE

I don't care. You stumble him back to your house an you let him do his cleaning up there.

ANGELIQUE

Alright. When he comes out, if he's okay—

JOSETTE

An, I don't know how long you can even make the payments, but if you intend to stay in that house, we'll be gone within six months. Do you understand that?

ANGELIQUE

Well, I can't; make the payments. So I guess good to you. You always been so fucking good. From when we was that big. From yer mom an dad almost straight into Bryan's arms. You never had so much as a night by your own. Never had ta wonder what *home* supposed ta look like. Always—

JOSETTE

Nobody told you to get into shit at school, nobody told you act like a little—

ANGELIQUE

No, nobody tol'me a thing, Jo; not now, not ever.

JOSETTE

Look, okay, maybe our entire family owes apologies to you for your entire fucking childhood. Maybe even my mom an dad especially. For not taking you in. Or me, for never wanting them to. But this isn't about you.

(Enter RAUL and BRYAN from the hallway leading to the bathroom,
they both have a strange grin)

ANGELIQUE

Where is he, is alright?

JOSETTE

What is it, what's that look?

ANGELIQUE

Well?

JOSETTE

Okay, why do you two look like that?

BRYAN

He's...just getting himself straight; little dizzy still I think.

JOSETTE

Pop, don't you think Angelique should take him to the emergency room just in case?

RAUL

So, he said some things.

ANGELIQUE

What things, what kinda things?

JOSETTE

Bry?

RAUL

Just about what he was doing. Up there. Tonight.

JOSETTE

What was he doing up there? (pause) Pop? (pause) Hello???

RAUL

In the morning, me an Bry'll go up an clear everything. Angie, your roof; if there's anything on this one. I'll bring my ladder an we'll get what's left in yer tree.

JOSETTE

Dad.

ANGELIQUE

But what did he say, what the hell was he doing???

RAUL

Says he gets like this sometimes.

ANGELIQUE

Gets like what?

RAUL

Like he can't remember. Goes to black. Usually he wakes up in the back of his truck, or one time in someone's yard.

JOSETTE

Was he drunk?

ANGELIQUE

I told you he doesn't barely drink.

BRYAN

He wasn't, drunk.

JOSETTE

So he just blacks out???

RAUL

An he said, he doesn't really know what's on the roof or was in the tree, but not to worry. Whatever it is, it's nothing bad.

JOSETTE

Nothing bad???

RAUL

No, like the actual thing. The metal. The other things. Whatever it all is, it ain't bad or—

JOSETTE

(to BRYAN) Why is he talking like that?

BRYAN

He's just...telling you what Manny said to us.

ANGELIQUE

Did say about the boy?

JOSETTE

What boy?

RAUL

I asked him about that. He didn't know. Said he'd have to see it.

JOSETTE

Well, if not the emergency room, you better take him to the fucking mental room.

ANGELIQUE

Uncle, do you believe in him, about not knowing? About none of this is bad?

RAUL

I think we all can. I was wrong about him, mija, who he is. Manny's okay. In fact, he's doing just fine how he is.

JOSETTE

Well, I don't care. I don't want him here, as soon as he comes out, Angie—

RAUL

Jo.

JOSETTE

This is my house and I don't—

BRYAN

I believe in him, Jo; about all of it. I do. He's...

JOSETTE

Nobody asked you—

BRYAN

I ain't sayin' it cuz you asked, I'm sayin' it cuz I heard him. I listened to him. I looked at his eyes the whole time, and I can say it that Manny—

JOSETTE

What.

BRYAN

I don't know what exactly he was doin—

JOSETTE

That's great, thank you for sharing that—

BRYAN

Or who he is really—

JOSETTE

Wonderful—

BRYAN

But he can have as much time as he needs in our house—

JOSETTE

I don't really care what you—

BRYAN

I wasn't asking permission. I'm not a child. But if I were, hell, I'd prolly want Manny to stay as long as he wants.

RAUL

He'll be out right now.

JOSETTE

We have no idea who he even is, what he's—

(We hear humming, all look back towards the hallway. Enter MANNY. He limps, but is cleaned up. The tatters of his coat are somewhat strung back together. All look at him; he finishes his hum, then looks up at everyone; he smiles)

MANNY

(to JOSETTE/BRYAN) Your bathroom is nice. You still haven't fixed those tiles though, they still loose.

JOSETTE

Excuse me?

MANNY

You two shoulda asked for a tile set for Christmas. They were broke last time I were here too.

JOSETTE

Manny, I think you need to go now, what do you think?

MANNY

Es late. I know.

BRYAN

Do you need anything, do you need water or something to—

JOSETTE

Angelique, don't you think Manny might be more comfortable—

RAUL

Jo. Cálmate.

JOSETTE

(to ANGELIQUE) You two can go through the back. Bryan, go undo the gate so they can get through.

BRYAN

I will. Please calm down.

JOSETTE

I'm fine.

Angie.

RAUL

Jo, we're asking you nicely.

BRYAN

Manny, c'mon, why don't you have a sit.

JOSETTE

(to MANNY and ANGELIQUE) No, no sitting. And I want his whatever out an gone from our yard first thing. An I don't want my dad or husband helping you either. Do you understand me? Do you?

MANNY

I always hear you, Josettey.

JOSETTE

Are you seriously calling me that right now.

MANNY

And if you'd like me to clear everything on my own, then that's what I'll do. Anything you ask for is what I'll make happen for you.

JOSETTE

Wow. Good to hear. Thank you. Goodbye.

MANNY

An Josettey.

JOSETTE

I swear to God what is it, Manny.

MANNY

Thank you. For the water. And the antiseptic. I know it must've been scary. For you to even believe what was happening, who's this man coming down off my roof, opening my backyard doors. I know you must've been so...scared for your children. Please tell them though, that it was just me; that nothing bad came into their house. I know they prolly not sleeping, prolly trying to listen whatever all this is, but just they ought know nothing bad will ever be near where Dallas an Ava sleep. Least not wit' parents like you an Bry watching over. Anyways.

JOSETTE

Manny...please don't talk about my kids. Don't talk about my parenting, I don't want you talking anything about this family. Do you understand me? Do you?

(MANNY moves towards JOSETTE, trying to make eye contact)

I swear to God, Manny, I don't know who the fuck you are/

BRYAN

Don't listen to her—

RAUL

Jo, be nice—

JOSETTE

but eventho' everyone here's being fulla shit cuz maybe you got hurt or maybe you not all there in the head...but here in the real world none of us is very comfortable with you in this house. So I need you to just—

RAUL

Josette, c'mere. C'mere—

(RAUL puts his arm around JOSETTE like a father does, pulling her into him. MANNY watches this with appreciation; he reaches out for JOSETTE's arm, placing his hand warmly on her. JOSETTE instinctively shoves his hand off, pushing MANNY away hard; he falls back to the floor. RAUL pulls JOSETTE to him tightly. BRYAN moves to MANNY, but ANGELIQUE goes to him first. She touches his face)

ANGELIQUE

...what're you thinking, you know she doesn't—

MANNY

...I just wanted her to know something.

ANGELIQUE

Know what?

RAUL

Manny, I apologize. For my daughter. But I do think it might be best for tonight if you get some rest over at Angie's. You've had...it musta been some kinda day for you.

BRYAN

I'll go out with you. Undo the lock an you two can just cut through the yard. Are you sure you're okay?

(BRYAN moves to help MANNY up, who stays looking kindly at JOSETTE)

ANGELIQUE

Manny. Let her alone, she doesn't want to—

MANNY

Joettey.

RAUL

Manny, I don't think Jo really can hear you right now.

(MANNY walks towards JOSETTE, smiling towards her even though she is not facing him. MANNY waits. JOSETTE looks up from her father's embrace to glance in MANNY's direction)

JOSETTE

Please just leave me alone...

MANNY

(to JOSETTE) Joettey, I just wanted you to know that when I's up on yer roof, just as I was coming'to. I opened my eyes to see a buncha like shapes all in the gutters. Look like old play things or whatever. Was some rained-on tennis balls I think; all fuzzed out; faded. Some kinda Nerf boomerang thing. An some figures; maybe army; maybe superhero. Look like a buncha stuff lil'Dallas mighta tossed up an got lost up there; like over the years or what'sitcalled. I was gonna gather'em all up in my arms an carry them back down for him, but...

JOSETTE

...but what?

MANNY

What if though it might be fun, or good, for him, for Dallas, to go up there his'self. Or with Bryan, or maybe all of you. Es like a different way of lookin'at things when you look out from a roof like that. Get ta see down where you play at. See the top of the cars go by. Thought Dallas could get his play'things back his'self. Prolly make him feel good, about, y'know, who he is.

JOSETTE

...who he is...???

MANNY

Yea. Way I see it, Dally play like the kinda boy who lose a lotta things. Oh, he a very passionate child. So I imagine there's gonna be lots uh lost'stuff all over this property that he don't even know got lost. But that he'd want back, no matter how much dirt. No matter how rained'on. Or in the gutter. Cuz he can make them play again. What I know uh Dallas, he the kinda imagination make even the most ruined broke stuff play again.

(JOSETTE begins to cry. RAUL holds her close. ANGELIQUE pulls MANNY in; she kisses him deeply. A moment of RAUL holding his daughter, ANGELIQUE kissing MANNY, and BRYAN looking between the two. The lights of the tree turn, they revolve. BRYAN notices. A moment of this)

What was that about?

ANGELIQUE

That was about you.

MANNY

I didn't do nothin' but fall. But okay.

ANGELIQUE

I'm sorry to you, Manny. I'm sorry I was ever mean.

MANNY

Es okay—

ANGELIQUE

No. It weren't. Lookit me.

MANNY

I is, I mean, I am.

ANGELIQUE

Thank you for not looking away from me. Even when I turned you in that direction. Thank you.

MANNY

Hey. Ya seem nice now. Nicer, anyways. Looking at me. Me looking at you. So. That's cool.

ANGELIQUE

Come home with me. I want you to come home with me, Manny. (pause) Please.

MANNY

You got antiseptic?

(BRYAN places antiseptic in ANGELIQUE's hand)

ANGELIQUE

(to MANNY) Yea. I does now.

(ANGELIQUE begins to lead MANNY out)

MANNY

(to all) So, uh, shit, I'll be by in the morning. Sleep good or what'sitcalled. Christmas an all that. 'Night. Peace.

(Just before ANGELIQUE leads him out the glass doors...)

RAUL

Hey, Manny. (pause) Thank you to you.

MANNY

Uh, welcome you to you.

BRYAN

From me too. Thank you.

MANNY

(to ANGELIQUE) Yo, yer family are some thankful motherfuckers.

RAUL

I'll see you in the morning. First thing.

BRYAN

Me too, Manny. In the morning. I can't wait.

JOSETTE

Bry. Undo the gate for them, huh.

(BRYAN leads ANGELIQUE and MANNY out into the backyard)

JOSETTE(cont)

An bring me back my mom, please.

(They exit. JOSETTE and RAUL look at each other. A moment)

RAUL

She lucky to have him.

JOSETTE

He's still so—

RAUL

What.

JOSETTE

From what planet I dunno.

RAUL

I'll show you tomorrow.

(She looks at him oddly)

Just I'll show you tomorrow. Go on, do lay down with Dally an Ava, you know they prolly ain't asleep.

JOSETTE

...weirdest fuckin' Christmas ever...

(JOSETTE exits to an offstage bedroom. We hear a door open and close. RAUL looks at the tree, he goes to the outlet, looks at the unplugged cord. He follows it to the tree, not understanding why it's still lit. Enter BRYAN and JEANNIE)

RAUL

Hey mijo, how'd you set up these lights?

BRYAN

I didn't *set them up*...

JEANNIE

Raul, leave him to his own lights.

(RAUL accepts the mystery of the lights)

RAUL

How's Damien?

JEANNIE

Asleep. Or pretending very hard to be. How about Dallas an Ava?

RAUL

Same.

BRYAN

She in there with them?

RAUL

Unh huh.

(BRYAN motions he'll be right back; he exits to a bedroom)

JEANNIE

So, Leaky was holding Manny's hand, like in a nice way.

RAUL

Know something?

JEANNIE

I know lotsa things.

RAUL

All this. All what's happened, the rooftops, up in the tree, that wooden boy, I think that Manny...

JEANNIE

What, Manny, what???

RAUL

I don't think Manny being careful uh bein' too close to Angelique. I think he look at her like he can never be too close. C'mere.

(RAUL and JEANNIE hold each other)

...unbelievable, huh...

JEANNIE

What is? Christmas?

RAUL

Whatever all this is...

JEANNIE

This is Angelique called you, then you scared the shit outta everyone, an then Manny walked off the roof.

RAUL

Yea, he did. He walked right off the roof.

(RAUL and JEANNIE share a moment. They kiss. BRYAN re'enters)

BRYAN

Hey Pop. What Manny said to us. What he told us. That was...

RAUL

...yea, it was...

BRYAN

I don't think I can sleep.

RAUL

Me either.

JEANNIE

What're you two talking about, why won't you sleep?

BRYAN

I'm all...shaking almost. Lookit me.

JEANNIE

Es not that cold—

RAUL

Me too. Think the hairs on the back uh my neck are—

JEANNIE

Why're you guys grinning like that for?

RAUL

We'll show you in the morning.

JEANNIE

Why you two keep saying that? Stoppit.

RAUL

I'll get you up, carry yer ass over here if I have to.

BRYAN

Jo too. I'll make sure she gets up.

JEANNIE

For what???

RAUL

(to JEANNIE) C'mon, let the kids get their sleep.

BRYAN

See you in the morning.

RAUL

The morning.

(RAUL and JEANNIE exit. BRYAN looks at the tree, he picks up the cord; confused. He allows a wide grin as he tries to figure out how the lights are shining so amazing. White out)

closing scene

Morning light. ANGELIQUE enters her living room sleepy eyed and looking around a bit confused.

She doesn't seem to notice that the little Christmas tree is lit, creating a surreal atmosphere in the room.

ANGELIQUE

Manny...? Why're you getting'up this early? This is not how my house works.

(She peeks into the kitchen, nothing)

Hey, hello??? Where'd you go...?

(She peeks outside the back windows, nothing. She looks out front, nothing. She notices the wooden figure has been set under the tree, she goes to it. She then notices numerous presents wrapped haphazardly in newspaper and messy tape around the tree. She begins looking through them like Christmas morning.

Same time. JOSETTE walks sleepily into her living room. She stops short as she notices numerous presents wrapped haphazardly in newspaper around the still lit tree. At first she looks down at them oddly, then begins looking closer. Soon she is going through them like Christmas morning.

A tableau of two Christmases in separate houses. Both JOSETTE and ANGELIQUE pick out a present with their name on it. They both hold it up, trying to figure what's under the wrapping just as they might've done when they were children. They use the wonderful what is the illumination coming from the lights of their respective Christmas trees to look at their gifts. A moment of them.

Finally, as ANGELIQUE takes her gift to the couch to open, she notices the red blanket covering something. She lifts the blanket then gasps, pulling the blanket and dropping the wrapped gift as she does.

We can now see MANNY's body, with his red coat buttoned up as best as it can be, laid out on the couch in an awkward position. ANGELIQUE quickly touches his neck as if to get a pulse, then pulls her hand away quickly. She touches his face, then pulls her hand away quickly. The red of MANNY's coat seems more red against MANNY's now pale skin. ANGELIQUE's knees go to guava and she falls next to the couch trying to find her breath. A few moments of this. She looks frantically for her phone, she finds it and dials.

Just as JOSETTE is beginning to rip into her present, the house phone rings. JOSETTE startles; she stares at the phone, present still in hand. BRYAN hurries in, he picks up the phone irritated. However, he is immediately at full attention, trying to get a word in. JOSETTE can only stare)

BRYAN

(into phone) Okay, okay. Can you, can you call 9-1-1 or do you want me to— (pause) Okay, okay, I'm coming right over, I'm going now. (pause) Yea, yea, I will.

(BRYAN hangs up)

JOSETTE

What is it, what happened, who was that—

BRYAN

That was Angie. She found Manny's body on the couch.

JOSETTE

WHAT?

BRYAN

It's cold.

JOSETTE

Omigod. Omigod. She should've taken him, she should've taken him—

BRYAN

I'm gonna go over and wait with her for the paramedics.

JOSETTE

I'll call my dad/Omigod what about Damien, is he there with her, she shouldn't let him see the—

BRYAN

Don't worry I won't let him—

(JOSETTE grabs the house phone and dials)

JOSETTE

(into phone) Dad please get up, I need you to come watch the kids in case they wake up. Me and Bryan hafta go over to Angie's. I'll call you from there.

(JOSETTE hangs up)

BRYAN

They're coming?

JOSETTE

Bry.

BRYAN

What, what is it, I gotta—

JOSETTE

I didn't want him in my house. Manny. I said for him to get out of my house—

BRYAN

C'mon, we hafta go.

(ANGELIQUE finishes speaking into her phone, then let's the phone drop; we hear a clerical voice still talking on the other end. She looks at MANNY, then turns away. She notices the beauty of the room, the tree and the presents.

Same time. JOSETTE and BRYAN frantically putting clothes on. As they begin to head towards the back door, BRYAN notices the illuminated tree and surrounding presents. He looks to JOSETTE confused, however JOSETTE takes his hand, hurrying him out the back door. Lights fade as

they exit the glass doors out to the backyard connecting their house to Angelique's.

ANGELIQUE sits by the wooden boy, holding it close, as she looks at the dead body of MANNY. ANGELIQUE begins to hum. Lights out on the sound of the back door being forced open and BRYAN and JOSETTE rushing in. We hear sirens in the distance. Just as all three are in the same room together the lights of the tree brighten. White out. END OF PLAY)