

# INTUITIVE LEAP

by Barbara Yoshida

*The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.*

– Albert Einstein

## CHARACTERS

- MANNY                      A rugged looking man. His clothes are mismatched. He wears a leather vest with fringe, cowboy boots, and a bolo tie.
- WOMAN-AS-HARE        Naked, except for a hare mask; middle aged and full-figured.
- PRIEST (voiceover)     The voice of an older man.

Roles are identity-flexible.

Playwright can supply the audio recordings of cows.

## INTUITIVE LEAP

*Dim light reveals a bed, stage left, and a trunk, stage right. A hobby horse leans against the bed and a lasso lies on the bed. WOMAN-AS-HARE sits on the trunk. MANNY bursts into the room, visibly upset. He blindly rushes forward, between WOMAN-AS-HARE and the bed, and stops downstage.*

MANNY

*(Yelling.)* Jesus H. Christ! No matter what I say, she knows better! She treats me like a child! I'm just some stupid schmuck who didn't go to a good enough school. If I'm not smart enough, why did she marry me?

*(MANNY grabs his hair, then stretches his arms out wide.)*

I can't take this anymore!

WOMAN-AS-HARE

You talkin' to me?

*(MANNY whirls to the right and sees WOMAN-AS-HARE for the first time.)*

MANNY

*(Startled.)* Huh?! *(Jumping back.)* What the fuck! Who are you?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

I'm whoever you want me to be.

*(MANNY moves aggressively toward WOMAN-AS-HARE.)*

MANNY

*(Angrily.)* What is this?! Look, I can't talk to you! That would be crazy. Oh, I get it. You the first of three nightly visitors?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Nah. Don't need to get my wings, either. But relax, I'm on your side.

MANNY

*(Laughing giddily.)* You related to the Playboy Bunny?

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE shakes her head.)*

*(Leering at her.)* Too bad. *(Chuckling.)* That could make things a lot more interesting.

*(MANNY goes to the bed and picks up the lasso.)*

*(Excitedly.)* I could tie you up! That might be fun!

WOMAN-AS-HARE

In your dreams.

MANNY

*(Scowling.)* I don't know. I'm not dreaming, but. . . .

*(The sound of cows is heard in the distance. MANNY picks up the hobby horse and rides around the room. He twirls the lasso and whinnies as the sound of cows diminishes. He continues to ride, without the lasso.)*

Why are you here?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

You called me. You activated that deep area of your psyche—your Jungian unconscious. Why are you riding that thing around?

MANNY

This is my Jungian symbol for you. *(Laughing hysterically.)* Get it? A nightmare!

*(MANNY stops riding and lays the hobby horse down.)*

WOMAN-AS-HARE

How's your sex life?

MANNY

*(Whirling around to face WOMAN-AS-HARE.)* Huh?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

You're having problems with your wife, Sheela.

MANNY

She doesn't see me—who I really am. She doesn't respect me! So I met someone else, and we started going out after work. She thinks I'm great! And now my supervisor fired me! She doesn't appreciate me, either. After all I've done for the Company!

WOMAN-AS-HARE

And you just had a big fight with Sheela.

MANNY

*(Snorting derisively.)* As if you care. Yeah, we really got into it. She found out about the other woman. So this is where I'm at now.

*(MANNY flops on the bed, gets up again, and paces.)*

Wish I could sleep! I'm so tired! *(Shouting.)* What am I supposed to do? I don't know where to turn! It's all her fault!

WOMAN-AS-HARE

That's what they all say.

*(MANNY grabs the pillow and punches it a few times.)*

But you're the one who started going out after work with someone else. And I guess you lied to Sheela about that.

MANNY

*(Shouting.)* But I haven't even had sex with her! Besides, Sheela drove me to it! And the other one—she started it! It wasn't me! Now there's no way I can stop calling her! I'm so confused.

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Sexual attraction is a powerful thing.

*(MANNY picks up the hobby horse.)*

MANNY

Tell me about it! What about you? Can you have sex with other animal spirits, or whatever you are?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Not your concern.

*(MANNY lays the hobby horse down and faces WOMAN-AS-HARE, legs spread and hands on hips.)*

What do you know about animal spirits? Have you ever been to a psychic?

MANNY

*(Defensive, sensing a trap.)* I wouldn't tell you if I had. I don't believe in UFOs, either.

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Because there's no scientific proof? What about parallel realities?

MANNY

Quantum physics says they exist, so it must be true.

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Then why can't I be from another dimension? A parallel universe?

MANNY

*(Smirking.)* Yeah, right. More like indigestion—a bit of underdone potato.

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE leaps off the trunk.)*

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Wait a minute, buddy! Not everything can be proved by science or rational thinking. You don't trust your own senses!

*(The sound of cows briefly returns, then recedes. MANNY steps toward WOMAN-AS-HARE, jabbing his forefinger at her.)*

MANNY

*(Threatening.)* You know what, scientific proof is exactly what I do need. To judge what's real and what isn't.

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE moves toward MANNY. With each step toward him, he backs up.)*

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Hah! Even Einstein had to take a break from months of intense work and let his imagination wander, so images could pop into his head and then he said, "Eureka!". His imagination triggered his theory of relativity.

*(MANNY and WOMAN-AS-HARE stop, facing off against each other. MANNY thrusts his face to within a few inches of hers.)*

MANNY

That has nothing to do with me. I suppose now we're gonna talk about "female intuition." Spare me! That's just the way women do something because it "feels" right. If I did that right now, I'd punch you. Lucky for you, my rational mind tells me to cool it.

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE sits back on the trunk.)*

WOMAN-AS-HARE

*(Slapping the trunk loudly with the palm of her hand.)* Hah!

*(MANNY turns his back and walks away. His face is twisted in anger.)*

You say "female" intuition in a disparaging way, as if men are superior because they're more rational.

MANNY

*(Glaring at WOMAN-AS-HARE.)* That's just the point! We use our intelligence instead of our emotions. Why do I need intuition? I get along fine without it.

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Really? With Sheela? Doesn't seem like you're communicating very well. For starters, if you used your intuition, you might have a clue about how to talk to her.

MANNY

We can't have a normal conversation because she always talks down to me. I told her Darwin said humans are more evolved than any animal. And Ms. Know-It-All said I was an idiot!

WOMAN-AS-HARE

She's right about Darwin. A species is more evolved if it's better adapted to its environment. As time goes on, humans are less adapted to their environment because their environment is more and more polluted.

MANNY

We're more intelligent than animals, right?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

You have bigger brains, but that doesn't mean you're more intelligent. You don't know enough about animals to be sure! Are your communication skills better than a dolphin's?

*(MANNY gets on the hobby horse again. He rides around, ignoring WOMAN-AS-HARE. The sound of cows briefly returns, then recedes.)*

MANNY

I think you're hare-brained!

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE leaps off the trunk in front of MANNY, stopping his ride.)*

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Is that supposed to insult me? In many cultures, the hare is the animal that leaps up suddenly, so she symbolizes a quick mind and creative thought.

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE sits on the bed. MANNY starts riding again.)*

MANNY

Big deal. I don't care! Leave me alone!

WOMAN-AS-HARE

But you told Sheela, "What does it matter if some species goes extinct?"

MANNY

(MANNY stops in front of WOMAN-AS-HARE.) Okay, we need animals for food. And there's horseback riding (*he whinnies*), dog racing, . . . and cockfights! Yeah, cockfights! Now we're talkin'!

(MANNY starts riding again.)

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Animals have always taught us things, since our earliest days on the planet. And now so many of them are going extinct, we'll never know what we could have learned, what we've lost.

(MANNY stops riding and faces WOMAN-AS-HARE.)

MANNY

By the way, why are you naked?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

(Mock bewilderment.) Just noticed? (*Tauntingly.*) Does it turn you on?

MANNY

I don't think you're supposed to be naked. (*Lasciviously.*) Maybe I should jump your bones, then I'd know you're real.

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Ooooh, you're a randy one! So it's not just Sheela, it's any woman!

(WOMAN-AS-HARE poses seductively on the bed and beckons to him.)

(Amused, tauntingly.) Come on, big guy, let's see what you've got!

(MANNY drops the hobby horse and approaches WOMAN-AS-HARE. He faces her, his arms folded.)

MANNY

(Angrily.) No, not any woman—and certainly not you! It's the other woman—my piece on the side! She's a succubus! I can't work or think about anything but her. And Sheela knows about her. It's ugly. But I can't stop!

(WOMAN-AS-HARE kneels on the bed and faces MANNY.)

WOMAN-AS-HARE

What the fuck's the matter with you? (*She slaps him.*) Stop whining. Just choose! Either work things out with Sheela or call it quits with her! What a pussy! You can't even trust your own

senses. Am I real? You're the smart one, so prove it! But you're too scared to make a move one way or the other. You disgust me.

MANNY

That's your advice? *(He leers at her.)* I gotta admit, I kinda liked being slapped, but how does that help? I need help!

*(Cross-fade into a pool of light center-stage. MANNY steps into it and kneels, hands folded in front of him. He looks up and speaks, as if confessing to a priest. Low light reveals WOMAN-AS-HARE, stage left.)*

MANNY

You know I'm married, right? But there's someone else I want to be with and I just can't help myself. I know it's wrong, Father.

*(The voice of a PRIEST comes from above, and WOMAN-AS-HARE lip-syncs as if it's coming from her.)*

PRIEST *(voiceover)*

Don't worry, son. I'll have a talk with your parents and they'll sort it out.

MANNY

What?! You can't talk to them! This is supposed to be confidential!

PRIEST *(voiceover)*

You came to me for help, didn't you? I know what's best. Anything else you want to tell me?

MANNY

I've been visited by a goddess of mischief, an apparition. She's part woman, part animal. And she's naked. What's it mean?

*(The sound of cows briefly returns, then recedes.)*

PRIEST *(voiceover)*

It means you need to get away from here. You could just fly away. Do you fly in your dreams? Maybe go up on the roof and see if you can fly.

MANNY

I made my wife cry, but I wasn't even moved. I feel like I'm not even human. Maybe I'm already dead and don't know it. I'm gonna kill someone—really! I'm gonna do it, I just know it!

PRIEST *(voiceover)*

Are you on drugs?

MANNY

No! I just think I'm losing my mind.

PRIEST (*voiceover*)

Instead of killing someone, maybe you should commit suicide.

MANNY

Are you really a priest?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

(*Continuing the priest's dialogue.*) Depends on who you ask.

MANNY

(*Looking up.*) Wait a minute! You sound like that animal woman!

WOMAN-AS-HARE

(*Wicked laughter.*) Ha, ha, ha, ha!

(*Fade to black.*)

(*Light comes up on MANNY waltzing around the room, embracing a blow-up sex doll. WOMAN-AS-HARE stands in front of the trunk, watching. MANNY sings.*)

MANNY

My love has no fingers,  
my love has no toes,  
but she has plenty of holes,  
so it goes, so it goes.

(*MANNY casts the doll aside and goes to WOMAN-AS-HARE.*)

WOMAN-AS-HARE

(*Bugs Bunny voice.*) Eeeeeeh, what's up, Doc? (*Chuckling, taunting him.*) How'd it go with the priest?

(*MANNY reaches with both hands as if to put them around her neck.*)

MANNY

Aaaargh! I'm gonna kill you, bitch!

(*WOMAN-AS-HARE easily slips out of his reach and moves away.*)

WOMAN-AS-HARE

*(She snorts incredulously.)* You dumb-ass! If you could believe your own senses, you'd know you can't kill me! *(Pause.)* Poor you. So misunderstood.

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE sits on the trunk.)*

MANNY

*(Shouting.)* Don't make fun of me! *(Arms outstretched.)* I'm really on the edge here!

*(MANNY puts a pillow on the floor in front of the trunk and collapses on the floor. The sound of cows returns.)*

WOMAN-AS-HARE

I guess now you're ready to listen.

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE strokes MANNY's hair. The sound of cows recedes.)*

I bet Sheela likes to go to museums and look at paintings. Do you like to do that with her?

MANNY

*(Facing the audience and talking to the pillow.)* Always makes me feel stupid. She doesn't respect me. Just because I can't understand art. I don't need it! Poetry or theater or any of that.

WOMAN-AS-HARE

What about music? Music makes you feel a certain way, doesn't it? You could share that with her. It's the same when you're looking at a painting. Pick one you like, then just give it some time. There's nothing to understand. Just feel it—give your thoughts and emotions free rein—listen to your intuition! You know, many of our imaginings and feelings can't be explained, even to ourselves. We know they're real, but we can't prove it. So we create art—painting, music, dance.

MANNY

At least you have to agree that humans create art and animals don't. I thought that was evidence of our superiority, but maybe I'm wrong.

WOMAN-AS-HARE

There was a gorilla, named Koko, who enjoyed painting. Does that surprise you?

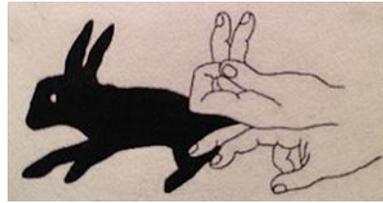
MANNY

Creative because she put paint on something?

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Can you say it's not creative?

*(MANNY gets up and stands, facing WOMAN-AS-HARE. They make hand shadow puppets of hares. Fingers and hands are illuminated so the audience can see them. Each hare image is different. Silhouettes are projected against the back wall, enlarged significantly. The hares' ears twitch and the legs move as if they're talking.)*



Koko was also taught to sign. Her vocabulary was the same level as a three-year-old human child.

MANNY

Oh my God, that's incredible!

WOMAN-AS-HARE

And she understood two thousand words of spoken English. She even understood abstract concepts like "good" and "fake." Koko adopted a kitten and created a name for him. She loved the other beings she became attached to, and grieved when they left or died. She could be mischievous, too. Once, when she didn't like someone, she called the woman a toilet!

*(The silhouettes vanish. Slowly, MANNY turns his head toward WOMAN-AS-HARE.)*

When she was asked where gorillas go when they die, Koko signed, "Comfortable hole bye."

*(WOMAN-AS-HARE waves "bye-bye." MANNY buries his face in his hands, clearly distraught. The sound of crying cows is heard, louder than before.)*

MANNY

*(Lifting his head.)* Oh, sweet Jesus. *(His face is distorted, anguished.)* Why are the cows crying? I thought they only went "Moo."

WOMAN-AS-HARE

Come on, man! What do you feel?

MANNY

They've lost something. They're grieving. They're in pain!

*(The sound of crying cows changes to the sound of a single cow.)*

*(Distraught.)* She's away from the herd, alone, and she's searching for something. She's missing something. Aaaargh! I can't stand it! It's heart-breaking!

*(MANNY drops to his knees as the sound of the cow dies away.)*

*(To WOMAN-AS-HARE.)* I want to call Sheela. God, I'm so tired.

*(MANNY lies on the floor in a fetal position, pillow behind his head. Lights dim. WOMAN-AS-HARE goes to MANNY and covers his face with the pillow, pressing down on it with both hands.)*

*(Blackout.)*

END