

CHARACTERS

REED, 30-31, M.

DIEGO, 26-27, M. Cuban-American.

BARB, 62-63, Female, Reed's mother.

BELIA, 55-56, Female. Cuban-American. Diego's mother.

PLACE

Scene One – Reed's place in Brooklyn. Barb and Belia's homes. JFK airport terminal.

Scene Two – Barb's house.

Scene Three – Belia's townhouse back patio.

Scene Four – Reed's place in Los Angeles.

Scene Six – Barb's house.

Scene Seven – Two Homes.

I don't think an intermission is needed. If you do, let's try it for after scene four.

Scene One

An empty apartment. North Brooklyn. Two suitcases. One is opened. A duvet thrown onto the floor. Two bottles of whiskey. One is nearly empty. Two glasses. A smaller duffel bag that doesn't match the suitcases. Music from an iPhone.

REED and DIEGO are getting ready for a FUN, SEXY PARTY. They're putting on suits. They're in towels now.

REED

'Disappear, Disappear!'

DIEGO

I get it, I get it!

REED

It's a part of the ride, 'Disappear! Disappear!'

DIEGO

Baby we've already *established* that 'Disappear, Disappear' is a part of the ride, towards the ending of the Maelstrom attraction located at –

REED

It's definitely at the *Mid-way* point of the voyage, Diego –

DIEGO

Bullshit it's at its mid-way point, what the fuck are you even talking about?

REED

Whatever(!) I mean it's probably, like – there isn't any way at *all* that it *isn't* a part of the ride! I definitely *know* that it's a part of the fucking ride(!) 'DISAPPEAR! DISAPPEAR!'

DIEGO

Aiiight, goddamn it, it's gonna be in my head for weeks!

DIEGO gets up for drink.

DIEGO (Cont'd)

You want another before we go?

REED

Why are we even doing this before my going away party?

DIEGO

Because it's fun!

REED

I wanna remember in the morning—

DIEGO

And you're going to, goddamn it,

Hands REED a drink.

Now sip the fucker—

They clink.

And relish in me now because in four hours you won't remember how to get inside.

They sip.

REED

So a question for you –

DIEGO

Mhmm.

REED

... What's our starting point? Pre-queue, queue, or on-board in-station-?

DIEGO pulls back, REED sits up.

DIEGO

No, it's onboard in-station. Good, *good* question, yeah, uh no handle bars, just a boat!

REED

But take note of the mural on the wall, look for the Hidden –

DIEGO

Mouse ears. Nevertheless, 'Beautiful, gorgeous, *Norway* - !'

REED

Norway in the Norway Pavilion brought to you by World Showcase but really brought to you by 'plug' corporate sponsor!

DIEGO

'Maelstrom.' You and a chosen few. A chosen few once but a stranger in line with you through the storming abyss of the uncharted seas.

REED

You gotta fit 'fjords' into that somehow.

DIEGO

'Uncharted seas and *fjords*. You and the chosen few. Strangers as companions. Companions as strangers still.' Never knowing the difference! Until –

He raises a glass.

It's too late.

Beat.

A toast. To you leaving Brooklyn. Now before it's gone to AirBNBs (entirely) and Baby Gaps. To you leaving to be taken seriously.

REED

'Seriously?' Wha – ...a card with an agent's number? A *booked* flight to Los Angeles?

DIEGO

The piece of paper in your wallet. The charge on your mother's credit card. I couldn't follow you if I could. You think I'd like this place as much? Still? In three years they'll be glass towers on Union and Lorimer. Bushwick will have an Artichoke. Obama would have passed the torch to Hillary and the Puerto Ricans will still be letting fire hydrants blast. This is it. When you go and I cave, the shell of all that I've got right now's gonna forever blanket me from tomorrow.

REED

This is a very long toast.

DIEGO

Let's not go to your party. I never get to blow you when you're wearing pants as nice as these, and your best friend's Holly really a prickly bitch. Everything that we were will be the entirety of this city to me, forever.

REED

You can't expect me to cancel my going-away party for you.

DIEGO

Try to be patient with me tonight. Maybe we can run off and do our own thing around 12?

REED

Maybe 2.

DIEGO

How about 1? I can buy us for the night?

REED

We don't fuck when we get drunk. I'd like to remember a night for a change.

Yeah good luck with that.

DIEGO

Hey, I remember.

REED

You remember because I remind you.

DIEGO

Don't I remember though?

REED

You do.

DIEGO

We always move past it. Because we were here for – have been here for one another when we had to. I'll give you that. We *do* have to go to my party.

REED

I know.

DIEGO

I know you hate Holly.

REED

She's a real cunt.

DIEGO

Another drink?

REED

Please.

DIEGO

DIEGO'S phone CHIMES. A text. He writes back to it as REED goes. He returns, hands DIEGO a drink, puts his hand on his crotch.

Come on.

REED

You're really into dress pants?

DIEGO

Beats a Chicago Blackhawks jersey.

REED

Hockey players are modern gladiators.

You were never good at role-play. DIEGO

Tie my shoes. REED

What? DIEGO

Take your pants off and tie my shoes. REED

Someone's being greedy. DIEGO

I'll stop. REED

DIEGO considers, then takes off his pants, and continues, as –

So after we make this left turn out of the station.

We start going up and that's when the Diety God – Norwegian Dude – he opens his glowing eye upon you, and... DIEGO

He's saying something. REED

He's not saying anything. DIEGO

Yes he is, I remember it specifically. REED

Then why didn't you say anything? DIEGO

I did, I said 'he's saying something.' REED

Too early for another? DIEGO

I thought we were doing something. REED

You broke character, you shouldn't let me argue with you. I'm getting another. DIEGO

REED
Get back here *now*, Slave.

DIEGO
Do you want ice?

REED
I don't have any ice.

DIEGO
So what does he say, this Norwegian dude, I mean really, I'd like to know, you gonna tell me big shot?

REED is handed a refill.

REED
'You are not the first to pass // this way'!

DIEGO
// *AGGGGGGH* SHIT THAT'S RIGHT-!

REED
'Nor shall you be the last! Those who seek the spirit of Norway face...'

DIEGO
'...Face peril and adventure!'

REED
Do my bowtie.

DIEGO
Yes, Sir.

DIEGO gets his tie done by REED.

REED
'...We have always lived with the sea
But look first to the spirit of the sea farer...'

DIEGO
'There are those who...'

REED
'There are those who... *want*.'

DIEGO
'Want?'

Not 'want'. REED

Not 'want'? DIEGO

I'm unsure. REED

Own me. DIEGO

REED lifts DIEGO and puts him on the floor.

REED pins DIEGO'S arms above him.

DIEGO
You know how jealous I am knowing you're gonna be fucking all the L.A. boys?

REED
So jealous you'll be getting fucked by everybody else?

DIEGO
You gonna take me, big guy?

REED
It's gonna knock me out to be honest.

DIEGO
We'll pick-up a red bull on the way over.

REED
Can I just blow you instead?

DIEGO
And leave nothing for me to gag on?

REED
I don't want to be late for my party.

DIEGO
You gonna take that shirt off for me?

REED
Thought you liked a man in a suit?

DIEGO
Unsure if Uniqlo ensemble pieces qualify.

REED

The ride.

REED goes to town. Jerk and Lip and Drool combo. Edging him.

DIEGO

The ride. Uh. FIRE – lots of FIRE – flames, on the side of the boats, Vikings standing on boats talking some bullshit you can't even begin to understand – and then - 'There are those'... 'There are those whooooooo'...

REED

'There are those who...?'

DIEGO

Oh goddamn it put your mouth back on it.

REED

'There are those who *see* Norway's spirit'

DIEGO

'Who see Norway's spirit'... *something*... something, 'Forests of Mystery' -- fuck babe --

REED

'Where trolls still prowl the water's edge'

DIEGO

And by that point we've gotten away from the Vikings with the smoke and the *fire* and totem poles, 'Where trolls still prowl the water's edge', and then-

REED

Popping on out from behind their little rock or whatever

DIEGO

There they are, and they're like, what are they doing-?

REED

They're crawling up towards us-!

DIEGO

From behind the rock, and then they say... they say...!

REED

'How dare you come here.'

DIEGO

Goddamn it baby let me come on your clip-on bontie.

'How dare you come here.' REED

'How dare you come here.' DIEGO

Good boy. REED

I'm your good boy? DIEGO

My fast, little good boy. REED

But little in the hyperbolic sense. DIEGO

Get back into it. REED

Dare me to cum. DIEGO

I dare you to cum. REED

You dare me to cum? DIEGO

I fucking dare you to come. REED

Here!? DIEGO

Yeah baby you fucking come. REED

Oh GOD – right here, yeah? *Yeah!?* DIEGO

Wait babe not on my chest – REED

FUCK BABY *SHUT UP.* DIEGO

Do it here. REED

Here? DIEGO

Here. REED

FUCK YEAH. DIEGO

AW YEAH. REED

AW YEAH!P DIEGO

HOLD IT REED

AW FUCK DIEGO

DON'T LET IT OUT REED

Fuck me. DIEGO

Don't tell me what to do. REED

OH FUCK PLEASE. DIEGO

Fuck it. REED

They KISS. ASS MEETS DICK.

REED
// I'm going in you. Turn over and stick out.

DIEGO
Abbh my God.

You like that? REED

Hold it, hold it, hold it get the poppers hold it FUCK DIEGO

Aw yeah, aw yeah, *fuck* babe – I’m like your picket. REED

Where are the fucking poppers. DIEGO

Here’s the poppers. Here’s the Jungle Juice Plus. REED

Ow fuck fuck fuck ow – DIEGO

DIEGO sniffs.

Just take it REED

SNIFF.

Just breathe

SNIFF.

NH – OH – fuck dude DIEGO

You’re taking it REED

Aw man DIEGO

You’re taking it. REED

I’m taking it. DIEGO

You’re fucking taking it, baby. REED

REED’S phone rings.

BARB is in bed, using a MAGIC WAND in bed.

FUCK.
REED

NO.
DIEGO

Baby it's my mom.
REED

Fuck. Me.
DIEGO

Come on.
MATT

Get In The Fucking Car.
DIEGO

Damn it.
REED

We are never going to do this again.
DIEGO

They let it ring.

BARB calls him again. His phone rings.

REED answers.

- Hey ma, how's it going?
REED

BARB
My sweetie how are you listen I got an A on my last math exam, hi! Last week my math teacher told us that we were all gonna learn how to do the types of equations on the calculator, by hand. And this one girl, pregnant, *idiot*, asks the teacher, 'well why do we gotta know how to do it by hand if we can just use our calculators?' *IDIOT*.

Oh no!
REED

BARB
Teacher says the reason we're learning how to do them by *hand* is so that in case the calculator breaks down when you're taking the exam, you'll still know how to solve the

problem. So, you know what I thought, you know what I did, at Office Max, just now, before I aced my math exam!?

REED

What'd you do, ma?

BARB

I BOUGHT ANOTHER CALCULATOR. I figured, if for whatever reason my calculator were to shut down – VRWERP - ! I'd have another one ready to go! I'M GONNA GET MY BACHELOR'S! Listen to me. Knowing the system of systems means nothing if you don't also know how to *fuck* with them. Fuck what your father said, you got it from me! May he rest in peace! How's your last night in New York City?

REED

It's fine. Diego and I, we're uh, getting ready for my party.

BELIA, sucking a popsicle, watching a porno, in a discounted velvet bathrobe – calls – waiting. A PHONE RINGS.

BARB

Oh. Dumping him at the terminal with the rest of the luggage?

REED

Now's not the best time, ma. What's up.

BARB

I miss him, Reed. Oh how I miss your handsome father. You remind me of him. Oh, how you remind me of him.

REED

You'll be okay, ma.

BARB

Tell me again.

REED

It'll be okay.

DIEGO

Working on that ma.

DIEGO

Working on *leaving*.

REED

I think that's you.

BELIA

Aside to DIEGO

Pick up the phone sweetheart, mommy's calling.

DIEGO answers the call.

DIEGO

Hey ma, how's it going was just thinking about you. In a rush – Reed's taking his sweet ass fucking time as always.

BELIA

Has he said goodbye to you yet?

REED

Let me find somewhere quiet to talk to you.

BARB

Is he on the phone again with that pill organizer of a mother?

DIEGO

No.

REED

Pill organizer and distributor.

BELIA

That's just lousy.

DIEGO

Caucasians.

BELIA

Remember what I said about thick skin – do you need me to deposit money for your therapist?

DIEGO

She's gone to Djibouti for the Summer.

BELIA

Caucasians.

BARB

You know what they say about apples and their trees.

REED

I'm afraid I can't handle him.

BARB

Tell him you've gotta pick up laundry and then tell your friends to meet you elsewhere.

REED

He's good at finding ways.

DIEGO

You think I can have some money anyways?

BELIA

Depends for what, Diego.

DIEGO

Maybe now isn't the best time to be talking.

BELIA

I just wanted a couple of minutes – maybe ten – to talk to you to ease you out of what I know's gonna be a very drunken regret of an evening.

BARB

Have you told him the reason you're leaving's because you'd rather be alone and somewhere new than stuck with someone old and questionably Bipolar?

REED

Not questionably.

DIEGO

I'll be fine.

BELIA

Don't punch him again.

REED

I'll be fine.

BARB

Don't punch him again. He fights back and hits you harder you make sure it's documented.

REED

He couldn't take it.

DIEGO

You should see how he makes it about him any time I fight back.

REED

Waste of time.

Waste of space.

BARB

Un comemierda.

BELIA

Un comemierda - un shit-eater who doesn't understand Spanish.

DIEGO

You have mental problems.

REED

I taught you to match your belt with your shoes, chubby.

DIEGO

COME FOR HIS THROAT.

BELIA

TELL HIM GYNOCOMASTIA IS HEREDITARY.

BARB

DIEGO

The only reason people are gonna show up to say bye to you tonight's because they know you'll end up buying the joint a round.

BELIA

THE THROAT, THE THROAT, THE THROAT!

REED

GYNOCOMASTIA IS HEREDITARY.

DIEGO

Wouldn't matter, shirt-boy.

REED

You've been cheating on me since last December.

DIEGO

I.

BELIA

I thought you weren't gonna tell him that?

BARB

I thought you were never gonna tell him you knew?

BELIA
TELL HIM BEING A WHORE IS HEREDITARY. YOU'RE FROM A PATRIARCHY
OF CHEATS.

DIEGO
There's no excuse for that.

REED
I'm gonna miss you so fucking much, dude.

BELIA
Don't let him win you over.

BARB
No.

DIEGO
I'm gonna miss you with everything I've got.

BELIA
Oh, *Jesus*.

BARB
Don't listen to him.

BELIA
He can do what he likes!

BARB
Typical Hispanic A-sensitive cabbage-picker.

BELIA
WE'S DON'T GOT CABBAGES *EN CUBA*.

BARB
They's shoulda placed an Embargo on your taint.

BELIA
Getting more out of it than you you Magic-Wanded bag of wrinkles.

BARB
Better natural than using Botox for *migraines*.

BELIA
You deserve herpes.

BARB
Your son deserves death.

YOUR SON DESERVES DISEASE. BELIA

YOUR SON QUALIFIES. BARB

So dramatic. BELIA

I was an actress back in my day goddamn it! BARB

And I bet that wasn't the only time you got clap from a room full of people. BELIA

You're a terrible mother. BARB

You're a terrible mother! BELIA

You ruined my son by raising yours! BARB

Oh, my son had nothing to do with your Frankenstein-ian tub of Philadelphian Crisco. BELIA

Your son's gonna end up LOCKED UP! BARB

And yours is gonna end up fatter than he already is. BELIA

Sweetie I fucking love you but I gotta go. BARB

Sweetie I'll talk to you later. BELIA

Reed? BARB

Diego? BELIA

REED. BARB

DIEGO!?

BELIA

REED!?

BARB

ARE YOU DEAD!?

BELIA

DID HE KILL YOU!?

BARB

ARE THEY DEAD!?

BELIA

DID WE KILL THEM!?

BARB

LIGHT SHIFT to the sound of a JET PLANE taking off right above us. REED and DIEGO stand, surrounded by luggage. An AIRPORT intercom. Sounds of travellers. They looked wiped.

DEIGO has a black eye. REED has a busted lip.

So this is it.

REED

I'll have to take the subway after this. I left my sunglasses back at my place.

DIEGO

Well. I. I wanted to give you my keys. I need you to go back to my apartment. Throw out the leftover shit we brought back with us last night.

REED

I can't.

DIEGO

It'll only take you a few minutes.

REED

I don't want to.

DIEGO

Let me see.

REED

You're looking at me, aren't you?

DIEGO

I am.

REED

I didn't ask if you needed to be reminded about last night.

DIEGO

I don't wanna be reminded about last night.

REED

Not when you're about to leave.

DIEGO

I want this to be a good moment for us.

REED

We just talked about Disney rides.

DIEGO

We only talk about Disney rides.

REED

What happens when you land?

DIEGO

I'm going to a concert with friends.

REED

You threw a trash bin at me last night. I ducked for cover and asked for help. You punched.

DIEGO

I'm about to leave Diego.

REED

Then stay with me and deal with it.

DIEGO

What did you do to my lip?

REED

An angry idea of make-up sex.

DIEGO

Did we?

REED

The answer.

DIEGO

We suck.

REED

Will you please go back to the house for me?

DIEGO

You can stay with me. We still have a chance to be what we wanna be for one another. We already tolerate one another – everything we've done – we've tolerated. There's a potential for growth in all that. Isn't there?

REED

I've never met a guy as forgiving as you. I have to go. But I'll still be yours if you'll still be mine. Even if it means being away. For now. Until you're ready. Until you're able.

DIEGO

To move out there for you?

REED

Sure.

DIEGO

So like... no fucking other people, or like?

REED

Tomorrow. We'll figure it out tomorrow.

DIEGO

I used to think long-distance was pathetic. I was right.

DIEGO

Don't think like that. We're gonna become the jealous couple on PrEP.

REED

Fucking all of the boys.

DIEGO

All of them.

REED

Yeah right.

DIEGO

Yeah right.

REED

I mean, if you are.

DIEGO

I mean, if you are.

Yeah, well, I mean. Yeah. REED

Okay. DIEGO

Diego. REED

This shouldn't be so hard for people like us. DIEGO

They HOLD. Buried in each other's shoulders.

Oh man. REED

So much. DIEGO

With all that I know. REED

There isn't enough time. DIEGO

I have to go. REED

I need more time. DIEGO

It's time to go. REED

More time. DIEGO

No more. REED

One more second. DIEGO

Just one more. REED

I refuse. DIEGO

It's time to go. REED

No. DIEGO

Diego. REED

NO. DIEGO

Come on. Come on. Hey. Hey. REED

DIEGO finally pulls away. Wipes the tears. Looking and touching one last time. His stubble. His chin. His chest. His belly. Finally...

Gimme your keys. I'll go back to your apartment. When will I see you next time? DIEGO

For posterity's sake? REED

When will we be seeing each other again? DIEGO

It'll be in three years. REED

Three years from now. DIEGO

No less. REED

No more, too, right? DIEGO

No more. REED

No more. DIEGO