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THE SISTERHOOD OF DARK SANCTUARY

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the  
North Texas State University in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

By

Leslie Jean Sandberg, B.S.

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The Sisterhood of Dark Sanctuary is an original play about two sisters who are struggling to find their own identities away from their mother. The sisters have developed a functioning relationship wherein they alternate between the dominant partner and the passive partner, often assuming the roles of a mother and a child. This relationship has become so secure and stable for the sisters that they cannot develop healthy adult identities apart from each other.

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## PREFACE

The Sisterhood of Dark Sanctuary is an original play about two sisters who are struggling to find their own identities away from their mother. The sisters have developed a functioning relationship wherein they alternate between the dominant partner and the passive partner, often assuming the roles of a mother and a child. This relationship has become so secure and stable for the sisters that they cannot develop healthy adult identities apart from each other.

Glorianna is the younger sister who often tries to control the relationship through the initiation of games and absurd conduct with those around her. She has become so dependent on her sister Leigh and the need for a playmate that she cannot accept her sister's desire to establish other relationships outside of the sisterhood. Glorianna makes an attempt to reach out to Brian as a means of breaking out of her stagnant games, but eventually dominates him through her manipulations, and returns to the security of her established role with Leigh.

Leigh is the older sister who makes an attempt to change her situation by giving birth to her own child rather than mothering her younger sister. Leigh is frustrated by the constant game playing, and when Brian, her

boyfriend, begins playing too, she reaches the end of her endurance and decides to leave the sisterhood. She later discovers she isn't pregnant and returns to the comfort and security of Glorianna.

Brian becomes involved with Glorianna out of pity and out of a desire to support a dependent female. He is taken in by her manipulations and believes that she needs his love and support. He later finds that he was only Glorianna's temporary playmate while Leigh was gone.

The two sisters finally return to each other and again assume the mother and child roles, unable at this point to accept adult responsibility and mature behavior.

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## ACT I

(The scene opens on a simple two-bedroom apartment eclectically decorated with the charm of youthful co-eds. From the point of view of the audience, the large living room is accessible by way of the far center upstage front door, by the hallway to the left which leads to the bedrooms and the bathroom, and by the kitchen to the right which is an extension of the main room, thus making all kitchen activity visible to the audience. The living room contains a large sofa in the center of the stage, a coffee table in front of the sofa, easy chair to the right of the sofa, a bookshelf on the left side of the room, an area for a stereo and a television in the near right corner of the room, and a desk in front of a large window to the left of the front door. The desk is a messy pile of mail and school papers, the coffee table is covered with women's magazines, and the bookshelf contains more ceramic decorations than books. The kitchen is small, clean, and efficient and contains a stove, a sink, a refrigerator, and cabinet space.

The action begins as Glorianna enters through the front door, her arms full of mail. She is a well-conditioned girl, visibly nervous and manic in her behavior.

The mail contains advertisements, bills, a free sample of a feminine napkin clearly labeled Freshly Free, and two letters; the first she opens immediately, and the second she discovers later.)

GLORIANNA

Hey! You gonna leave the mail out there to mold all day and night? Hey! Leigh? You home? Guess not.

(Sorting the mail she finds the first letter.)

Oh great!

(Opens letter and reads aloud.)

Dear Miss Stringer, due to an excessive amount of absences in the current academic semester, we regret to inform you that you have been put on permanent academic probation. Should you miss another class you will be temporarily suspended and notification will be sent to proper parent or guardian...damn! Shit! I can't believe this! How dare they even...damn them!

(Slipping the rest of the unsorted mail under her arm, she hides this first letter under a sofa cushion, and continues to sort the other letters. She comes across letter number two.)

God! Oh God! Damn! I can't stand it! I hate mail. I don't know how to do this.

(She crosses to the refrigerator with the letter and tries to put it on the front with a magnet, but the letter is too heavy and it falls to the floor.)

Oh come on, stay! Work! Fine.

(The letter does not hold, and she sits on the sofa and places the letter formally in front of her and stares at it.)



This is just great, I'm out of control!

(Pause)

Oh come on stupid, stop it! This is it, this is just great. I've lost it and I'm out. Damn! Oh shit! Oh shit, oh shit, oh shit! O.k....o.k., o.k., o.k., o.k., o.k. Hold it here, keep it here. Hold it.

(She sorts through the piles of magazines on the coffee table looking for an article on stress management.)

Oh, come on!

(She finds an article on foot massage.)

Oh, yes.

(Continuing to look, she finds the article on stress management.)

(Reading)

Find the source of your tension and accept it, become one with it, accept the problem into your space and extract the fear.

(She picks up the letter, studies it, and then begins to hug it.)

I love this letter. I accept this letter on a higher plane.

(She holds the letter high in the air.)

This is a letter! This is my letter!

(She picks up the article on foot massage and reads as she frantically removes her shoes and begins pressing on different areas of the soles of her feet. As she presses these areas, her body reacts to the massage.)

(Reading)

The soul on the sole. The art of foot communication.

(Pressing foot)

This is the kidneys, the spine, the legs, the sinuses.  
Ah...the neck...the head...yes...yes...I accept this foot  
as me and this letter as a letter.

(She holds her foot in the air  
and presses the letter onto  
the sole of her foot.)

As one, then apart! As one the release!

(Each time she shouts release,  
she pulls the letter off her  
foot.)

Release! Release! Release!

(She rubs the letter all over  
her face and body.)

I can feel my body, I can feel something foreign to my  
body...throw out that tension! Throw out that stress! Out  
of my body! Out! Out! Out!

(Reading)

Physicalize the extrication of the tension through violent  
body movement and loud vocalization, as if feeling the  
matter leaving your system.

(She rolls up the magazine and  
begins to beat the letter  
laying on the coffee table.)

Yes! Oh, yes! Throw out that tension, throw out that  
tension, set free that tension!

(She jogs around the sofa with  
limp arms hanging at her  
sides.)

Release...release those arms...release those shoulders...

(She stretches her head in  
each of four directions.)

Neck...neck...neck...neck...

(She stops jogging and does simple shoulder exercises.)

Up, down, up, down, up, up, up, down...

(She takes five quick breaths and runs in place, yelling.)

Ha! Ha! Ha! Tense...release...tense...release...tense...release...

(Calming)

Floating...flawless...feather...

(Calm)

Control...control...control...

(A scream of elation comes from the bathroom, and causes Glorianna to scream too.)

Ahhh!

(We hear a door opening and Glorianna jumps up, searches for the second letter, and fumbles for a hiding place for it under the sofa cushion. Leigh enters making a chanting, humming sound something like a mantra, and ceremoniously holds a test tube. She is wearing a robe and has a towel around her head, thus playing the part of a middle eastern high priest. Leigh talks monotone chants through the next segment.)

LEIGH

Hmmm...

GLORIANNA

God! I was scared to death!

LEIGH

Hmmm...

GLORIANNA

I called to you, why didn't you tell me you were here, did you here me calling to you?

LEIGH

Hmmm...

GLORIANNA

Leigh, it's not funny. O.k.?

LEIGH

I'm really quite sorry...hmmm...

GLORIANNA

I'll bet. Are you still among the living or did you over henna or something?

LEIGH

Hmmm...

GLORIANNA

Wait, you flunked sex ed!

LEIGH

Hmmm...

GLORIANNA

You passed sex ed?

LEIGH

I have in this vial the future of my existence, the reason for living, the difference between glorifying all of mankind and brushing my teeth.

(Aside to Glorianna)

Bow down!

GLORIANNA

Oh, sorry...

(Bowing down and joining in  
with a chanting monotone.)

Ali, ali, oo-la-la, boom! Ba-ba-ba-ba-ba, sproing! Zap!  
Bwap! Putt, putt, putt, putt...

LEIGH

A little respect please!

GLORIANNA

Oh...oh god! Oh gracious one! Oh towel-headed one! Oh,  
one, two, and three, please bless me...hmmm...

LEIGH

You are blessed...hmmm...

GLORIANNA

Help me...hmmm...

LEIGH

You are helped...hmmm...

GLORIANNA

Tell me what in the hell you are doing...hmmm...

LEIGH

Passing knowlege by passing water...hmmm...

GLORIANNA

Oh, passing water by passing knowlege?

LEIGH

Yes...hmmm...

(Glorianna begins a hand clap-  
ping rhythm and uses these  
words in an improvisational  
song and dance.)

## GLORIANNA

Oh! Passing water by passing knowlege,  
 Passing water by pissing knowlege,  
 Pissing water and pissing in college,  
 She's got water in her brain, oh yeah, hey!  
 She's got urine in her brain!

(Leigh picks up on the song  
 and joins in with her own  
 version.)

## LEIGH

Water in her brain, well she drives me insane!  
 She drives me insane, 'cause she doesn't have a brain!  
 Doesn't have a brain, her life's goin' down the drain,  
 Goin' down the tunnel of love; I say now!  
 Goin' down the tunnel of love!

(Glorianna picks up on a new  
 cue, and stops the action to  
 introduce an improvisational  
 song they both know, which is  
 sarcastically sung to the tune  
 of "Goin' to the Chapel of  
 Love." Leigh recognizes the  
 song and joins in.)

## GLORIANNA

Goin'...

(Glorianna holds this part of  
 the song out, waiting for  
 Leigh to pick up in the cue.  
 She does, and they both sing  
 to each other.)

## BOTH

Goin' to the chapel of love!  
 Oh well we're goin' to the chapel and we're  
 Gonna get married.  
 Only way we get there is to,  
 Forcibly be carried.  
 Gee, I think I'll love you better,  
 When you're dead and buried.  
 Blowin' up the chapel of love!

GLORIANNA

That was great! Let's have a drink!

(Glorianna grabs the test tube, and acts like she will drink it.)

LEIGH

Anna, no! Stop!

GLORIANNA

A celebration!

LEIGH

Stop it!

GLORIANNA

I wasn't going to drink it.

LEIGH

Then give it back!

GLORIANNA

I was going to use it as furniture polish, to bring out the shine in this old coffee table.

LEIGH

Anna, please.

GLORIANNA

O.k., o.k. So how about using it as a decoration on the bookshelf, something to admire and show off to company.

LEIGH

Anna, will you please give it back?

GLORIANNA

Maybe. Maybe I'll put it in an ice cube tray and freeze it.

LEIGH

Glorianna, I'm counting to ten! One, two...

(Leigh continues to count to ten as a means of controlling her anger.)

GLORIANNA

O.k. I won't freeze it.

LEIGH

Three, four...

GLORIANNA

No, don't do this.

LEIGH

Five...

GLORIANNA

Let me guess! Twenty questions!

LEIGH

Six...

GLORIANNA

Yeah, that's it!

LEIGH

Seven...

GLORIANNA

Wait! Twenty questions!

LEIGH

Eight...

GLORIANNA

Oh come on!



LEIGH

Nine...

GLORIANNA

Please! Twenty questions?

LEIGH

Nine and a half...

GLORIANNA

Is it solid or liquid?

LEIGH

You have to ask yes or no questions.

GLORIANNA

Is it solid?

LEIGH

No!

GLORIANNA

Is it liquid?

LEIGH

Yes!

GLORIANNA

Did you, like make the liquid yourself?

LEIGH

Yes.

GLORIANNA

Did it come out of your body this color?

LEIGH

No.

(Glorianna begins to realize  
Leigh is pregnant.)

GLORIANNA

Did this tube come out of a box from a drug store with a  
woman on it in a long flowing gown walking along a beach  
with a horse and a daisy at sunset?

LEIGH

Yes.

(Pause)

GLORIANNA

Are you pregnant?

LEIGH

Yes!

GLORIANNA

And you're happy?

LEIGH

Yes!

(Glorianna throws the tube at  
the refrigerator, it breaks  
and makes a mess.)

Glorianna!

(Leigh immediately gets paper  
towels and cleans up the  
mess.)

GLORIANNA

I can't believe you; I can't believe this; why are you  
doing this? How did you get pregnant?

LEIGH

Oh, really now!

GLORIANNA

How could you do this?

LEIGH

Please let me explain...

GLORIANNA

You come waltzing in like it's any other day, just waltzing in.

LEIGH

Anna, I wanted to share with you...

GLORIANNA

You are so irresponsible, you are such a traitor; you're insensitive.

LEIGH

To make you happy too, Anna, that's what I wanted.

GLORIANNA

You can't do this, you can't do this, don't you understand?

LEIGH

Anna, baby...

GLORIANNA

What's mom gonna say, huh? Have you given that any thought? Have you?

LEIGH

Yes, yes I have!

GLORIANNA

You tell me how she's gonna feel; you tell me how you'll tell her, how we'll all feel, how I'll feel!

LEIGH

My hope was that you would be happy for me, to support me

in my decision. If I was searching for criticism and disapproval, I could have told her first instead of you.

GLORIANNA

Darn right she'll disapprove! She'll hate you!

LEIGH

Hate me? Don't you think when I explain to her?

GLORIANNA

Don't know.

LEIGH

Anna, please?

(Pause)

GLORIANNA

Maybe. Maybe she won't hate you.

LEIGH

Do you know I paid fifteen dollars for that test kit? Fifteen dollars! Still have to have a real doctor test me, too, but I couldn't wait. Say, for fifteen dollars they ought to include a small inflatable rabbit so my kid sister could pull its little ears off!

GLORIANNA

No! An inflatable man so I can pull his little nibbler off!

LEIGH

Glorianna, this is enough. I'm sorry if you think motherhood is a bore; however, I think it will be wonderful and extremely fulfilling.

GLORIANNA

So before today your life has been a joke?

LEIGH

Nonsense! Being a couple of perpetual college students has not been without its moments, but I'm ready to move on.

GLORIANNA

No, it's not you, you don't talk this way.

LEIGH

I wasn't raised to talk this way. Our mother, the ardent emancipator can do what she wants, preach what she thinks. You can do whatever you want, I do not stand here in judgment. Who has asked me what I want? Who has asked me if I embrace the idea of motherhood? If I want a baby? All week I had this feeling that something extra was in my body, something added to my life that I didn't plan on, an appendage, a tumor, something predatory that was taking me over; taking my life over without my having anything to say about it. I could imagine it hurting me. I just wanted to hide and hold myself, lying in the dark for hours imagining a movement inside me. A life I was supporting; separate, but a part of me. I felt out of control. I showered a lot hoping to wash it away; then an imaginary flutter and my heart would race, my mind a mess because what would I do? This free ride would take over my life. Thanks to modern technology, I can get an answer in my own bathroom. My future was held in my urine. Now you must stand beside me and help me when I have to tell mother. She will see my entire future destroyed and she'll try to talk me into an abortion. I don't want an abortion. Maybe a few years ago, but not now, I've changed, I'm ready to grow up.

GLORIANNA

What do you want me to do?

LEIGH

Just two things; first be supportive. Help me convince her of the good points of this project. I can tell I already love it.

(Pats her stomach)

And I do feel so different; kind of dizzy and tired, but content. I've never felt so happy with myself, with my self esteem. I am happy with who I am.

GLORIANNA

(Impatiently)

What's number two?

LEIGH

Number two is about Brian...

GLORIANNA

Oh God, Brian! Holy shit, he's daddy, right?

LEIGH

Listen to me!

GLORIANNA

Oh, God, what does he think?

LEIGH

He doesn't know...

GLORIANNA

Doesn't know! Oh, God!

LEIGH

He doesn't know and...Glorianna listen to me, you mustn't tell him. I have to tell him myself, I have to prepare myself for when I tell him.

GLORIANNA

Prepare what?

LEIGH

I just want to enjoy my feelings quietly for a few days, no pressure.

GLORIANNA

(As if knowing the answer)

What pressure?

LEIGH

The pressure he'll put on me.

GLORIANNA

Like what?

LEIGH

I don't think he's very interested in marriage.

GLORIANNA

So? Neither are you.

LEIGH

Well, that's not as true anymore; the situation has changed.

GLORIANNA

Look, you're still you. You haven't mutated into some creature. How in the hell can you, zap, change over night?

LEIGH

Someday you'll understand, Anna.

GLORIANNA

No, I won't.

LEIGH

Someday you'll want children, too.

GLORIANNA

No, you're wrong.

LEIGH

You can say that now, but wait until it happens.

GLORIANNA

No! God, why do you say that, why does everybody say that? I hate that! No one can understand how I feel. I do not want to be a mom. God, why would I ever, ever, ever want to be a mother?

LEIGH

To share love, to share unconditional love.

GLORIANNA

Unconditional love? You think our mother gives love? She

gives orders! She wants a damned army troop.

LEIGH

She loves us!

GLORIANNA

Like she loves herself, we're a distant part of her. We're supposed to do what she wants so that she can get her jollies watching us.

LEIGH

You are so cold.

GLORIANNA

I can prove it.

LEIGH

Prove it.

GLORIANNA

Hot and cold.

LEIGH

Prove it!

GLORIANNA

Hot and cold, hot and cold; can't you hear what I'm saying? Or have blasts of hormones busted out your drums?

LEIGH

Fine! What! Where do I start?

GLORIANNA

Something smaller than a bread box.

LEIGH

Fine.

(Walks over to the desk and points.)



(Disgustedly)

Am I hot?

GLORIANNA

Miserably cold.

LEIGH

(Crosses to the television.)

Here?

GLORIANNA

A chilling example.

(Leigh moves to the refrigerator.)

GLORIANNA

Supercold; no pun intended.

(Leigh studies the room a long time and then crosses to the book shelf.)

It can't be a book. I doubt you know how to read.

GLORIANNA

Very funny. And very cold.

(Leigh crosses to the stereo by way of the sofa.)

Warmer, warmer, superwarm...ooh, cooler, cooler still, cold, very cold.

(Leigh turns back toward the sofa.)

A tiny bitty bit warmer.

LEIGH

This is ridiculous. I don't care anymore.

GLORIANNA

Oh come on, you always care!

(Leigh sits down on the sofa.)

Hot!!

(Leigh stands up.)

Cold.

(Leigh sits.)

Hot!

(Leigh begins to search under the sofa cushions and comes up with the wrong letter.)

GLORIANNA

Hot! Hot! Red hot! You got it...oh shit! Wait, wrong letter.

(Glorianna grabs the first letter and fishes out the second one instead.)

Here. This is the one.

LEIGH

What's that?

(Indicating the first letter.)

GLORIANNA

(Sarcastically)

I was struck by lightning...aliens transplanted my brain...this tiny man came to me in my sleep...

LEIGH

Knock it off.

GLORIANNA

So I just know, you know? Kinda like you know Brian's gonna hate your baby.

LEIGH

I never said that.

GLORIANNA

Well, he will, he's that kind of guy. Mom's the kind of mom that's gonna take out stock in a coat hanger factory. It's just the way things are. I know what she'll say in that letter.

LEIGH

Tell me!

GLORIANNA

Be thin, be successful, be happy, be good, be thrifty, be smart, be my children, be adult, be what I want. Second paragraph. You're not, you're not, you're not. Third paragraph. Guilt, guilt, guilt. Love, Mom. P.S. I've suffered, struggled, and bled for you girls. Drip, drip, drip.

(Changing)

Hey! You know I find it both ironic and disturbing that we received a feminine napkin free sample along with mother's letter. Wait!

(Glorianna runs over to Leigh, grabs the letter, holds it between her legs, and hands the free sample to Leigh.)

LEIGH

Glorianna!

GLORIANNA

Here, read!

LEIGH

Stop it. Give it back.

GLORIANNA

No read it.

LEIGH

Will you come on?

GLORIANNA

No, really. Really read it, I mean, really. See what they have to say to us, both of them. I'll bet it's the same thing. Humor me.

LEIGH

Well, it certainly wouldn't humor her.

GLORIANNA

Breaks my heart.

LEIGH

(Reading)

Freshly Free. You're young, on the move, full of confidence, taking...

GLORIANNA

No, don't read it! Read what they're saying to us, read what our minds eye is absorbing like a square of dry toast.

(Glorianna grabs the free sample from Leigh and gives her the letter.)

(Reading)

Your're young, on the move, full of confidence, taking chances, but one chance you don't want to take is with your image. Why does a busy young career woman need a product like Freshly Free? Because you don't have time to trust your feminine freshness and comfort to just any product. Where do you turn for advice? Back to the woman who helped you get where you are, a good friend who's been there, whom you can trust; your mother.

(Aside)

I don't believe this.

(Reading)

Yes, she's a woman who knows what it means to have that personal edge in this busy world. Ask her. Then ask your doctor, and you'll see that professionals like yourself recommend Freshly Free. When you try our protection and feel the confidence fresh comfort and performance can give, you'll say, Freshly Free, I can finally be me! And mom will agree.

(To Leigh)

They own us.

LEIGH

You are the one person in town who took the time to read that refuse.

GLORIANNA

Let's finish the experiment.

LEIGH

You are disturbed.

GLORIANNA

I don't sing to my urine.

LEIGH

Here, now. I'm reading.

(As Leigh reads the letter, Glorianna picks up a tennis racket and beats the sofa and chair as a form of tension release.)

Dear girls. How are my two sugars doing? Do you both have broken fingers? Haven't had a letter in so long, thought you both dropped out and ran away. Are you attending class? Don't get behind; I can't afford too many more semesters like this one. Some day you'll be out here working and you'll see how little I'm making. But don't worry about these things, just keep your health and graduate as soon as you can. Leigh, how is that major presentation coming? I am so excited I've told everyone in the office, and great news, Mr. Bradley wants to review your findings and mentioned a possible senior

apprenticeship! We could be working together in the same office, just like two sisters! Just send in your research a.s.a.p. Glorianna, I hope this term goes better than last. I sometimes wonder if you will ever get out of there. Please realize that every class you miss is money out of my pocket, and the gasoline credit bill is sky high. You must not even hear what I say. If this doesn't stop, privileges will be suspended! I must go now, but remember, I will always be here and will always love both of you no matter what. You young women today; lucky to have so much opportunity; if I were twenty years younger; it makes me cry with tears of joy and envy. The struggles we led for the dreams of the young hearts. Love to you both, Mom.

(To Glorianna)

She's a typical mother; she does it out of love.

GLORIANNA

God no! She wants us to buy the product, the goals she set for herself and never fulfilled, because she got pregnant, because of a bad marriage, because no one was there to pressure her into an early grave! It is so doublesided that the two of us ruined her life and now we are the two that can save her life.

LEIGH

She's going to want to hear from me soon. I'm going to have to tell her.

GLORIANNA

Senior apprenticeship, bye-bye, widdle mommy-kins!

LEIGH

Maybe you're right. I don't know anymore. Maybe I'm being selfish; she has given me everything I have.

GLORIANNA

Well Brian's given you something.

LEIGH

Do you understand what this is doing to me? I sat in that damned bathroom all day fantisizing what in the hell I was going to tell her. Hey mom, remember that advertising art

degree? Well I changed my mind...meet your granddaughter! For God's sake! Ego crush! So she made my decision for me. Two hundred miles away and my mom argued against me and won. Verdict; abort the thing. No place in my life for a baby, I'm a gal on the go! It would have ruined everything the two of us ever dreamed of and I couldn't do that to her. Then something happened...the results of my test. I was happy, I was shaking with joy. I never expected that. It was uncontrollable, and I knew that it would forever change me and mom. Mom, the one person I couldn't tell my good news to...the one lady who seems to figure more importantly than my own body in this situation. Her control over this is amazing. Either way I'm a bad girl, for being careless, or for being interested in a career-damaging relationship in the first place. I will fall from her graces.

GLORIANNA

You'd fall from grace? The princess of progressiveness?

LEIGH

All the dreams she has for me, the opportunities all gone.

GLORIANNA

That's if you keep the baby?

LEIGH

If I want to do the most natural thing a woman can do.

GLORIANNA

So do what you want.

LEIGH

I'm not sure what I want anymore.

GLORIANNA

God! You change like the weather. So have the stupid baby. What do you care? It's your life, right?

LEIGH

Right.

GLORIANNA

Your body, right?

LEIGH

Right.

GLORIANNA

Weren't we brought up to be strong women?

LEIGH

I don't know.

GLORIANNA

Yes, you do! Here, borrow my racket! It really relieves tension. Just don't hurt the baby; remember you're whacking for two.

(Leigh half heartedly begins to hit the sofa.)

LEIGH

This doesn't work.

GLORIANNA

Does so. It's psycho-animate manipulation.

LEIGH

Says who? Redbook?

GLORIANNA

No.

LEIGH

Cosmo?

GLORIANNA

No.



Mademoiselle?

LEIGH

GLORIANNA

T.V. Guide!

LEIGH

Oh, no! I ought to use this on the damned television!

GLORIANNA

Hey! Where would us young women on the go be without the fresh freedom of mass media?

LEIGH

It's the media's fault!

GLORIANNA

No, it's men.

LEIGH

And they control the media.

GLORIANNA

(In an evil tone)

They only want one thing little girl!

LEIGH

Sometimes.

GLORIANNA

And then they desert you for a computer!

LEIGH

He hasn't yet!

GLORIANNA

But he will! He doesn't want to play house! He just wants to play!

LEIGH

Creep!

GLORIANNA

So what do you do?

LEIGH

Kick him!

GLORIANNA

How far?

LEIGH

All the way to China!

GLORIANNA

Yes! And you pick yourself up...

LEIGH

And climb even higher.

GLORIANNA

Why?

LEIGH

Because I'm worth something!

GLORIANNA

Yes! And will you make it alone?

LEIGH

You better believe it!

GLORIANNA

Just remember, God and your Mother love you, and you can sit on your hands to keep them warm. So to hell with men!

LEIGH

To hell with them!

GLORIANNA

You can be a single parent!

LEIGH

Yes!

GLORIANNA

You are a strong, independent, modern woman!

LEIGH

And men are...

GLORIANNA

Shit!!

LEIGH

No, they're raw meat, meant to be eaten.

GLORIANNA

There you go, chicken fried men.

LEIGH

Men du Jure.

GLORIANNA

Men au gratin.

LEIGH

Men casserole.

GLORIANNA

Shish-ka-men.

LEIGH

Men mousse.

Men-en-gitis.

GLORIANNA

Men with meat balls.

LEIGH

Men with any balls.

GLORIANNA

That's really bad.

GLORIANNA

Men mock tender.

GLORIANNA

Men's knuckles.

LEIGH

Cream chipped men on toast.

GLORIANNA

Male snout loaf.

LEIGH

Gag-o-rama! Have you seen that stuff?

GLORIANNA

Gag-o-rama?

LEIGH

(Glorianna begins to dance around the room as if in a conga line and encourages Leigh to join her.)

GLORIANNA

Gag-o-rama!  
You go tell my mama,

Leigh's gonna have her baby,  
And she don't mean maybe!

LEIGH

Gag-o-rama!  
I'll go tell my mama,  
If I fall from grace, hey!  
At least I know my place, hey!

BOTH

Gag-o-rama!  
You go tell my mama,  
Leigh's gonna have her baby,  
And she don't mean maybe!

Gag-o-rama!  
I'll go tell my mama,  
If I fall from grace, hey!  
At least I'll know my place, hey!

(A knock is heard at the door,  
and Leigh immediately stops  
dancing.)

GLORIANNA

Gag-o-rama!

LEIGH

Glorianna!

GLORIANNA

You go tell my mama!

LEIGH

Glorianna, stop!

GLORIANNA

What are you sayin',  
Like a donkey brayin'

LEIGH

There's someone at the door.

GLORIANNA

So, what's the big deal?  
Are you for real?

LEIGH

We don't know who it is.

GLORIANNA

So what?

LEIGH

So, I'm not going to run around and sing about my...about  
this thing.

GLORIANNA

This thing?

(A second knock is heard.)

LEIGH

Please, Anna, it's probably Brian. His classes just let  
out. Now, you promised me.

GLORIANNA

What if it's not Brian?

LEIGH

Play fair with me!

GLORIANNA

You should talk! You should talk about playing fair!

LEIGH

What?

GLORIANNA

Oh, answer the door!

LEIGH

Sometimes I wonder about you.

GLORIANNA

(Mocking)

Sometimes I wonder about you! Sometimes I wonder about you! Play fair. Shit!

(Leigh opens the door, but no one is there.)

LEIGH

Hello? Hello? Oh, great, somebody is really having fun today.

(Yelling)

Thank you!

(Leigh slams the door.)

That makes me so mad!

GLORIANNA

No one there?

LEIGH

No.

GLORIANNA

Nigger knockin'.

LEIGH

Oh, don't be disgusting!

(Glorianna stands and bows.)

GLORIANNA

Allow me to disgust you.

LEIGH

Only uneducated morons speak like that.

GLORIANNA

Gee, thanks.

LEIGH

Can't you grow up?

GLORIANNA

What's wrong with you all of a sudden?

(A knock is heard again.)

LEIGH

Well, fine!! Let's all be children!

(Leigh flings open the door and a decoratively wrapped present sits on the stoop.)

What in heaven's name?

(Leigh bends down to pick it up, and Brian jumps out from behind the doorway and assumes the stance of a soldier with an invisible machine gun.)

BRIAN

Ah, hah!!

(Leigh is truly frightened and screams, while Glorianna joins in the war game and assumes an invisible machine gun too.)

She fell for the trick!

(Leigh remains back up against the door trying to recover from her fear and anger.)

GLORIANNA

She'll never talk. You can strap dynamite to her spleen, and she won't break!



BRIAN

Oh, yeah?

LEIGH

Will you both stop this!?

(Leigh slams the door for emphasis.)

BRIAN

I think she's the enemy; a spy.

GLORIANNA

You're damn right. Lousy kraut!

BRIAN

We better cross over enemy lines!

GLORIANNA

Right!

(Brian and Glorianna get down and crawl around the sofa on their bellies.)

LEIGH

Glorianna, I can't take this!

GLORIANNA

Come on, men, follow me!

BRIAN

I see movement ahead.

GLORIANNA

Gotcha.

(Glorianna fakes a grenade toss as both she and Brian duck down, make an explosive

sound at the same time, and rise up from the explosion at the same time.)

BRIAN

Got him!

GLORIANNA

Oh, no!

BRIAN

What?

GLORIANNA

I shot myself in the foot with my M-16 dash 378 issue dash forty-four stroke dash!

BRIAN

Here, tie a tourniquet with my petticoat.

GLORIANNA

(Breaking down)

I can't!

BRIAN

Come on, soldier, don't break down on me now!

(Brian and Glorianna fake a face-slapping scene.)

GLORIANNA

You're right, we have to save publisher's clearing house!

BRIAN

Are you with me? Say yes!

GLORIANNA

Shit!

BRIAN

Close enough!

GLORIANNA

Gun!

(They both display all the  
imaginary gear.)

BRIAN

Gun!

GLORIANNA

Ammo!

BRIAN

Ammo!

GLORIANNA

Black stuff on cheeks!

BRIAN

Black stuff on cheeks!

(Glorianna struts around like  
a runway model.)

GLORIANNA

Designer fatigues with that cute nipped-in waist and  
turned-up collar. Smashing!

BRIAN

Messerschmitt diving low; ten o'clock!

GLORIANNA

My God, it's female!

(Brian and Glorianna engage in  
pantomime shooting and gunfire  
noises.)

GLORIANNA

We won! We won! Happy, happy, happy!

(Glorianna and Brian dance and skip around the room.)

BRIAN

Raping and pillaging! Raping and pillaging!

(Brian grabs Leigh and makes a vain attempt at affectionate play.)

GLORIANNA

Nanny, nanny, billy goat!

LEIGH

Stop it!

BRIAN

(Affecting a nazi accent)

We have vays of making you kiss und shnuggle.

LEIGH

Please stop it.

BRIAN

What's wrong?

LEIGH

You scared me to death, that's what's wrong!

BRIAN

We were just playing.

LEIGH

Well, sometimes I don't feel like playing.

BRIAN

Don't I know it.

GLORIANNA

Raging hormones.

LEIGH

That's enough Glorianna!

BRIAN

What?

GLORIANNA

Nothing.

BRIAN

What's going on here? That time of the month?

LEIGH

Oh, that's just typical! Nothing is going on here, I just don't like being scared to death on my own front porch, or a walking anatomical joke!

BRIAN

Well if you're gonna have an ape labe shit rage, I'll just give my present to Glorianna.

GLORIANNA

(Affecting a Scarlet O'Hara accent)

Why Cap'n Butler ya'll just shouldn't have.

BRIAN

(Affecting a Rhett Butler accent)

I hope you find it to your liking Scarlet. It's a pair of leather panties, some handcuffs, and a fish bowl.

(Brian hands Glorianna the package.)

GLORIANNA

Oooh! How divine!

BRIAN

Who's your pretty friend here?

GLORIANNA

Oh, she don't know nothin' 'bout birthin' no babies.

LEIGH

Glorianna, shut your stupid face up for once!!

GLORIANNA

Sorry, kid, it's my present now.

LEIGH

I don't care about the stupid present!

BRIAN

Thanks a lot.

LEIGH

You may have problems, but sometimes think about others, instead of using and abusing everyone who cares!

GLORIANNA

And what was I being?

LEIGH

A hazardous waste dump! And a spoiled brat.

GLORIANNA

I was just playing.

BRIAN

We were both just playing.

LEIGH

You are always playing.

BRIAN

That's not true.

LEIGH

Not you!

GLORIANNA

Well, usually you play along.

BRIAN

Hon, what's wrong?

LEIGH

Things change! Things change, alright?!

GLORIANNA

Well I hate it! I hate these changes! It was a joke, I was Scarlet O'hara and I slipped or lost it, o.k.? Can't you see? What can I do? What am I left with? I do the best I can and you never see that, you always see my bad stuff; you look for it! You try to show everybody that I'm no good!

LEIGH

I do no such thing!

GLORIANNA

You don't love me!

LEIGH

That's not true!

GLORIANNA

You hate me! You hate me!

LEIGH

Now, you listen to me!

(Glorianna puts her hands over her ears and screams, then begins singing "Jingle Bells.")

GLORIANNA

Dashing through the snow...

(Continuing to sing)

LEIGH

I hate it when she does this!

(Leigh begins to exit toward the bathroom, shouting over the singing.)

BRIAN

Can't you do something?

LEIGH

I've had enough. You do something! I'm getting some aspirin.

(Brian approaches Glorianna and shouts at her above her singing and tries to get her to remove her hands from her ears.)

BRIAN

Glorianna, stop it! Glorianna, come on stop this. I'll talk to you.

(She stops and removes her hands from her ears.)

Come here, what's wrong? Can't I help you? Help make things better?

GLORIANNA

(Pouting)

No.



BRIAN

Now, Anna, I know what you like, I know for a fact I can make you smile so big. Why you'll smile so big you'll shame a moon beam.

GLORIANNA

No I won't, either.

BRIAN

Shame it right out of the sky, and grab your ears and shake your shoulders and tickle down and put your feet right on the ceiling!

(He tries to pick her up by her feet, and has her with her feet in the air, and then tickles her.)

GLORIANNA

(Laughing)

Stop it! No I won't, stop!

BRIAN

See! You're laughing and smiling!

(Leigh stands in the doorway watching them and taking her aspirins.)

GLORIANNA

No I'm not. Stop!

BRIAN

I can see you! Are you calling me blind?

GLORIANNA

Yes!

BRIAN

What?

(Brian picks her up by the feet and walks around the room with her upside down.)

GLORIANNA

No! No!

BRIAN

I better put your head in the toilet!

GLORIANNA

No! No, Brian stop playing!

BRIAN

Swirly, swirly! Anna gets a swirly!

GLORIANNA

This isn't funny anymore!

(He comes face to face with Leigh.)

BRIAN

Oh. Hi.

LEIGH

Glorianna, I would like to talk to you.

GLORIANNA

O.k.

LEIGH

Will you please release her.

BRIAN

Hey, Anna, did you hear that? Say that again.

LEIGH

Will you please release her!

(Glorianna begins singing the song "Please Release Me," and Brian joins in.)

GLORIANNA

Please release me, let me go!

BRIAN AND GLORIANNA

I don't love you any more!

LEIGH

(Angry)

I have had enough!! If the two of you would like to spend the evening rolling around!...

BRIAN

Wait! Wait!

(He lets go of Glorianna, and gently helps her to her feet.)

Sorry, sorry. Only a joke. A bad joke. A very large, ugly, stinking, bad joke. With warts. Three warts. It was a joke with warts, o.k.? Gee, I'm sorry already.

GLORIANNA

What did you want?

LEIGH

I'm sorry. I'm sorry I was yelling, and I suppose I was wrong. But you promised me...

GLORIANNA

I didn't break any dumb old promise.

LEIGH

Well, I thought you had.

GLORIANNA

Thanks a lot for trusting me.

LEIGH

Anna, please accept my apologies for not trusting you. I'm sorry, and I'll try to be more fun tonight. Brian, I suppose I owe you an apology too. I just had a hard day. I am very sorry.

BRIAN

Hey, it's o.k.

LEIGH

Anna, I'm so sorry for everything.

GLORIANNA

You don't sound sorry.

LEIGH

Well, I am, truly. Very, very, very sorry.

GLORIANNA

Really?

LEIGH

Really.

GLORIANNA

Really, really sorry?

LEIGH

Sorry enough.

BRIAN

I'd say this is getting to be a pretty sorry scene. Somebody smile here!

(The two girls hug, and Brian joins in by hugging both of them hard enough to crush them.)

There we go! Now, girls will be girls, and sisters are

even worse, so I'm not about to ask what all that was even about. How about I come in all over again?

LEIGH

No, Brian...

(Brian runs out the front door and pretends he is just now arriving. He knocks, and Leigh answers the door.)

LEIGH

Why, what a surprise.

BRIAN

Holy snot! Two of the loveliest women I know!

(He grabs Leigh and kisses her passionately and dramatically, then runs up to Glorianna and messes up her hair.)

LEIGH

Brian, listen...

BRIAN

Oh! I forgot the present!

GLORIANNA

Here!

(Glorianna throws him the present.)

LEIGH

Brian...

BRIAN

I'll just run out again real quick.

LEIGH

No! Stop it! Just come in now and be a human being.

BRIAN

(Aside to Glorianna)

Gee, I think we're in trouble.

LEIGH

Both of you just sit down on the sofa for five minutes, just five short minutes out of your life for calm, quiet silence, and I'll open this stupid present.

BRIAN

Stupid?

LEIGH

Quiet!

(Leigh opens the present while Brian and Glorianna begin to fidget on the sofa, and gradually engage in foot fights--something like who can push the other one off first.)

I can't tell you how nice it is to get a present today of all days. I really need a pick-me-up. This paper is lovely. I can't get the ribbon off. This is like a birthday almost. There. Lots of paper in here...

(She pulls everything out.)

(Truly disappointed)

It's empty...I don't understand?

BRIAN

I know! That's what makes this whole evening so outrageous, it was all a joke! This is like a bad movie or something. So alien, so existentially diverse, yet potentially compelling.

GLORIANNA

You don't even know what that means!

(Brian hits Glorianna with a sofa pillow .)

BRIAN

Oh!

GLORIANNA

Ha, ha! Got you good!

BRIAN

You bitch!

(Heavy pillow fighting ensues, as Leigh hangs her head in disappointment, then watches for an opportunity and joins in the fight with a vengeance.)

LEIGH

Here, you want to play? I'll play. I'll play with you.

(At first Leigh turns her pillow-fighting attention to Brian. She remains standing and uses a safe vantage point from behind the sofa to engage her victim.)

BRIAN

Oh, yeah? No fair two on one.

LEIGH

No one ever plays fair around here!

GLORIANNA

Be careful, Leigh, or you may trash your perfect image!

LEIGH

I'm so tired of you! Tired of the same remarks, the same childish manipulation.

GLORIANNA

Oh really? Just what are you looking for? Usually you try your best to outdo me!

LEIGH

Well, no more! No more! I'm sick of this whole place!  
You, this apartment, school, home, family, what I'm  
supposed to do and think!

(Leigh gradually hits her  
harder with the pillow as she  
gets more angry.)

GLORIANNA

Hey! Stop it!

LEIGH

I don't care any more what you want, or he wants, or they  
want, or she wants!

GLORIANNA

Stop it!

LEIGH

I'm important, just me, me and what I want my future to  
be!

GLORIANNA

Stop! You're hurting!

LEIGH

So this is it!!

(Leigh hits Glorianna one last  
forceful time.)

I'm through. I've had it!

(Pause)

BRIAN

Anna, are you all right?

LEIGH

Anna?



GLORIANNA

I'm o.k.

BRIAN

Well, you don't look so good. How about a beer or something?

GLORIANNA

O.k.

LEIGH

Anna? How's Anna?

BRIAN

Yes, Anna. You just knocked the shit out of your kid sister.

LEIGH

Brian, where have you been?

BRIAN

Listen, this is all fun and that's great, but when you take it too far and someone gets hurt...

LEIGH

I've been hurt here too!

BRIAN

You had a bad day, right? The world took a big hairy dump on you; whoopidy shit. Get over it. There is no reason to take it out on everyone around you, with no explanation whatsoever.

LEIGH

Being around you two when you're like this would drive anyone crazy!

BRIAN

We're all supposed to understand and just swallow all your bullying.

LEIGH

Like I'm supposed to sink to your level of childishness.

BRIAN

Well it's like this; I have a test tomorrow, and I want to have fun. So, either loosen up, talk this thing out with me, or go sulk!

LEIGH

Thank you for that list of options.

(Leigh turns as if to leave.)

BRIAN

Oh, come on, Leigh, I'm willing to talk this out, whatever it is, but you are really being childish.

LEIGH

I'm childish? Look, you are the last person in the world I would like to unburden my soul to right now. I think my best friend is inside myself. It certainly isn't either of you.

BRIAN

I'm embarrassed for you.

LEIGH

Look, Mr. Liberated, Understanding Male, you have no grasp of the dynamics of this situation.

BRIAN

Horseshit!

LEIGH

You think poor little Glorianna is just a helpless baby?

BRIAN

No.

LEIGH

You think she's a mature, responsible adult?

GLORIANNA

Oh, there you go again!

BRIAN

I think she is very sensitive, and often overpowered by you. Are you blind? She worships the ground you walk on!

LEIGH

I think she owns the ground I walk on.

GLORIANNA

And what's that supposed to mean?

LEIGH

You know exactly what I mean you little parasite!

GLORIANNA

Overgrown bitch-head!

BRIAN

Hey, hey, stop this!

LEIGH

Leech! Little user!

BRIAN

Leigh!

GLORIANNA

I hate you! I hope you fall from grace! I hope she never speaks to you again for as long as you live. I hope she smashes your picture in the fireplace and you burn forever!

LEIGH

(Calmly)

Good.

(Leigh exits to the bedroom and slams the door. Glorianna screams.)

BRIAN

Holy Christ, I've never seen her act this way. Did someone die or something? Should I try and talk to her?

GLORIANNA

Oh Brian, can I talk to you? I've always felt I could tell you anything, and I really need a friend right now.

(She begins to cry.)

BRIAN

Sure doll, anything; anytime. What is it?

GLORIANNA

Maybe not now; when she leaves. Right now I need some arms around me.

BRIAN

Ah sugar, don't cry. She's just mad, everybody gets mad. Maybe it's something I've done, maybe it's between us and she's taking it out on you. Things have been strained.

GLORIANNA

What makes you say that?

BRIAN

There've been a lot of things unsaid lately. She's had a lot on her mind and she won't talk about it.

GLORIANNA

How do you know?

BRIAN

About two weeks ago she started acting real serious about us and our relationship, and I must admit it scared me.

GLORIANNA

Did she say something? Do something?

BRIAN

Just questions about where we were headed and school; the future. I don't know if I'm ready to carve a diagram in stone with her, you know? I need more from her.

GLORIANNA

What did you tell her?

BRIAN

That I love her, I care about her, but hell, she knows I like a woman who can share with me, be my equal without clinging. She made me feel trapped one night. We had a small fight and she left in the middle of it all. She always runs away without finishing what she's started. Ever since then it's all different.

GLORIANNA

God, she didn't tell me. She tells me everything.

BRIAN

We haven't had sex in weeks. She doesn't want to. I don't know what to do. I've been afraid of losing her, but if that's what she wants, I can't stand in her way. She's so headstrong.

GLORIANNA

Maybe it's me, maybe she hates me.

BRIAN

She can't hate you. You two are family.

GLORIANNA

Not the kind of family she wants. She's so selfish.

(Leigh enters with a small overnight bag.)

BRIAN

Leigh, this isn't good, we aren't right. I think this is like a business that's filing for bankruptcy, you know?

LEIGH

Brian, I really need to talk to you, but not now. Just sit on your hands for a few days.

BRIAN

I knew this was coming.

LEIGH

Glorianna, I've had enough. I'm your camel and you've broken me. I'm leaving. I mean really leaving.

GLORIANNA

What?

LEIGH

I'll pack a few things now and go stay with Helen for the weekend; maybe a week, who knows?

GLORIANNA

But what about school?

LEIGH

Do you understand what's happening here? My life is changing! I won't go on this way. If I have to leave school for now, I will. I'm just tired of holding my life together and yours too.

GLORIANNA

No!!

LEIGH

Shut up! For once look ahead! Things grow, things force change. Accept something as reality.

GLORIANNA

I can't.

LEIGH

You won't. I don't have the stamina anymore.

BRIAN

Leigh, I love you. But I want you to be happy.

LEIGH

Then let me do this. We've changed, just let me sort through this. Because I'll be honest, right now I feel like I just lost two-hundred pounds of dead weight.

BRIAN

I've never seen you like this before.

LEIGH

You got that right.

BRIAN

Glorianna has really been hurt.

LEIGH

No she hasn't. She'll get over it.

GLORIANNA

I hate you!

BRIAN

Never walk away like this. Never leave angry. You'll regret it.

LEIGH

You have to stay on your toes around here, Brian. Be careful. She paints a pretty picture.

(Leigh exits out the front door, and Glorianna screams at the top of her lungs non-stop.)

BRIAN

Anna!

(Brian tries to comfort her,  
but she continues screaming  
and wailing.)

There, there...please...shhh...

(He grabs her and rocks her  
in his arms.)

Come on, Anna, please?

(She calms to just wailing.)

Anna, come on...the neighbors. She'll be back. Trust me.  
Do you trust me?

(Soft wailing.)

I'll take care of you, baby, really. Come on, let me help  
you, here.

(Calming.)

There you go...yes...shhh...that's it...that mean old bitch  
is gone now.

(She giggles a little.)

You all right?

GLORIANNA

Could you...

BRIAN

What baby?

GLORIANNA

Could you get me my beer?

BRIAN

Sure, here.



(He hands her the beer and she drinks a huge gulp, sits up tall, and belches.)

GLORIANNA

That fucking bitch.

BRIAN

Feeling better?

GLORIANNA

She's gone. She's really gone.

BRIAN

No she's not, she's just thinking things through.

GLORIANNA

You believe that?

BRIAN

Of course.

GLORIANNA

She used you.

BRIAN

No she didn't.

GLORIANNA

She uses everybody. She's always the best, whatever she pulls. I want another beer.

(She hands her empty to Brian and he gets her another and one for himself.)

BRIAN

How did she use me?

GLORIANNA

She's just trying to get at Mom, everything she does is for motherhood, for Mom to love her best.

BRIAN

So if she catches a guy like me that would do it?

GLORIANNA

No...well...yes, yes that would really do it in Mom's eyes, really do it.

BRIAN

I just didn't expect a night like this. I mean, I thought I really loved her, you know? But she doesn't share with me. I don't know. She scares me, I always fall for the same type of woman. She reminds me of Patty, this girl I dated. Not because they are alike, they're different. I can see both sides now, I can compare to find out what is right for me. Patty was just too dependent; I liked that in a woman. She was also boring. Leigh is exciting and imaginative and fun, but so independent of me it hurts; tonight is a good example! I need someone in between. I'm ready to be more of a family, stop running from commitment; she's not. She wants to have a big career. I guess it's over. I don't know.

GLORIANNA

Tell me more about Patty.

BRIAN

I met her in my sophomore year, and she really grabbed on to me. She was an artist. I think I was her first love, and boy was she perfectly beautiful. I loved the way she smelled and her sense of humor, and the way she dressed, and the way she tasted.

GLORIANNA

She sounds perfect.

BRIAN

She got really dependent. I felt like an old married couple and I was only twenty. She loved me so much, held

me so tight she squeezed every ounce of joy and imagination out of what we had. It became a burden just to go over to her room. The same routine day after day, just the desparate innocence of her love made her ugly to me. Her beauty was gone.

GLORIANNA

What did you do with her?

BRIAN

Well, I had to tell her, I had to move on, see other people. Hell, we were both so young.

GLORIANNA

Did she understand?

BRIAN

No, not at all. She tried to kill herself by taking mass quantities of aspirin and drinking two bottles of fairly good wine.

GLORIANNA

Oh, God.

BRIAN

She ended up walking to my apartment and throwing up all over me.

GLORIANNA

God.

BRIAN

I took her home and cleaned her up; put her to bed. I have a soft spot right here for girls...but damn I had to get her off my back! She was drowning me.

GLORIANNA

Was she o.k.?

BRIAN

She lay in bed, and I'm not joking, cried straight for

three days and nights. Moaning. Three straight! Then she threw out everything I ever gave her. A television, pictures, a ring, letters, furniture; I mean, really threw it out. She was cold.

GLORIANNA

Where is she now?

BRIAN

She's married. I think about him a lot. I always wonder if we could have made it; if she's happy now.

GLORIANNA

Are you and Leigh breaking up?

BRIAN

Maybe. I can't believe she would trap me.

GLORIANNA

She can't help it, she's under a lot of stress. I try to help her. I try to give her stress release. I'm always there for her and she never really notices. I support anything she wants to do, I try to please her, to make her laugh and smile, to help her pass through this life happier, you know?

BRIAN

Hey, don't think about it, let's talk about something else.

GLORIANNA

I try to be what she wants.

BRIAN

I know you do. She loves you.

GLORIANNA

All she ever does is criticize.

BRIAN

Well she's a perfectionist. That's admirable until you have to live with one.

GLORIANNA

She looks for the worst in me. Sometimes I feel like I'm all alone in the whole ugly world and I get so lonely.

(Crying)

Oh, Brian, hold me. I'm so sorry.

BRIAN

It's o.k. Come on, don't cry again.

GLORIANNA

I'll be a burden to you too, is that it?

BRIAN

No, no not at all. Listen, tonight it feels good to have someone need me. But maybe you should call your Mom and tell her...

GLORIANNA

No! No! She'll always side with Leigh, that's where Leigh gets her hate!

BRIAN

Right. Bad idea. O.k.? It was just a suggestion.

GLORIANNA

Brian?

BRIAN

Yeah?

GLORIANNA

Could you do me a favor?

BRIAN

Sure, anything.

GLORIANNA

Would you stay with me this weekend?

BRIAN

Well, I don't know, Anna.

GLORIANNA

I just need someone to be here for me. I've never really been alone here. I won't unload on you any more. I won't be a burden at all, just friends.

BRIAN

What, sleep here?

GLORIANNA

Sleep here, eat here, be here. Be here for me. No one has ever been here just for me. I need a friend. I trust you.

BRIAN

What if she comes back?

GLORIANNA

So what if she does? I'll make up the sofa. Right now you're my very best friend in the whole world. I know that sounds dumb, but I haven't had many.

BRIAN

I guess it would be all right.

GLORIANNA

Oh, thank you. You are the greatest!

(She gives him a big kiss on the cheek.)

We can watch movies on the VCR, and put pillows and blankets all over the floor here, like a slumber party. Here, help me move this table out of the way.

BRIAN

I've never been to a slumber party, but don't we need to have a pizza delivered?

GLORIANNA

Hey, yeah! Oh. I don't have any money.

BRIAN

I'll take care of you.

GLORIANNA

You don't know how good those words sound. You know, this is my kind of therapy. I'll go get the blankets.

(Glorianna exits to the bedroom.)

BRIAN

Holy Christ, what am I doing? I can't believe I'm doing this. Well, I'm not doing anything. I'm moving a fucking table. Big deal.

GLORIANNA

(Yelling from the bedroom)

What?

BRIAN

Nothing! Talking to myself! Talking out loud! She's just a kid sister. Hey, she's upset. Right? Right. Just an upset kid. Besides Leigh's not too concerned about me right now. Shit.

(Glorianna enters dressed in a silky robe that appears ready to fall open.)

GLORIANNA

Here's the covers! Where's that beer? Where's that pizza?

(Pause)

What? What's the matter?

BRIAN

You've changed.

GLORIANNA

Well, changes happen, remember? Some changes are forced. But you have to make the best out of things. I've always wanted to tell you...

BRIAN

What?

GLORIANNA

I've always watched the two of you and...no it's silly.

BRIAN

What?

GLORIANNA

No...

BRIAN

What? What?

GLORIANNA

Nothing.

BRIAN

Ooo! I hate that, I hate that, I hate that! Tell me!

GLORIANNA

Let's pick out a movie.

BRIAN

I thought you could talk to me?

GLORIANNA

What kind of pizza should we get?

BRIAN

O.k. I'm gonna have to use force. The tickle monster strikes!



(He begins to tickle her all over.)

GLORIANNA

Stop! No!

BRIAN

Come on!

GLORIANNA

Please!

BRIAN

Tell me!

GLORIANNA

I'll never tell, no matter what you do to me!

BRIAN

No matter what?

GLORIANNA

Anything! You can do anything. Do anything.

(He stops tickling.)

BRIAN

(Serious)

Just talk to me; share with me without my having to play a game, o.k.?

GLORIANNA

What?

BRIAN

Tell me.

GLORIANNA

I watched you two. I mean really watched you two.

Everything. For a long time now. I never thought Leigh gave you what you needed. I never thought it would last, and I used to...

(Pause)

BRIAN

Tell me.

GLORIANNA

I used to touch...I used to dream that some night you'd get the two bedrooms mixed up, and...oh really, time to eat. Aren't you hungry?

BRIAN

Yes, I'm hungry.

(Brian kisses her.)

GLORIANNA

I like shrimp, pineapple and guacamole pizza if that's o.k.?

BRIAN

(Laughs)

I'll call the pizza place if you go get Leigh's pillows too.

GLORIANNA

More pillows?

BRIAN

And extra cheese.

(Glorianna exits to the bedroom, and Brian picks up the phone and is about to dial when Glorianna yells from the bedroom.)

GLORIANNA

Goddamned bitch!! I hate her!!!

(Brian drops the phone and  
Glorianna comes storming out.)

She took our picture of my Mom and us, that's not hers,  
it's both of ours! How dare she take my things! How dare  
she do that! She took it! She took Mom away from me!

BRIAN

Wait now!

(Glorianna goes on a  
destruction rampage, breaking  
everything Leigh has in the  
house.)

GLORIANNA

There's her stupid books! And these ugly little knicknack  
pieces of trash! All these stupid homework papers! Her  
stupid research!

(She throws papers in the  
air.)

And her godawful records! They go too!

(Brian grabs her as she makes  
her way across the room to  
break records.)

BRIAN

Hey no! Anna!

GLORIANNA

I hate her! I hate her! I hate her! She should have  
taken everthing! She should have thought about me! I'll  
teach her to leave me! I hate her! Let me go!!

(Glorianna breaks free and  
grabs a vase and smashes it.)

BRIAN

No, stop! Anna come to me!

GLORIANNA

I'm gonna break everything she left behind! Everything!

Why does she hate me? She left me alone. She took Mom.  
Mom's gone. Mom's gone.

BRIAN

I'm here remember? Use me; hit me! Take it out on me!  
I'm here.

(Brian grabs her and she hits him and fights until he gets her on the floor and has to sit on her to keep her still. Her robe falls opened and she wears the slightest night-gown.)

GLORIANNA

I hate her! I hate you! She's changed! She's gone! Let me go! I hate you! Why can't she understand? Stop it!

BRIAN

Use me, break me.

GLORIANNA

I hate you, let me go!

BRIAN

What are you really feeling, right now? What is your reality right now?

GLORIANNA

Get off me!

BRIAN

No! Come on!

GLORIANNA

Let me up.

BRIAN

All right.

(He lets go of her.)

GLORIANNA

Oh, God. Save us all.

(She pulls him down to her and passionately wrestles her way to the top of him. As the lights fade, she is furiously undressing him.)

CURTAIN

ACT II

(The scene is the same, early the following morning. The lights are dim as we see the bed linens in a mess, the sofa cushions dislodged, and the sofa and the chair out of line. The broken belongings of Leigh are still scattered. Glorianna and Brian are sleeping in each other's arms on the floor, when Glorianna begins a nonsensical babble in her sleep and wakes Brian up.)

GLORIANNA

Leigh, stop moving. I have to do it.

BRIAN

Anna, Anna wake up. Are you all right?

GLORIANNA

Leigh? Is Leigh here? Is she o.k.?

BRIAN

I'm here Anna, can I help?

GLORIANNA

Could you hold me?

BRIAN

Sure. What happened?

GLORIANNA

I had a strange dream. It was about Mom. I dreamed that I was at her house and she had a dark basement, and everything she told me to do I did. I was real happy to do anything for her. I was happy to be with her. She gave me these scissors and she'd open the front door and grab people walking by and we'd drag them to the basement. The

minute Mom touched them it was like she had special powers and they wouldn't fight her. Then I would cut open the vein in their neck to let them bleed to death. Then Mom handed me Leigh and she was like a zombie, and Mom told me to kill her so I did. I stuck the scissors in her neck and she started to jump around and Mom kept yelling for me to cut her, snip her, cut her open. And I wanted to. I wanted to do it for Mom. I wanted to do it. It was really weird. Leigh kept jumping around and I kept trying to get my hands on the scissors sticking out of her neck.

BRIAN

Are you all right?

GLORIANNA

I have gory dreams all the time and they never scare me. It's just that this time it was creepy because I turned in Leigh for Mother's love. I turned her in.

(Pause)

Weird, huh? Could you get me a drink of water? There's cold water in the frig.

BRIAN

Yeah. Hope you don't mind if I hide the scissors.

(Brian gets up and is in his underwear. The room is dark and he stubs his toe.)

Ouch! Shit! Can you turn on a light somewhere?

GLORIANNA

Sure.

(Glorianna turns on the lamp by the sofa for just a second and turns it off again.)

BRIAN

Hey. Very funny.

GLORIANNA

I turned it on.

BRIAN

Well, leave it on.

(She turns it on for a few seconds longer, then turns it off again.)

GLORIANNA

O.k., I left it on. Was that long enough?

BRIAN

No, it wasn't long enough. I guess you just don't need any water.

GLORIANNA

Here!

(She turns on the light.)

(Affecting a Scarlet O'Hara accent)

Oh please sir, I'm terribly dry, could I trouble you for some cool refreshment?

BRIAN

(Affecting a Rhett Butler accent)

Why Scarlet, I never thought you'd come around. Water is it?

(Brian reaches the refrigerator just in time for Glorianna to turn off the light again, but the refrigerator light comes on.)

Ah ha! You can't control me! I'm super water-man!

GLORIANNA

No fair!

BRIAN

You want water? I'll give you water! Here!



(He brings the pitcher of cold water out of the refrigerator, and pretends to pour it on her.)

GLORIANNA

No! Brian, no!

BRIAN

Here's water; a little shower for my Anna?

GLORIANNA

Stop it! Hey! Come on!

BRIAN

Here, I'm giving you some water.

(He accidentally pours a tiny bit of water on her.)

GLORIANNA

Brian!!

BRIAN

Ooops!

GLORIANNA

Oh great! I share my deepest thoughts with you and you pour water all over me!

BRIAN

It was an accident. Sorry.

GLORIANNA

Sorry? I'm soaking wet!

BRIAN

Oh no you're not.

GLORIANNA

A lot you care.

BRIAN

I do care. Let's see now, did I get you wet?

GLORIANNA

Yes!

(Brian grabs a dish towel.)

BRIAN

Where? Show me where?

GLORIANNA

Well here on my cheek.

(As Glorianna mentions a wet spot, Brian gently dries it, making this a sexual experience.)

BRIAN

Your cheek?

GLORIANNA

And a little on the back of my neck.

BRIAN

The back of your neck.

GLORIANNA

All over my arm.

BRIAN

Your arm?

GLORIANNA

(Correcting)

My left arm.

BRIAN

Oh, sorry.

GLORIANNA

And this leg, all the way up to my chin.

BRIAN

How nice.

GLORIANNA

Hey, only dry off. No extras.

BRIAN

No free feels? Come on! Let me just...

(He bites her neck as she screams.)

GLORIANNA

Now you've had it! Where are the scissors?! I'll cut your neck! Or better yet, say good-bye to Mr. Pickle!

BRIAN

No! Please don't snip me! Don't put me in the basement!

GLORIANNA

It's time to slash you up into tiny chunks; I think I'll make testosterone tetrazzine!

BRIAN

You'll regret it!

GLORIANNA

No, I won't.

BRIAN

Yes, you will...

GLORIANNA

What will I be losing?

BRIAN

You'll never have Mr. Mysterious come to you in the middle of the night anymore.

GLORIANNA

That's fine. I won't miss him.

BRIAN

He won't follow you down the dark alleys of Paris and watch you.

GLORIANNA

I'll find someone else. I can teach that one to anybody.

BRIAN

Waiting for his opportunity to take you, to grab you. He won't take you in his arms and say...he'll whisper...well he won't whisper anything because I'll be a freaking tetrazine. I think you'll miss that sexual talent of mine?

GLORIANNA

What makes you so sure I'll miss that one? I think you enjoyed it just as much as me if not more than me!

BRIAN

Oh, come on, that was clearly your favorite, it was the only one we did twice. I kept having to jump out from behind...

GLORIANNA

Yeah, but I talked dirty every time. Besides you won't have a French maid cleaning the bathtub naked, and I won't have sore knees! I think you'll lose out more than me!

BRIAN

Will not!

GLORIANNA

Will so!

BRIAN

Will not, will not!

GLORIANNA

Oh, go to hell!

BRIAN

Oh, God, I love it when you talk dirty!!

(He playfully grabs her and pretends like he is going to ravish her. He picks her up and throws her down on the sofa.)

Woman! Meet my flaming love serpent!

GLORIANNA

Oh you're slime-infested!

BRIAN

What's wrong with you?

GLORIANNA

It's morning!

BRIAN

So? So what?

GLORIANNA

I'm not in the mood! I'm embarrassed.

BRIAN

I like it when you're bare assed.

GLORIANNA

Oh, God!

BRIAN

I don't understand. How can you be so different today?

GLORIANNA

It was dark last night, and I was upset.

BRIAN

Well, I think you enjoyed yourself.

GLORIANNA

Enjoyed myself? You don't know what that means.

BRIAN

Would you like to show me?

GLORIANNA

I can't until you get it right.

BRIAN

I couldn't help it, the honey got in my leg hairs and it hurt, o.k.? It just ruined the moment for me!

GLORIANNA

Just like a frightened barnacle. I guess Mister Serpent crawled back in his hole.

BRIAN

Well, you won't win any prizes either. Talking dirty should be more than those same three words over and over.

GLORIANNA

Oh! If I knew I was supposed to keep score, I would have brought a calculator to bed with me.

BRIAN

Shit, Anna, I'm sorry, I don't want to fight with you after last night. I really enjoyed last night. It's just if you didn't...I mean if you were only pretending...

GLORIANNA

If you would get it right, I wouldn't pretend.

BRIAN

Well, let me try again.

GLORIANNA

Jesus, not now!

BRIAN

Why not?

GLORIANNA

I told you, it's daytime. Maybe tonight.

BRIAN

You want me to stay here again?

GLORIANNA

Well, of course. You're my protector.

BRIAN

I wasn't sure.

GLORIANNA

Just cool off sometime, o.k.?

BRIAN

I'll do my best.

GLORIANNA

I mean, I need a mood; create a mood. I can't just turn on and off like a video game.

BRIAN

You don't take quarters? I thought you took quarters?

GLORIANNA

Oh, very funny.

BRIAN

No, I'm sure I saw a slot right back here...

GLORIANNA

Will you get out of my butt!

BRIAN

There it is!

GLORIANNA

Stop it!

BRIAN

Damn, if you only made change.

GLORIANNA

Will you leave me alone! Just don't touch me!

BRIAN

What?

GLORIANNA

Don't touch me, don't talk to me, don't look at me, don't think about me. Just don't, don't, don't!

BRIAN

Great. You got it.

(Gloriana sits down on the sofa and grabs a nail file off of the table and starts filing her toe nails. Brian stares at her and then gets a book off the shelf and begins reading. They ignore one another, until Gloriana begins to need more attention.)



## GLORIANNA

(Pause)

You're going to read the thesaurus?

(Brian ignores her.)

You don't have to really not think about me. I just said it because I was mad.

(Silence)

Hey, look at how stupid my little toes are, are your little toes as stupid as these?

(Brian has searched for a selection, and is reading.)

Please talk to me, I can't stand it to be alone and if you just sit there acting like I'm not even here then I am alone. My mother used to ignore me when I was little. If she had something to do then she would lock Leigh and I in the bedrooms. She would lock us in separate rooms so we couldn't talk and make noise and disturb her. Sometimes it was when she was doing work she brought home with her, she was trying to get a promotion. It worked, so she started to do it all the time. She was sick of us. She never really wanted kids, she wanted adults. But Leigh and I could hear each other through the floor vent connecting the two rooms and we started talking and then making up poems and telling stories to each other. Leigh used to say that I could tell the best stories because she could close her eyes and imagine she was really there, like painting pictures of a place that was better than home. We would pretend that we ran away from home together. We promised we would get married to each other; we were just kids. Just the two of us and we could do whatever we wanted. But then Leigh learned to talk like an adult, and Mom would let her out. She only locked me up and I was alone with no one to run away with. I hate being alone because I can't take anyone with me. I've never told anyone that. Not even Leigh and I ever even talk about it. I'm so embarrassed; I feel so dumb.

BRIAN

(Brian reads to Glorianna with a great deal of tenderness.)

Love. Fondness, amorousness, affection, attachment, devotion, passion, tender feelings, rapture, enchantment, idolization, infatuation, crush. Be in love with. Be fond of, harbor an affection, care for, endear, hold dear, prize, treasure, cherish, esteem, admire, regard, revere, burn, adore, have it bad. Become enamored. Fall in love, lose one's heart, take a shine to, fall for, cotton to, cling to, be swept off one's feet. Which one is your favorite?

GLORIANNA

You're trying to tell me something, right?

BRIAN

I'm partial to rapture, treasure, burn, adore, and lose one's heart.

GLORIANNA

I kind of liked swept off one's feet.

BRIAN

I think I know how hard that was to tell me, but you chose me to tell. You can't know what that means to me. See, Leigh would never play, never share, she always took everything so seriously. Then I thought you would never stop playing, but you are full of surprises. You opened up to me. I was afraid I would push too hard and you'd run away.

GLORIANNA

Well, this isn't going to be an every day thing.

BRIAN

Why not? It can be. I'll always be here to help you. You won't ever be alone with me. And you can tell me stories, take me places, take me with you.

GLORIANNA

I think I'll do some reading too...how about the dictionary?

(Glorianna, in her embarrassment, goes to the bookshelf and grabs a book.)

BRIAN

No, don't do this.

GLORIANNA

Or maybe the encyclopedia?

BRIAN

Anna.

GLORIANNA

Good old Betty Crocker!

BRIAN

Anna, I need what you can give me. I love you. Please don't play right now. Talk to me. Be who you've always wanted to be. No one is going to push you away anymore.

GLORIANNA

Never laugh? Never laugh and have fun?

BRIAN

No, we'd laugh and have fun all the time, just more regularly; in a healthier way.

GLORIANNA

So are you gonna hold up signs that say laugh now, or be serious now?

BRIAN

If you want to, but it might be awkward at parties.

GLORIANNA

So I guess this means I love you too; I guess.

BRIAN

I was only kidding.

GLORIANNA

You little shit!

(He hugs her.)

BRIAN

It was a joke, a joke! I love you heaps, and gobs, and piles!

GLORIANNA

This is kinda scarey.

BRIAN

Love, real love is very scarey. What are you thinking?

GLORIANNA

I've always had this dreamy image of what I was in life if I wasn't me. What if I was just an object, how would I see myself? I always thought that I would start up with; fall in love with; some guy. It's like they say, the world is an oyster and I'm a gem of peeling plastic with everyone wondering why no one's buying me. No one's loving me. No one's stopping to slip me on their finger, or push me through an ear lobe, or drop me down some cleavage. But then he comes along; somebody. What if I were like a cuff link, or something that snaps on and goes along for the ride? No effort involved, no decisions to make. I don't have to worry about where I'm going because he takes me with him. The problem has always been finding him and getting chosen; polishing my outsides. If I try too hard my finish just peels right off and exposes what I really am. I'm terribly fond of secure places, I like to stay where I know it's safe. I'm afraid of change. I'm scared.

BRIAN

I'm here. I like what I see. Relax, and let's just grow up together. Sound nice?

GLORIANNA

Yes.

(They embrace and seem to be moving to the sofa to get romantic, when the door opens and Leigh is standing there with key and suitcase in hand. Glorianna and Brian freeze for

a split second and then Glorianna slaps him across the face and screams.)

GLORIANNA

(Screaming)

Stop it! Let me go! Leigh! Leigh! Thank God! Help me!

(She slugs and pushes Brian away such that he falls backwards.)

BRIAN

Shit!!

GLORIANNA

Save me! Leigh!

LEIGH

What in the hell's happening?!

BRIAN

Glorianna, what are you saying?

(Brian frantically dresses.)

Hello, Leigh.

GLORIANNA

Keep away from me! Leigh, make him leave me alone!

LEIGH

What's going on here? What are you doing here?

BRIAN

I've been here all night!

GLORIANNA

Liar!! Oh, God, why are you doing this?

LEIGH

Glorianna, tell me what's going on here.

GLORIANNA

I heard a knock at the door, and...

BRIAN

Christ! That's not true!

LEIGH

Shut up!

GLORIANNA

Leigh, he raped me; you've got to believe me! I'm so glad you've come back!

BRIAN

Jesus fucking Christ!

LEIGH

Just tell me what happened.

GLORIANNA

I answered the door, and it was him; I think of him as my brother; I didn't think anything of letting him in!

BRIAN

Glorianna, why are you doing this?

GLORIANNA

You keep away from me! You raped me!!

(Glorianna begins her stress release exercises again. She tenses and releases her body and does deep breathing exercises throughout this next segment.)

LEIGH

Rape??

BRIAN

Jesus Christ, that's a lie!

LEIGH

You did this?

BRIAN

No! Of course not! I love her!

LEIGH

What?!

GLORIANNA

God, why are you doing this? You're sick!!

LEIGH

They say most women are raped by someone they know. I am so disgusted by you.

BRIAN

I never left here last night, I spent the night with your

(When he says this Glorianna begins beating the sofa with her fists.)

sister and we made love all night long. I fell in love with her. If you ever felt anything for me, believe me.

GLORIANNA

Leigh! Leigh! Make him stop! Get him away!! Leigh!

LEIGH

I think you better leave.

BRIAN

Why would I do this, Leigh? Think this through logically.

GLORIANNA

I think I'm gonna be sick! Oh God, help me, please!

(Glorianna runs to get a glass of water and sits on the arm of the sofa and splashes water on her face.)

LEIGH

Haven't you done enough? All I know is I walk in and you have hold of her and she is screaming...look at this place. I stick with family. I believe my sister. You aren't family; now get the hell out of here.

BRIAN

Anna? Anna, please? I understand you, remember? Tell the truth!

(Glorianna crumbles into the sofa in the fetal position, and Leigh runs into the kitchen and gets a butcher knife.)

LEIGH

I already told you once to get out, you're lucky I haven't called the police. And I wanted to spend my life with you.

BRIAN

Us, never; but Anna and I had a chance.

LEIGH

I believe what is my own reality; what I have to believe to survive. Our love has to be unconditional to work. You didn't stay on your toes, you suffer the consequences. Get out and don't ever come back.

BRIAN

Wait...

LEIGH

No wait, I'm calling the police!

(Leigh runs to the phone with the knife still in hand and dials.)



BRIAN

You are both in deep shit here!

LEIGH

I'd like to report a rape.

BRIAN

Anna?

(She doesn't look up at him.)

LEIGH

My name is Leigh Stringer, 920 W. Hickory street, apartment thirteen.

(Brian makes a hasty exit.)

(Pause)

(Glorianna stays frozen in the corner of the sofa as Leigh just hangs up the phone. After a moment Leigh goes into an angry rage and she rips the house apart, throwing anything she can get her hands on. She moves from the kitchen, to the desk, to the bookshelf, and eventually falls to the ground sobbing. Glorianna gets up and goes to her, and cradles her in arms.)

LEIGH

Oh dear heaven, what am I going to do?

(Leigh falls to the floor crying.)

What can I do? I don't know; I don't know anymore.

GLORIANNA

I didn't think you were ever coming back.

LEIGH

I left because I was going to have my own baby. I wasn't ever coming back, I wasn't even missing it. Then the most horrible thing...Oh, God, what have I done?

GLORIANNA

You're home now.

LEIGH

I left here with everything worked out. Brian wasn't going to be my man. My little baby, my sweet little baby. I thought it was a girl. I could kiss her and touch her; she was so soft. We could sleep close together, my body shielding her from the whole world. She'd be so beautiful, and everyone would look down at her and say, "Oh, what a beautiful baby!", and I'd say, "Oh, and she's a good baby too, she never cries, and after I feed her she just goes right to sleep." And whenever she'd see my face I could make her laugh; I'd be the only one who could make her laugh every time.

(Cries)

GLORIANNA

What happened?

LEIGH

I knew I could be alone; I wanted to spend some time with her. About half way I stopped to get coffee at this dirty, disgusting truck stop. I walked in and these hairy men were staring at me. They'd stare at me and then whisper to each other and laugh. They'd get up to put quarters in this old juke box and play Hank Williams, over and over. I just sat there and ordered a grilled cheese sandwich, because it's the world's greatest sandwich, you know? And I sat there by myself, just the two of us. This fat middle-aged waitress, with bright orange hair, brought me my sandwich. She didn't say anything. Hank was singing "Your Cheatin' Heart," and the orange waitress and the men were laughing. It smelled like people everywhere; dirty people who were sitting too long. Then I started to hurt, it happened all at once; really strange. My back started hurting, and I got pains in my stomach. I thought it was the caffeine, and I'd hurt my baby! I jumped up to go to

the bathroom and see, and I ran into one of those men. He grabbed me by the shoulders...I started to cry, because I was really cramping up and this strange man in a down vest was holding me.

GLORIANNA

What did he do to you?

LEIGH

He asked if he could help me, and I just cried. The waitress came over and they both helped me to the bathroom, and made sure I was o.k. I shut the door, and pulled down my pants...

(Cries)

GLORIANNA

Oh, God! Oh, God!

LEIGH

I started my period!

GLORIANNA

You what?

LEIGH

Right there in a crusty smelly bathroom, I started my period and lost my baby!

GLORIANNA

You were never pregnant?

LEIGH

My goddamned period! Jesus, God in heaven, why? I didn't know where to go, and the only person I could think of was you. All the terrible things I said.

(Cries)

I tried the machine on the wall to get a tampon out of and it was empty too. I had to ask the waitress if she had something. I had to use table napkins. Oh Anna! My sweet Anna, you do love me; I couldn't exist without you.

## GLORIANNA

Once upon a time there was the softest, fluffiest little white kitten who lived with a little girl in a hollow tree. The kitten loved the girl more than life itself, and every morning they would wake up, and play together. They would roll around and chase small balls of fluff caught on the wind; not very serious stuff. They would play and play until they were exhausted, and then they would curl up in the warm sunshine in each others arms and nap, knowing they were safe because they had each other. "I love you kitty," the girl would say, and she would gently stroke the kitten's soft fur. When she had fallen asleep, she would lean down ever so tenderly and kiss her good-night.

(Glorianna leans over and kisses Leigh on the head, as the lights slowly fade to black.)

"We'll never leave each other," she said.

CURTAIN