

# What's in a Name?

by

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## **CHARACTERS**

SONIA, 46

Kari's mother. Over the top and loving in her own way. Her first language is Spanish.

KARI, 21

Sonia's daughter. Determined, stubborn, impulsive.

MATT, 22

Kari's best friend. Hard working and caring.

## **SETTING**

Split stage:

**SMALL BROOKLYN APARTMENT:** The living room of Sonia's apartment. Lights up in a small living room in the projects of Brooklyn, NY. The living room is tight but homey. The furniture might be worn but is still comfy. There is a three seater couch and a separate two seater couch touching so that it's shaped like an L. There's an ottoman in front of the two couches and a dining table that's probably too big for the living room, on the side of the ottoman.

**A SIMPLE BAR:** Brooklyn, NY. Where Mat works. Any bar is fine.

Off stage:

**BUILDING ENTRANCE:** A bench outside of the NYCHA housing development where Kari and Sonia live.

**BLUE DIM LIGHTS:** Kari's daydreams.

## PROLOGUE

*At the bar.*

**KARI**

My mother named me Kari (Kah-d-ee) Luna. And I didn't really understand the importance of that name. Right? My entire school career, up until my sophomore year of college I asked people to call me Carrie. I'm looking back at myself, like, who the fuck is Carrie? Where does she come from?

Someone once told me something like- your name is your legacy. Or something less- cliché. That didn't make all that much sense to me when they told me initially. But I'm thinking about it, you see how big your name is at the top of your resume. That shit must be important. Right?

My mother is a- character. She is a woman sure of many things. I don't know much about her story. Right? That's part of the conditional love that comes with having a Caribbean parent. They don't tell you much. But that woman has never been able to pronounce the name Carrie. And so I think- if the woman that raised me, that chose my name, that called me by that name through it all, can't pronounce it, maybe I shouldn't make space for other people to call me out of my name. And maybe I shouldn't feel uncomfortable introducing myself to a stranger, when my mother is proud to.

*Light shifts to the bar. KARI sits on a stool.*

## **SCENE 1**

*At the bar: It's empty. Mat walks from the manager's office to the bar. The words inside of the parentheses shouldn't be said just used as a reference.*

**MAT**

You got it Mr. Rodriguez! I'll do it right now.

He turns to KARI.

**KARI**

I have about 400 dollars saved.

**MAT**

That's not bad.

**KARI**

I mean, yeah. It's pretty good. It's not like a month's rent, but it's the most I've saved- like-ever.

**MAT**

Haven't you been working since you were 16?

**KARI**

Good for you for remembering that.

*(What Kari is really thinking is: I can't believe you just called me out for not having more saved when you know it's been hard for me)*

Yes.

**MAT**

But everything counts.

*(What Mat really means is: Sorry)*

**KARI**

So I'm thinking- if I find a job that pays well enough I can move out as soon as I graduate.

**MAT**

That sounds like a great idea.

**KARI**

Doesn't it?

**MAT**

But-

**KARI**

No no no, don't shoot my idea down, please.

**MAT**

What do you mean?

**KARI**

You always have something to add.

**MAT**

Okay, nevermind then.

**KARI**

No no, I still want to hear it.

**MAT**

Wouldn't it be more cost effective to stay home and save for a little longer? Like, not worry about rent and stuff while you are adjusting to life out of college, make sure you are completely secure before you-

**KARI**

I get your point- but if i move back home i'll be stuck there forever. And my mother and I do better in small doses.

**MAT**

Okay.

**KARI**

Okay?

**MAT**

Okay.

**KARI**

So I was thinking-

*Mat wipes down the counter. KARI follows him down the bar.*

**MAT**

Mhmm.

**KARI**

I was doing some research rather, and *bartenders* make anywhere from 1000-2000 a week.

**MAT**

Well, that's not guaranteed.

You can hear slamming desk drawers in the back.

**KARI**

Yeah, maybe not. But like- it's a possibility, right?

**MAT**

I mean, yeah, I guess.

**KARI**

So, I was wondering if you could get me a job here?

**MAT**

Hahaha.

**KARI**

Why are you laughing?

**MAT**

Why aren't you?

**KARI**

I'm serious.

**MAT**

Oh.

*The door slams and you can hear muffled talking  
from the manager's office.*

**KARI**

Dude, what is up with your manager?

**MAT**

I can't really do that.

**KARI**

Bullshit. You've been working here for years, manager HAS to trust you at this point. I'm just asking for you to put in a good word.

**MAT**

I don't know. This job isn't all that great.

**KARI**

Well then, why do you still do it?

*Silence.*

**KARI**

Look, you've known me for years.

**MAT**

Yes.

**KARI**

In all of that time, have I ever proven myself to be irresponsible.?

**MAT**

(Sigh) The exact opposite.

**KARI**

Right, and i'm super hard working, a quick learner-

**MAT**

All of this is very true. Which is why I know you'll succeed in anything you do.

**KARI**

Exactly!

**MAT**

So it doesn't have to be bartending.

**KARI**

Exact- wait no!

**MAT**

Kari-

**KARI**

Mateo.

**MAT**

Can you please call me Mat at work?

**KARI**

Ew- why?

**MAT**

It's just easier, for customers and stuff. And the Me. Rodriguez suggests it.

**KARI**

When I start working here will he want me to tell people my name is Kari (CARRIE)?

**MAT**

I don't know, but all the more reason not to. But going back for a sec, I just think you're doing what you always do. Not thinking about what it actually means to do the things you're committing to.

**KARI**

Ouch.

**MAT**

That retail job last year?

**KARI**

A horrible horrible chain.

**MAT**

Yeah.

**KARI**

Okay, first of all- they were overworking us and never let us out on time. It was super unorganized.

**MAT**

But you were so eager to work there. You didn't take the time to ask the right questions before you got there. And late hours? That's exactly what you would be getting here.

**KARI**

It's different this time around. I KNOW that that is what i'm getting myself into.

**MAT**

What about school?

**KARI**

It's my last semester. I'm barely taking any classes. My schedule is so open.

**MAT**

And they can raise your rent ya know? If you make too much above what you say you make, you can get in a lot of trouble.

**KARI**

The plan is to move out anyways. Next concern. Keep throwing them at me.

**MAT**

This job will make you miserable.

**KARI**

It won't.

**MAT**

You have to keep track of so many things, people are fun and happy when they're drunk but they can also get angry and out of control.

**KARI**

I've thought about all of this- I can handle all of this. Plus- i'd be working with you!

**MAT**

Not all of the time.

**KARI**

But most of the time.

**MAT**

I-

**KARI**

Mat, you know I'm on a timeline. I don't know why you're trying so hard to stop that from happening when you're literally the person that can help me.

**MAT**

And you know i'd do anything to help you but-

**KARI**

But nothing, anything but the word but.

**MAT**

What are you gonna tell your mom when she notices you leaving late and coming back at whatever time you get let out of here?

**KARI**

That's not for you to worry about. You know, you're worrying a lot about other things. I'm only focused on working HERE, and making money.

**MAT**

(Scoffs) If your mom kills us both, we're all out of jobs.

**KARI**

What is up with you today- You keep making up these crazy excuses.

**MAT**

They're not crazy, bro. I'm thinking rationally.

**KARI**

And I'm not?

**MAT**

It doesn't seem like it. This isn't an easy or safe job.

**KARI**

Oh, what? I'm a person that needs easy and safe?

**MAT**

Yes, literally. You are.

**KARI**

I'm NOT. Mateo- (cough) MAT. You've told me yourself, This job is mostly about listening. I can do that.

**MAT**

Can you?

**KARI**

Yes, stupid.

**MAT**

Look, it's just not the right job for a-

**KARI**

Careful about the next words you use.

**MAT**

I just think-

**KARI**

I am just doing it for the money, the same as you. I just need the money.

**MAT**

I don't want parts in this.

**KARI**

So you would feel better if I were working at some random bar in the middle of the west bubble, working with strangers?

**MAT**

Kari, this isn't about how I would feel. This is my thing. Bartending is my thing.

**KARI**

So bartending was made exclusively for MATEO.

**MAT**

That's not what I mean.

**KARI**

But we-

**MAT**

"We" nothing. This isn't about US. This is about you.

**KARI**

You're making it about us.

*The door slams.*

**KARI**

Literally why does he keep slamming things?

**MAT**

You made it about us when you came in here asking me to get you the job.

**KARI**

Not true.

**MAT**

Then why come to me? Why not just apply- wait for an interview like everyone else.

**KARI**

Because I thought maybe my friend would be open and excited to help and support me in doing something that ultimately helps me out in the long run.

*The back door slams again.*

**KARI**

Why does he slam his door so much?

*KARI gets up from her seat.*

**MAT**

What are you doing? Where are you going? (panicking)

*The door slams again. The stage is silent. Mat walks out from around the bar. He looks back to where the manager's office is. He walks towards the office but stops and shakes his head. He's not getting involved. The door slams again. KARI walks back out.*

**KARI**

We've come to a compromise. I'm gonna go by my last name. That way I can still stick true to who I am and it's not hard for customers to pronounce.

**MAT**

What do you mean we? Who's we?

**KARI**

Me and Joe.

**MAT**

Mr. Rodriguez?

**KARI**

Yes, Joe. He wants me back on Tuesday at 4 to start training.

**MAT**

Kari, why would you do that? You're gonna make me look bad. He let you call him Joe?

**KARI**

Mateo, you really have no faith in me, and honestly, if I didn't just get hired I would be so offended.

**MAT**

Do not make me look bad, okay. I'm up for a promotion and I really can't have you ruin this for me.

**KARI**

Is that why you're acting like you have a stick up your ass?

**MAT**

Fewer hours, more money, health insurance. It's a big deal.

**KARI**

I will *not* make you look bad.

**MAT**

Tuesday at 4 is my shift.

**KARI**

Yeah, I know. He wants his best bartender to teach me the ropes.

**MAT**

Kari, you stress me out, and high blood pressure runs in my family.

**KARI**

Just a small thing though, I have class on tuesday. So I might not be able to make it- Joe knows that. So he said that if you are open to training me today- while it's slow- then that would work too.

**MAT** (*Shaking his head*)

High blood pressure. Get behind the counter.

*KARI runs behind the bar. She looks at Mat.*

**KARI**

Thank you.

*Lights shift to the apartment.*

## **SCENE 2**

*In the apartment. There's a cup of coffee sitting on the ottoman. KARI is sitting back, half asleep in the clothes that she slept in (Maybe a big t-shirt and sweats). SONIA comes into the living room*

*with a small plate in her hand holding a phone between her head and her shoulder and a bill in between her arm.*

**SONIA**

Hello? Yes, can I speak to- yes, about the rent for- yes.

*She picks up the coffee cup from the ottoman which kind of wakes up the daughter. SONIA places the cup of coffee over the plate and back onto the ottoman so that the heat ring doesn't damage the ottomans fabric any more than it already is. KARI relaxes again. SONIA exits stage right and enters again with a broom. She stands in front of KARI with her back turned to the audience. She stares at the daughter. KARI gets up and adjusts her seat so that she can see the TV screen without her mother being in the way. SONIA starts sweeping around KARI but instead of moving again KARI just lifts her legs up so that SONIA can sweep under her legs.*

**SONIA**

Yes, hello? Do you have someone that can speak e-Spanish?

*SONIA stops sweeping again and just stares at her daughter. She leans the broom against the ottoman and exits stage left and brings out a speaker. KARI stares at her mother and at the speaker. She watches her mother turn on the speaker and plays a classic spanish song. KARI slowly sits up on the seat and picks up the remote that's sitting on the ottoman. She turns up the TV show that's playing (something in English). She sits back again and chuckles at whatever's playing. SONIA stares at KARI and laughs.. SONIA turns the music up higher. KARI raises the TV up higher. SONIA raises the volume up on the speaker and sits the speaker down on the living room table. She won. She walks off stage. KARI gets up*

*to lower the music on the speaker and sits back down. She lowers the sound on the TV so that it's at a reasonable volume. SONIA walks back in with a mop. She sets the supplies down. She picks up the remote and turns off the TV.*

**SONIA**

Why are you here?

**KARI**

Good morning, mom. How are you? How'd I sleep you ask? Pretty good.

**SONIA**

I know you didn't sleep well because you slept on the couch. What did I tell you about sleeping on the couch?

**KARI**

Sleeping on the couch is for guests.

**SONIA**

SLEEPING ON THE COUCH IS FOR GUESTS.

**KARI**

Well if you didn't have all of your stuff on my bed like my room was a storage closet maybe I could sleep there.

**SONIA**

Buenoooo, maybe if you told me you were coming-

**KARI**

Ma, why are you yelling it's so early.

**SONIA**

Yo no estoy gritando. That's how I talk. What are you doing here?

**KARI**

What do you mean what am I doing here?

**SONIA**

Why aren't you back up at school?

**KARI**

I can't just come home for the weekend?

**SONIA**

You can come home whenever you want.

**KARI**

Thank you.

*KARI goes to sit on the couch.*

**SONIA**

Yes hello, Hi. My rent is too high. (pause) Yes, yes i know. But that was LAST month. I'm only working three or four days now. (Pause) proof of what? Pa que? (Pause) S- O-N-I-E

**KARI**

A

**SONIA** (on the phone)

A. S-O-N-I-A (pause) Apartment 1-C. Yes. no, no. don't put me on hold.- don't. .

**SONIA** (to Kari)

Four years en la universidad, you didn't come home for the weekend unless you already had plans.

**KARI**

No plans. I just wanted to visit my mother. I can't visit my mother?

**SONIA** (judginly)

I don't have money.

**KARI**

I'm not here to ask you for money.

**SONIA**

I'm serious - they just raised the rent.

**KARI**

I'm not here to ask you for money mom.

**SONIA** *(On the phone)*

Hello- yes, what time? (pause) What papers? (pause) My last pay- okay. Okay. Thank you, see you then.

**KARI**

I think it'll help with the transition back to living off campus when I graduate, ya know?

**SONIA**

Ahh, pues ta bien.

**KARI**

Yeah. Also, I'm going out later but i'll be right back and I'm yours all weekend long.

**SONIA**

Ta bien, Kari Luna.

**KARI**

*(jokingly shocked and not at all in a disrespectful way)*

My government name, ma?

**SONIA**

You always come home with plans. NEVER just to visit your mother. Yo no te importo?

**KARI**

Oh my gosh, mom.

**SONIA**

Are you going to help me or are you just going to sit there?

*KARI just stares at SONIA.*

**SONIA**

I can sweep if you mop.

*KARI yawns and looks over at the TV.*

**SONIA**

And if you wash the dishes while I separate the laundry then it'll get done faster.

*KARI just falls back onto the couch.*

**SONIA**

Maybe if you didn't go out on Saturdays// you would have enough energy too-

*KARI lets out a loud groan.*

**KARI**

Ma, can I just finish my coffee before you start?

**SONIA**

You weren't drinking the coffee you were watching TV.

**KARI**

I was simultaneously drinking coffee and watching TV.

**SONIA**

The // faster you-

**KARI**

The faster I drink my coffee the faster blah blah blah. Ma, please, por favor, please. I just need time to wake up.

**SONIA**

How much time?

**KARI**

I just need a minute, ma!

*SONIA nods her head and looks at her watch. She looks at her daughter and back at her watch.*

**KARI**

Not like an actual minute! Ma, damn!

**SONIA**

Parate y ponte-a-limpiar.

**KARI**

Aghhh

*KARI gets up slowly and grabs the broom but slowly and dramatically gets on the floor to throw a slow temper tantrum. She rolls on the floor. SONIA stands over her 21 year old daughter and watches her roll on the floor. She steps over her and looks back down at her daughter.*

**SONIA**

A quien tu saliste tan dramática?

**KARI**

You raised me ma, a quien ma?

**SONIA**

Tu no saliste a mi no. Yo LIMPIO.

*KARI gets up from the floor. And picks up the broom. SONIA smiles and steps off stage again.*

*KARI looks around and sits back down on the couch. From offstage you can hear SONIA yelling.*

**SONIA**

Make sure you get under the couch!

*SONIA walks back in and sees her daughter sitting on the couch.*

**SONIA**

Don't forget about under the couch.

*SONIA stands in front of her daughter until she gets up.*

**KARI**

Fine.

*KARI finally stands up and starts to sweep. She sweeps very slowly and  
SONIA just watches her until she becomes aggravated by how slowly  
she's sweeping.*

**SONIA**

Give me the broom.

*SONIA snatches the broom out of the daughter's  
hands and starts to sweep.*

**KARI**

Fine- but you can't complain that I didn't try and help// and say that

**SONIA**

That if I want things done right I have to do them myself?

*SONIA bends down and sweeps under the  
couch.*

**SONIA**

I can't wait for you to move out.

*She continues to sweep around the living room.*

**KARI**

Ma, you can't make jokes like that because one day I'm going to take you seriously and I'm gonna actually move out and you're going to be upset.

**SONIA**

It just makes no sense to me. When I was your age-

**KARI**

Le estaba cocinando y limpiando al pueblo entero.

**SONIA**

Nine brothers and sisters.

NINE.

**KARI**

Well maybe if I wasn't an only child I could've been cooking for the family too.

**SONIA**

Grab the dust pan.

*KARI walks off stage right to grab the dustpan from the kitchen. She comes back in and gestures to hand the dustpan to her mother. SONIA looks at her daughter in disbelief. Almost like saying "You really can't even hold the dustpan for me?". KARI takes the hint. She bends down and holds down the dustpan so that SONIA can sweep things in place.*

**KARI**

We should get a swiffer.

**SONIA**

Que swiffer ni sweeper ni que se ma?

*KARI gets up and goes off stage so that she can throw out everything that was swept onto the dustpan.*

**KARI**

It would just make sweeping and mopping so much easier. And then you wouldn't have to ring the mop with your hands.

*She comes back onto the stage.*

**SONIA**

I really can't believe you're my daughter

**KARI**

Honestly ma, neither can I sometimes. You sure I'm yours?

*She grabs the broom and sets it aside with the dustpan.*

**SONIA**

You know, there were a lot of babies that looked like you at the hospital - maybe I picked up the wrong one.

**KARI**

(Sarcastically) Ha Ha. Mom. You're hilarious.

**SONIA**

I know. I'm the funniest person in this house.

*SONIA goes off stage left and comes back on to the stage with a big basket of laundry. She sets the basket onto the ottoman.*

**SONIA**

Are you washing your whites today?

**KARI**

I'm just gonna put them in with the rest of the clothes. You want to wash our clothes together?

**SONIA**

No, because I don't want you stealing any more of my stuff.

**KARI**

Oh my god for the last time, ma. The leggings were MINE.

**SONIA**

They were small.

**KARI**

Because I wear small.

*SONIA goes off stage right to grab the bucket and mop.*

**SONIA**

Well I wear a small one too.

**KARI**

To be honest neither of us are supposed to be wearing a small one.

**SONIA**

Move the table so I can mop under it.

*KARI struggles to move the ottoman.*

**KARI**

Damn ma, que e lo que tu tienes aqui dentro.

**SONIA**

I don't know. My mail, some clothes, the Christmas decorations from 2009.

**KARI**

Ma, what would happen if you threw some stuff out?

*SONIA helps KARI move the ottoman.*

**SONIA**

Nothing would need to be thrown out because there's enough space for everything.

**KARI**

I mean, yes. But everything would look a lot- nicer if there was more space to organize it all. I was watching this interior design show and-

**SONIA**

I personally think that things would look a lot nicer if you mopped.

Or helped me with everything around the house. I have to do laundry, I have to wash the dishes, I have to clean the bathroom-

**KARI**

Mom, I'm just visiting. This is technically really your house. And so as your guest, I'll let you do all of those things yourself.

*KARI gets up from the couch and walks over to stage left.*

**KARI**

I actually have to go take a shower so I can be ready for-

*SONIA stops her before she can leave the stage.*

**SONIA**

Be ready for WHAT?

**KARI**

I have plans.

**SONIA**

To clean the bathroom? Yeah I know.

**KARI**

Mah, no, I made plans to go out to eat with-

**SONIA**

You're not going anywhere until this entire house is clean.

**KARI**

Ma!

**SONIA**

So which one do you want to do? The dishes or mopping?

**KARI**

Dishes.

*SONIA starts to separate the clothes in the basket into piles. Dark and bright clothing in separate piles.*

**SONIA**

Can you grab your clothes?

*KARI walks off stage left and drags a big laundry bag onto the stage.*

**SONIA**

Gracias mi princesa.

**KARI**

Ew.

*SONIA turns around to look at her daughter  
dragging in the big bag.*

**SONIA**

When was the last time you did your laundry?

**KARI**

I don't know. Like a month ago?

**SONIA**

You were raised by a pack of wolves.

**KARI**

A singular wolf. You.

*KARI starts to separate her clothes onto the same piles as  
SONIA creates more piles. Jeans. Colors, dark colors and  
bright colors. Blankets and towels.*

**SONIA**

What are you doing?

**KARI**

I'm separating my clothes. Lights, darks, jeans, blankets.

**SONIA**

You're the reason the detergent goes so quickly.

**KARI**

What?

**SONIA**

Tu sabes cuanto cuesta una de esa cosas?

**KARI**

Like five dollars?

**SONIA**

Like Five DOLLARS?

**KARI**

Okay, so it's more than that.

*SONIA puts all of the piles together.*

**KARI**

MAaaAaaAaaA! Now everything's mixed up!

**SONIA**

Aye, que me importa?

*SONIA picks up one of the larger piles from the floor. She puts it in the basket and hands the basket off to the daughter. KARI stands there with the basket in her arms.*

**KARI**

Whatever, fine.

**SONIA**

Put this load in first.

**KARI**

I thought I was doing the dishes?

**SONIA**

Oh, is it too out of your way to put the pile of clothes in the washing machine that's right next to the sink where you'll be washing the dishes?

*KARI walks off stage left and puts the laundry in the machine. You hear a loud slam of the washing machine door.*

**SONIA**

Keep slamming that door like that and watch the machine get stuck.

*You can hear a beeping sound off stage and the water starts running. KARI is washing the dishes. SONIA smiles, leans back to*

*sit on the ottomon. She picks up the remote and turns on the TV again.*

(From offstage) **KARI**

Oh so you can watch TV but I can't?

**SONIA**

Cuanto tu paga de cable? Also, I need you to stay home today.

**KARI**

Ma, I already told you I have plans.

**SONIA**

Viene Housing arregla el toilet.

*KARI comes back in with dish washing gloves on and a soapy plate.*

**KARI**

What?

**SONIA**

The toilet?

**KARI**

The toilet's fine.

**SONIA**

The toilet is not if- you're dropping dish soap all on the floor. Go finish the dishes.

*KARI goes back off stage right and the water comes back on. She finishes the dishes and comes back out without the gloves on. She sees her mother sitting down on the ottomon watching TV and slides back down to the couch to watch whatever her mother is watching. She sits there for a little and they both laugh at whatever is playing. SONIA looks over her shoulder to watch her daughter sitting on the couch.*

**SONIA**

¿Qué haces tú sentada?

**KARI**

I thought we were like bonding- relaxing- I

**SONIA**

Help me sweep.

**KARI**

Can I take like a break?

**SONIA**

A break? We just got started. There's so much to do. We need to finish cleaning, we need to put up the new curtains, you need to help me hang the wine holders, housings gonna come to fix the toilet, someone else is gonna come to pick-

**KARI**

Ma, none of this has anything to do with me. I made plans.

**SONIA**

Cancel them.

**KARI**

I can't! Mom, I know you can be spontaneous and work on your own time but I have a schedule- and I follow that schedule.

**SONIA**

Oh they made you executive very important manager of going out to eat with friends? Por eso es que tu nunca tiene dinero.

**KARI**

Why are you so pressed about doing this today?

**SONIA**

It's my only day off!

**KARI**

Okay?

**SONIA**

And I want to make the best use of my day.

**KARI**

Have you seen our place, ma. You're gonna need more than a day.

**SONIA**

What do you mean look at this place?

**KARI**

Ma, there's a bullet hole in the window.

**SONIA**

It adds character.

**KARI**

I will help with what I can but at 11:30 I'm leaving.

**SONIA**

What's the point of you coming down to visit me on the weekends if you're never here to spend time with me anyways.

**KARI**

Waiting for housing to get here is not a bonding experience mom. And actually- i should start getting ready now cause if i'm late but friends will kill me.

**SONIA**

Claro, here you go again putting your friends before your mother.

*Things on stage start to move a little faster. KARI runs off stage and changes into streetwear. While she's changing SONIA sits on the couch, gets up from the couch, sits on the other side of the couch, KARI comes back onstage into the living room and zooms out of the door. It's night time now. SONIA sits on the couch. The phone rings.*

**SONIA**

Kari te estoy llamando. This is exactly what I was talking about. It's almost 10 o'clock at night. You've been outside all day. I think it's about time you get home.

*The phone rings. KARI and MAT stand "outside of the house" but on the side of the stage. A light comes up above MAT and KARI.*

**MAT**

Is that your mom, again?

**KARI**

Yeah, but i'm just downstairs so it's no big deal.

**MAT**

Do you maybe wanna pick up and tell her that?

**KARI**

No, cause then she'll make it an even bigger deal, and she'll come outside and then you'll get in trouble and then she'll threaten to call the cops. It's a whole big thing.

**MAT**

Now, what if she found out about you working at the bar?

*The phone rings. Kari looks at her phone and puts it on mute.*

**SONIA**

I told you that ONCE it's 10:00pm I'm locking the door. You will not be able to get in, do you think I was playing?

*The lights dim above SONIA and get brighter above KARI and MAT.*

**KARI**

I don't know, I'll make something up.

**MAT**

She's gonna beat your ass and then mine,

**KARI**

I'm too old to get beat.

*The phone rings.*

**SONIA**

I'm locking the door.

**KARI**

I'm doing a pretty good job don't ya think?

**MAT**

I mean, yeah. You are. You're doing a good job. But you're just starting.

**KARI**

Why do you always gotta be like that?

*The phone rings and KARI looks at her phone.*

**MAT**

Goodnight Kari.

**KARI**

What? No? The night isn't over. I'm not tired. Please!

**MAT**

We work together. We'll see each other again next weekend.

**KARI**

It's not about that.

**MAT**

What is it about then?

**KARI**

You know how much freedom I had while I was away at college?

**MAT**

Yeah.

**KARI**

I don't wanna get back home and feel suffocated all over again. Like I'm living under full surveillance with someone else's rules.

**MAT**

Maybe you have to compromise a little.

**KARI**

I don't want to!

**MAT**

So move out right now.

**KARI**

You know I can't move out yet.

**MAT**

So then suck it up and until you can move out, deal with it.

**KARI**

Have you always been this rude?

**MAT**

Imagine if you had your apartment and I came to live with you.

**KARI**

Imagining.

**MAT**

And you didn't allow guests but I brought strangers over all the time.

**KARI**

We couldn't live together.

**MAT**

Exactly. So go upstairs and stop pushing your mom.

**KARI**

Unless we could live together?

**MAT**

Goodnight, Kari.

**KARI**

Goodnight, Mateo.

*KARI goes into the apartment and tries to unlock the door. It's locked. She bangs on the door. BLUE LIGHTS*

**KARI**

Ma, let me in.

**SONIA**

Do you know what time it is?

**KARI**

Mom, I was RIGHT downstairs.

**SONIA**

Not downstairs by 10, IN YOUR HOUSE BY 10.

**KARI**

Ma, you're being ridiculous.

**SONIA**

Buenas noches Kari.

**KARI**

MA! Ma, tu vas a dejar tu hija en la calle?

**SONIA**

If it'll teach you a lesson or two.

**KARI**

I would NEVER do this to you!

*BLUE LIGHTS: and come back up while KARI and SONIA switch places.*

*SONIA starts banging on the door.*

**SONIA**

Dejame entrar.

**KARI**

Oh, but it's 10:01 and i told you to be home at an unreasonable 10:00pm, EVEN though, you are an adult.

**SONIA**

LET ME IN!

**KARI**

Oh, what ever shall I do?

**SONIA**

Let me in I PAY RENT.

**KARI**

That's a fair point. Come on in.

*KARI Lets SONIA in.*

**KARI**

Come on in, mom.

**SONIA**

Thank you.

**KARI**

And you know what? While we're at it, let me just say this curfew thing, stupid. Come home whenever you want.

**SONIA**

Goodnight.

*Blue lights dim and regular lights come up. KARI and SONIA switch places.*

**SONIA**

Adonde tu estabas?

**KARI**

I WAS DOWN STAIRS.

**SONIA**

I told you 10pm.

**KARI**

Well now I know for next time.

**SONIA**

Next time I won't let you into the apartment for real.

*Lights shift to the bar.*

### **SCENE 3**

*In the bar. MAT and KARI are behind the bar. The bar's slightly packed. You can hear indistinct chatter.. KARI seems like a little bit of a pro now. She handles the pressure well. Everyone else freezes.*

**KARI**

The way that my mother says my name changes based on her mood, and the situation.

Maybe it's just my first name: *(demanding)* KARI

Maybe it's just my last *(excited)* LUNAAAAAA

maybe it's my full name. *(freestyle)* KARI LUNAAAAAA

But when she doesn't say it at all, when she decides that my name is not something she wants to even think about saying. When my name gets stuck in her throat and she is too angry with me to let it go. That's when I know I've fucked up.

*MAT unfreezes. They're chatting, they serve customers, they flip bottles and shake liquor and ice.*

**KARI**

I'm doing so much better than before.

**MAT**

You are.

**KARI**

Remember when you didn't want me working with you?

**MAT**

Ha, yes I do.

**KARI**

You don't need to apologize or anything, but never doubt me again.

**MAT**

You got it, boss.

**KARI**

And I know I just started, but I was thinking. *(She bills a customer, walking back and forth from the register)*. Anyways i've noticed that you guys don't have like-*(She grabs a beer, opens up and puts it on the counter)*. What was I saying?

**MAT**

You were saying we don't have something?

**KARI**

Theme nights!

**MAT**

No.

**KARI**

Here you go again, doubting me.

**MAT**

Kari, it's a sports bar. That's the theme. I'm gonna grab more glasses from the back.

**KARI**

Fine. but walking away won't stop me from pleading my case when you get back.

**MAT** *(walking away)*

Oh, I know.

*KARI continues to check in with customers. SONIA barges into the bar directly towards the bar.*

**SONIA**

So *this* is why you were coming down on the weekends.

**KARI**

Fuck.

**SONIA**

I KNEW it. I FELT it. I had a DREAM about this. Yo me lo soñe.

**KARI**

Mom.

**SONIA**

Coming down to get used to the city living el culo mio.

**KARI**

Technically.

**SONIA**

Get your ass from behind the counter RIGHT now.

**KARI**

Ma, let's remember where we are right now. *(She takes a shaker and a cup full of ice, shakes and sets the cup on the counter).*

*MAT comes back on stage with a grey tray full of glasses. He slowly places it down and keeps his eyes on SONIA.*

**SONIA**

MATEO!

**MAT**

Oh, shit.

**KARI**

Sir, would you like another beer? Okay.

**SONIA**

I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED YOU.

**MAT**

I tried so hard for her not to get the job but she is relentless.

**SONIA**

I KNEW you were lying to me KARI. I had a DREAM about it.

**MAT**

I'm so sorry Ms. Sonia.

**KARI**

Ma, take a seat.

**SONIA**

I will not take a seat.

**KARI**

Take a seat, I will get you a drink. On the house.

*MAT jolts his head towards KARI. She looks back at him.*

**MAT**

Yeah, on the house. Just one though. Water?

**SONIA**

I swear to god.

**KARI**

Are you a wine person? A beer person? I don't know what your preferred drink is. We should really get to know each other on this level, ma.

**SONIA**

Vamanos.

**KARI**

Ma, I'm not leaving. I'm sorry. My shift isn't over.

**SONIA**

Your shift just ended. Let's go.

**KARI**

Mom, you are embarrassing me.

**SONIA**

Oh, I'm embarrassing YOU?

*KARI nervously laughs.*

**MAT**

Respectfully, Ms. Sonia, if she leaves we'll be short handed, and it's too late to call anyone else in. It would be irresponsible of her to leave in the middle of her work shift.

**KARI**

And you didn't raise me to be irresponsible. So, please. Take a seat ma, and tell me what you would like to drink.

*It takes some time, but she eventually gets to the stool and sits.*

**SONIA**

I'm staying right here until the end of your shift.

**KARI**

That's fine as long as you tip well.

**MAT**

What can I get you to drink, Ms. Sonia

**SONIA**

Que tienen?

**MAT**

De todo señora.

**SONIA**

I'll have a mojito.

**KARI** *(To her mother)*

Can I see ID ma'am?

*SONIA sighs heavily and MAT tries his best to ignore her. SONIA makes him nervous even if he's not showing it right now.*

**MAT**

Is it time for you to break?

**KARI**

We're allowed breaks?

**MAT**

Today, we are allowed breaks. Talk to your mom. I'll take care of your customers.

*MAT attends to all of the customers. KARI comes around the counter and sits next to her mother who has her drink in hand.*

**SONIA**

Try this drink and let me know if it has too much alcohol in it.

**KARI**

I don't drink on the job, mom. But if you think it's too strong Mat can make you something else.

**SONIA**

It's fine. I was testing you.

**KARI**

Nice, ma.

*Silence.*

**KARI**

Mom. I'm older now. You can't barge into my jobs like this anymore.

**SONIA**

I will continue to come in whenever I want.

**KARI**

Okay.

**SONIA**

You're not supposed to be working here you know?

**KARI**

I know mom. That's why I didn't tell you.

**SONIA**

You've been to college! You deserve better jobs.

**KARI**

I mean. I'm still looking for jobs in my field. I'm just doing this on the side.

**SONIA**

There's no reason for it. You don't pay bills. You shouldn't have to work.

**KARI**

I mean, I have my own expenses.

**SONIA**

Ha, your own expenses. I don't get my nails done ya know?

**KARI**

Well maybe you should. Get your nails done, get your hair done. It'll make you feel better.

**SONIA**

I don't need stuff like that.

**KARI**

But it's nice to have.

**SONIA**

You don't have to work. Te pareces una prostituta trabajando aquí. If you need money I'll give it to you.

**KARI**

No mom. I have to work for it.

**SONIA**

What do you need the money for?

**KARI**

Ya know, I wanna pay off school loans, and maybe get like a car one day or- I don't know, adult things ya know?

**SONIA**

As long as you're living under my roof, you will not be working as a bartender.

**KARI**

Maybe I can even move out one day.

**SONIA**

Now you're saying things to hurt my feelings.

**KARI**

I mean like eventually.

**SONIA**

You're the first one to graduate college, Y lo primero que quieres hacer es work in a BAR.

**KARI**

Mom, I wasn't really asking for permission. I'm going to keep working here and I hope you can support me.

**SONIA**

Do you want me to go around telling people, "oh si si, mi hija se graduo, oh yeah yeah, first one to go to college and she became a BARTENDER,"

**KARI**

I mean, yeah, i've been doing it for a couple of weeks now.

**SONIA**

A couple of weeks? You just started staying home recently.

**KARI**

Sometimes I stay at Mat's.

**MAT**

Can I get you to refill Mrs. Sonia?

**SONIA**

She's been staying with you?

**MAT**

You know what, I'll come back.

**SONIA**

You're staying at Mat's house like you're some kind of homeless person? Are you having sex?

**KARI**

Mom I am not having sex! My shifts just end late sometimes and we're always working together.

**SONIA**

I'm going to have a heart attack.

**KARI**

Omg, mom. No you're not.

**SONIA**

I feel it! I feel it right now.

**KARI**

Mom, that's the rum. I have to get back to work.

**SONIA**

I'm staying here.

**KARI**

Okay, but if a customer comes, sit at a table.

**SONIA**

I'm sitting right here.

**KARI**

Okay.

*KARI goes back behind the counter and attends to customers, the lights slowly dim and MAT and her dance around the bar. Until the end of the night when KARI flips the stool on top of the bar and MAT sweeps around them. SONIA stays seated.*

*Same night, back at their apartment. KARI and SONIA sluggishly walk into the living room of their home.*

**SONIA**

How much do they pay?

**KARI**

A pretty decent amount.

**SONIA**

You know if housing found out about your job they would have raised the rent?

**KARI**

Yeah, but-

**SONIA**

Or maybe kick us out.

**KARI**

They can't kick us out.

**SONIA**

Quit your job.

**KARI**

I want to keep working there.

**SONIA**

And I want to have a roof over my head.

**KARI**

I wanna move out.

**SONIA**

You can't move out.

**KARI**

Eventually I have to move out, mom.

**SONIA**

You know what happens when you move out? Your name gets taken off the lease and then there's one person in a two bedroom apartment. What do you think that means?

**KARI**

Mom, I don't know what you were expecting me to do. Live my entire life in the projects?

**SONIA**

What's wrong with it? You have a roof over your head. We aren't paying for heat, for electricity. You know how good you have it?

**KARI**

I want better for myself. So, I'm not quitting the job, mom.

**SONIA**

How much are you paying for rent then?

**KARI**

I'm trying to save up. And i'm gonna have to pay off my school loans.

**SONIA**

I will not work MORE hours to compensate for YOUR mistakes.

**SONIA**

Goodnight.

**KARI**

Can we talk about this tomorrow?

**SONIA**

Now you wanna talk? You know how much could've been avoided if you talked to me earlier? Goodnight.

*Kari sits back down on the couch. Lights shift to the bar.*

## ***SCENE 4***

*At the bar. KARI walks in and goes behind the counter.  
She grabs an apron and puts it on.*

**MAT**

What are you doing here?

**KARI**

What do you mean?

**MAT**

Your shift was cut.

**KARI**

Well I'm here for it so un-cut it.

**MAT**

I can't do that Kari.

**KARI**

Why are you calling me by my name?

**MAT**

You can't work today, go home. Or back to school. Don't you have homework to do?

**KARI**

Mat, what is up with you?

**MAT**

Nothing is up with me.

**KARI**

Is this about the other night?

**MAT**

Honestly?

**KARI**

I'm handling my mother.

**MAT**

She called Mr.- she called Joe.

**KARI**

She what? That's so embarrassing, She's always doing that!

**MAT**

I picked up!

**KARI**

Oh, that's good what did you say?

**MAT**

She asked about getting you less hours.

**KARI**

No.

**MAT**

Listen, listen. Maybe you can work during earlier shifts.

**KARI**

What, when there's nobody here?

**MAT**

Yeah, it's a little slower but-

**KARI**

You know I rely on tips, Mat. You know that.

**MAT**

Look, just take a few days to get everything settled with your mother.

**KARI**

Don't do that. You're babying me. I'm not a baby. I can handle my mother.

**MAT**

It's not a big deal. You can work earlier shift until your mom gets more comfortable with the idea of you working here. Or idk- maybe you find another job.

**KARI**

I'm not finding another job. I'm working here until you fire.

**MAT**

Don't make me.

**KARI**

What?

**MAT**

Just go home, Kari. We have too many hands today.

**KARI**

Mr. Ortega, do you have intentions of firing me today?

**MAT**

Don't do that.

**KARI**

Mr. Ortega, am I being fired?

**MAT**

No, you are not being fired. But you will not be working your shift today. Kari I can't have my peoples parents storming into work and causing a scene like that.

**KARI**

Causing a scene?

**MAT**

She came in here yelling.

**KARI**

She wasn't yelling that's how she TALKS.

**MAT**

You know what I mean, Kari.

**KARI**

Stop calling me Kari. At work it's Luna.

**MAT**

It's a good thing you're not working.

*KARI opens a beer up and sets it at the bar. She takes her apron off and throws it on the counter. She goes around the counter and sits at the bar. She takes a seat.*

**MAT**

You can't drink at work, you know that.

**KARI**

It's a good thing I'm not working then.

*BLUE LIGHTS: KARI walks back around the counter. Imagine an over the top sitcom.*

**MAT**

WELCOME BACK LUNA!

**KARI**

Aewe Mat, please. Don't make this a big deal. It's just a regular day at work.

**MAT**

It's not a regular day. This is your first day back since the incident.

**KARI**

And it feels good to be back Mateo.

**MAT**

You know what i'm thinking-

**KARI**

What are you thinking Mat!

**MAT**

I think it's about time you get a RAISE!

**KARI**

Oh no, Mat, I COULDN'T!

**MAT**

Oh no, I insist!

**KARI**

Oh well if you insist!

**MAT**

Missed having you around Luna, you truly make this bar a better place!

**KARI**

Oh, well thank you Mat!

**MAT**

Honestly! Without you- I don't think we could-

**KARI**

Okay, don't push it.

**MAT**

Okay, you got it,

*Lights shift to the apartment.*

## **SCENE 5**

**BLUE LIGHTS:** *It's dim. The middle of the night. KARI sneaks into the living room. MAT follows right behind her. As they are walking into the living room maybe Mat bumps into a chair or the ottoman. They both freeze. Making sure no one heard that. Once they're both reassured, KARI signals to MAT to stay right where he is. MAT nods his head. He understands. KARI keeps walking off to her room (stage left). She comes back into the living room slowly and quietly dragging a big laundry bag. She slides it to MAT. Making sure she doesn't hit any of the furniture. She knows her apartment well. She exits stage left again and comes back out with a suitcase. She hands it over to MAT and he slides it to the door.*

**KARI**

Shhhhhh.

**MAT** (whispering)

You shush. I didn't make any noise.

**KARI** (whispering)

You're literally making noise right now. Stop.

**MAT**

Pss.

**KARI**

What?!

**MAT**

I can't see.

*KARI signals to the light switch behind him. MAT squints his way to the light switch and turns a light on. It's a little clearer on stage now. KARI signals to the ottoman. She asks MAT to help her with one side. They lift one side of the ottoman cover. MAT sets the top of the ottoman cover on the couch KARI takes out a box marked "fragile". She picks it up.*

**KARI** (whispering)

Put that back on there.

*MAT places the cover back on the ottoman. She nods at him.*

**KARI**

Time to go.

*KARI takes one last look around the small living room that she grew up in.*

**KARI**

Let's go. I'll be back later for my other stuff. If she lets me.

**MAT**

You expect me to carry all of this?

**KARI**

I mean unless you wanna come back for a second trip I recommend you get crafty.

*MAT puts the laundry bag on top of the suitcase and drags it.*

**KARI**

Better?

*MAT nods his head. KARI holds open the door while MAT struggles to make it look like he isn't. KARI takes one more look around. She breathes it all in one more time. She walks off stage right. The lights dim. You hear the door slam.*

**KARI**

FUCK.

*SONIA comes out of her room running with a bat in hand. She's wearing a nightgown that only your grandma would wear.*

**SONIA**

I HAVE A GUN. I HAVE A GUN. WHO'S THERE?

*KARI opens the door, you hear it open. She comes in with her hands raised.*

**KARI**

Ma it's me. Ma it's me, relax.

**SONIA**

CONO!!! Que tu hace despierta? Llegando a esta hora. Maldita sea la hora, cono.

**KARI**

Mom RELAX.

**SONIA**

Ma, relax? No me diga que relax. Me asustaste.

**KARI**

I'm sorry!

**SONIA**

I thought somebody was breaking in!

**KARI**

I'm sorry. I-

**SONIA**

What the fuck are you doing getting home so late?

**KARI**

What?

**SONIA**

This is what I'm talking about- you have no respect for me- or this house.

**KARI**

Ma.

**SONIA**

What were you doing? What was so important that you had to put everybody in danger like that huh?

**KARI**

You're being dramatic.

**SONIA**

I'm not being dramatic, you just don't CARE.

*A knock is heard on the door. The room is quiet for a second. KARI walks over to the door.*

**SONIA**

What are you doing? Who is that?

**KARI**

It's Mat.

*KARI opens the door for MAT. He walks in.*

**MAT**

Good morning.

*SONIA chuckles.*

**SONIA**

I am so sorry my daughter dragged you out tonight Mateo.

**MAT**

Actually-

**KARI**

Why do you always think something's my fault?

**MAT**

Well technically-

*KARI and SONIA both look at MAT and he shakes his head  
to say Nevermind.*

**KARI**

Ma, I wasn't trying to wake you up. I'm sorry. You can go back to bed.

**SONIA**

Goodnight Mateo.

**MAT**

I-

**KARI**

I'm going with him.

**SONIA**

Permiso?

**KARI**

I'm moving out ma.

**SONIA**

Aye dios mio, she's pregnant.

**KARI AND MAT**

What? No. Nobodys pregnant.

*SONIA starts to chuckle. She looks at her daughter and her daughter's friend standing there. She starts to laugh even harder. She looks at the box on the floor in between MAT and KARI and she starts to laugh even harder. KARI seems upset. MAT seems very confused. SONIA walks back around to where she was standing and looks at them.*

**SONIA**

Oh, you're serious?

**KARI**

I am.

**SONIA**

And Mat, you're helping her do that?

**MAT**

Yes, ma'am.

**SONIA**

Oh, "ma'am". You've always been very respectful.

**KARI**

Enough ma. I'm not trying to start a scene.

**SONIA**

Kari Luna you will never be allowed back into this house. Is that what you both want?

*KARI looks at her mom and shakes her head. She picks up her box. And starts to walk towards the door.*

**KARI**

C'mon Mat.

*MAT starts to walk out with KARI. SONIA runs up to KARI and snatches the box from her. The box labeled fragile.*

*She throws it across the room. You can hear something break. KARI looks down at the box and back at her mother.*

**KARI**

It's fine. You can keep it.

**SONIA**

You are not going anywhere.

**KARI**

Mom. You can't stop me. I'm leaving regardless. No matter what.

*SONIA gets down on the floor. She's kneeling now.*

**SONIA**

I'm sorry- please don't go.

*KARI kneels down next to her mother. KARI hugs her. She stands up and walks around her kneeling mother. MAT follows behind her. The door creaks one more time. Its slams shut. SONIA gets up. She looks at the door that her daughter just walked out of. She walks over to the box and opens it up to find a broken picture frame of her and her daughter. She walks over to the couch and sets the picture down on the ottoman. She looks up. She nods her head. She gets up, walks out stage right to where the kitchen should be and comes back out with a plastic bag. She moves the ottoman to the center of the stage. She opens the side of the ottoman where the christmas decorations are. She takes out the box labeled "CHRISTMAS 2009" and she starts to throw the christmas decorations into the plastic bag. The lights dim..*

***repeat***

*The living room is dimly lit. KARI and MAT are dragging luggage from one side of the living room to the other. KARI takes one last look around. She sighs and leaves. The door shuts quietly, you hear it lock. A moment passes. You can hear the door unlocking*

*again. KARI comes running back in. MAT follows. They're  
whispering.*

**KARI**

Maybe I'm being dramatic. I dunno. Maybe I don't actually want to leave?

**MAT**

Should I bring your suitcase back inside then?

**KARI**

Yes.

*MAT turns towards the door.*

**KARI**

No. No.

*MAT turns back towards KARI.*

**KARI**

I've made my decision there's no turning back. Fuck it. Let's go.

*KARI walks past MAT exits the room and lets the door  
slam behind her. MAT is still standing in the living room.*

**MAT**

FUCK.

*SONIA comes running out of her room with a bat in hand.  
She's wearing a nightgown that only your grandma  
would wear.*

**SONIA**

I HAVE A GUN. I HAVE A GUN. WHO'S THERE?

**MAT**

IT'S JUST ME. MATEO! IM SORRY- PERDONAME. I'M SORRY DON'T SHOOT.

*SONIA puts her bat down and finds a seat.*

**SONIA**

*What the fuck are you doing in my house at this time?*

*KARI walks back into the apartment.*

**KARI**

He's helping me move out.

*SONIA looks up at her daughter. She walks up to her with the bat in hand. They're standing face to face.*

**SONIA**

You woke me up for this?

*She starts walking away.*

**SONIA**

You know I have work in the morning right?

*KARI looks at MAT confused. After a moment MAT picks up the last bag. He starts to walk towards the door. KARI walks towards the far end of the living room.*

**KARI**

Ma, DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?

**SONIA (offstage)**

7am for work Kari.

**KARI**

I'm MOVING OUT. I will not be living here!

**SONIA (offstage)**

Make sure you lock the door behind you.

*KARI looks back at her mother room, and then at MAT who's already standing by the door. She shakes her head and walks out. Door shut quietly and the lights dim. SONIA jogs out from stage right into the living room. She looks at the door. She turns off the lights.*

## ***repeat***

*Lights up. MAT and KARI are standing in the living room with luggage.*

**KARI**

Hurry up before she.

*SONIA comes out of her room running with a bat in hand.*

**SONIA**

I HAVE A GUN. I HAVE A GUN. WHO'S THERE?

*KARI jumps onto the furniture. She stands on the furniture like Batman.*

*MAT starts frantically running around in a circle.*

**MAT**

I'm sorry! It was HER fault. She told me to do it! I would never disrespect you like Ms. SONIA. I'm sorry. Perdoname. I'm sorry!

**KARI (dramatically)**

I have decided to MOVE OUT.

*There's a gunshot heard. BLACKOUT.*

## ***repeat***

*The lights in the living room are dim. You can hear the door slam shut. No one moves. KARI opens the door back up. Walks into the living room wide eyed. Clears her throat. Goes back to the door to purposefully slam it. Still no movement. She comes back into the living room. Clears her throat even louder and slams the door again. SONIA comes out of her room slowly with nothing in her hand.*

**SONIA**

We do not have anything you would wanna steal so just leave.

**KARI**

Ma, it's me. I'm leaving.

*Lights dim.*

***repeat***

*MAT stands in the living room in a costume ready to dance Merengue. The lights come up on him. He dances and KARI joins him wearing a costume. SONIA comes in and KARI starts dancing with her. While they dance together, MAT walks from one side of the living room to the other with luggage. KARI and SONIA finish the dance and KARI bows towards SONIA and walks out. The lights dim.*

***repeat***

*Everyone's standing in the living room.*

**KARI**

I think we do a lot better when we're away from each other.

**SONIA**

That's not true. You're being dramatic.

**KARI**

Ma, if you want me in your life. You have you let me walk out of that door.

**MAT**

With all due respect-

**SONIA**

Callate Mateo. This is between my daughter and me.

**MAT**

Yes ma'am

**SONIA**

Don't call me ma'am

**MAT**

Yes, sir.

*SONIA and KARI look at MAT.*

**MAT**

Shutting up now.

**SONIA**

This is really what you want?

**KARI**

I need it.

**SONIA**

So where are you living?

**KARI**

With Mat until I can find my own place.

*MAT is frantically shaking his head behind SONIA. When SONIA turns around he stops. She turns back around. She walks to the door and opens it.*

**SONIA**

Don't call me to ask for help.

*KARI looks at her mother.*

**KARI**

I don't plan on it. (to MAT) Let's go.

*They both start to walk out. SONIA closes the door and locks it. She walks back to her room. The lights go out.*

## **SCENE 6**

*KARI lays down on the couch. SONIA hovers over her holding a broom.*

**SONIA**

This is what that job is doing to you? You're falling asleep on the couch 10 feet away. WAKE UP.

**KARI**

Mom.

**SONIA**

The couch is not MADE for sleeping. The couch is for guests. The couch is decorative really. The couch is for sitting. NOT for sleeping. SO GET UP.

**KARI**

okay , okay, okay. Mom, it's too early to be yelling PLEASE. I'll get up. And mom, you can't keep calling my job. I'm 21.

**SONIA**

I won't call again.

**KARI**

Thank you.

**SONIA**

Can they pay you off the books?

**KARI**

No, they cannot.

*KARI gets up from the couch and starts walking towards  
her bedroom.*

**SONIA**

Where are you going?

**KARI**

To BED! I got up from the couch- what? What? What? What?

**SONIA**

Do you know what day it is? What time is it?

*SONIA passes KARI the broom.*

**KARI**

Mom, I get it I won't fall asleep on the couch i-

**SONIA**

It's Sunday, ponte a limpiar.

**KARI**

Mom-

**SONIA**

Would you prefer to mop?

**KARI**

MOM.

**SONIA**

Coffee is ready, i'll make breakfast if you wash the dishes.

**KARI**

I have work later. Can I please catch up on sleep.

**SONIA**

I have a friend who works in an office. She said they're looking for people. You want an interview.

**KARI**

I have a job.

**SONIA**

It's not a real job.

**KARI**

Sure mom, send me her information.

**SONIA**

You have an interview for tuesday.

*KARI starts walking toward her room.*

**SONIA**

Where are you going?

**KARI**

To bed.

**SONIA**

You have clothes you need to wash?

**KARI**

No , mom.

**SONIA**

So then do me a favor and start washing dishes.

*KARI slowly makes her way to the other side of the living room.  
She gets on the floor and throws a tantrum. She's tired. SONIA  
walks up to her.*

**SONIA**

Can you get up so I can sweep under you?

*KARI turns around. The lights start to dim.*

**SONIA**

Ah, and someone has to clean the bathroom. It's your turn. And we have to go to the supermarket but you have to come with me so you can pick out your snacks. Get up from the floor.

Blackout. End of play.