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Abandonada

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ABANDONADA

↔ A PLAY ↔

EMANUEL CASTRO

PREFACE

This project started in an intermediate playwriting tutorial class with Professor Nilaja Sun. One of the most important things that Nilaja taught me during that tutorial, was to write what I know. Before I took that tutorial with her, I used to only write about relationship problems and comedy. It used to be an easy thing for me to write, but Nilaja challenged me with the idea of writing what I know.

I thought about stories I knew, things that had happened to me, but one day, when I was talking on the phone with my mother about how my theater studies were going, she said “your aunt would be very proud of you”. The aunt that my mother was referring to, was her sister Elizabeth or, as we used to call her, Tia Beth. Beth was a telenovela actress that became somewhat popular in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

She used to be a huge inspiration to me, but that inspiration lost its strength after she moved in with us when I was about 13 or 14 years old. I started learning about how she lost all her money, all her privilege and all her fame. I realized that she was not the hero I imagined she was. After talking to my mother about her, I decided to ask some of my other 11 aunts and uncles about how Beth’s life was. I started learning about the 70s and 80s in Brazil, started learning more about how my grandmother had to separate all her children because she could not take care of them, and learned about a lot of trauma that my family experienced. Learning about my family’s history and trauma helped me feel closer to them and appreciate my aunt’s, uncle’s, and grandparent’s strength. This Play is loosely based on multiple stories that I heard growing up and found out about during my research process with my aunts and uncles.

As I was writing this one act play, a lot of questions popped into my head and I had to look up online or ask my family. I was not sure if people would have televisions in their house, I did not know if people were able to communicate with each other through the phone, and I was not really aware of how life was during the military dictatorship in Brazil. Some things I decided not even to put in the script. While talking to one of my aunts, she told me that my other aunt, Rosa (who I named a character after), had to flee Brazil during the military dictatorship. I decided to learn more about what was happening during that

era in Brazil in order to be able to portray a good picture of life in Brazil. I asked some of my family members if everyday life during the dictatorship was really that different, but surprisingly most of them did not have an answer to that, and some of them went on to explain how life was better then and how they wish the dictatorship would still be in place. However interesting and appealing all of that sounded to me, after writing a few scenes where the focus was the military dictatorship, I realized that it was overshadowing the other stories that I was trying to tell.

After deciding on focusing more on the stories that I wanted to emphasize in this play, I wrote down a five-act structure to base the play on. The structure, taught to me by Prof. Sun, helped me plan and see the big picture of the play. After writing the five-act structure, I realized how important that story was to me, and how I did not want this to be only a senior project but a project that I would work on after graduation too. I took my time to get to know the characters, learn about what they love, what their passions are, what makes them “them”.

Once I finished writing the first four scenes of the play, I was very happy and excited about the project, but after a couple of months not being able to add anything to the story, I realized that I wanted to respect the characters that I wrote about and not force a story that I would not be so passionate about. Seeing that I still had a deadline to meet, I saved the first four scenes by themselves and added two new characters to the play. The story took a very dramatic turn (from what I had planned for the project), but I embraced those new characters and told the same story with a different ending.

Rosa Santos is a character who is basically a mix of many different women in my family, but with a much different trauma than them. Rosa was a complicated character to have it fully realized and understood. At first, I knew exactly how she would be. I believed that her trauma would only silence her, make her quiet, more vulnerable, more fragile. However, the more I got to know Rosa as a character and started to read more about trauma responses, I understood why she was so hard to grasp. She is a very complex character, and I was okay with it, she would surprise me with the things that she would do and say. Rosa is funny, charismatic, but she is also sad and hurt, which makes her a character that you can empathize with.

Sandra Santos, she is based on my aunt Beth. Sandra is witty, she knows what she wants, she knows who she is (or at least she pretends to). She is also a bit of the villain of the story, but she is a

character that is easy to fall in love with. I always liked when plays, books, or movies showed the side of a “villain” character that you can relate to or that makes you cheer for them. Sandra was a little bit easier for me to write about, because she felt a lot like me in some ways. I understood how she was coping with her trauma from the beginning. She is more of a person who stores their feelings and traumas in a hidden place, but sometimes those emotions and those memories are found, and she has to deal with them. Sandra also uses money, fame, and drugs as a coping mechanism. She uses these coping mechanisms to forget about her own pain.

Richard is a character that was very complicated for me to relate to. I wanted him to be the cliché heterosexual white american man, but everytime I wrote his lines, it just felt silly to me. I talked to Prof. Sun about how it was hard for me to relate to a character that had not a lot of things that I could connect with. Nilaja asked me to put the pen down for one week and just observe the heterosexual white american men that I knew. After doing that for a week, it felt like I knew exactly who he was. He was the cliché white cis man, but he was also so much more than that. He had so many feelings, he just had to have the right moment to be able to let those feelings out.

Rosa, Sandra and Richard were the first characters that I created for this piece, but when I decided to add two more characters, I knew that one of them had to be Heloiza. Heloiza is a character based on my maternal grandmother. I did not want to explore her as a character too much in this play because I already have a different play in the works, where she has all the pages to show who she is. However, I knew that adding a bit of her story, of her side, would be a magical and special part of the play for me.

Toni was the last character I decided to add. He is that sweet guy that everyone loves, but no one knows much about. He is a character based on Toquinho, a brazilian bossa nova singer. Toni was a very needed character in this story for me. He came into the story to add to the ending that I wanted for Sandra, an ending that would not be sad but also not happy, it would be a hopeful ending for her.

Toni also has a very remarkable outfit on, he has the same outfit as Toquinho on his self-titled 1970's album. I was a bit specific about some outfits in the play, but only some of them were very purposeful. Rosa's shirt with Che Guevara's face on it was for me one of the most purposeful ones. The shirt showed a little bit of a side of Rosa's that is not really seen in this play, a little insight into her life and

the era that they were living in. Sandra was another character that had some specific outfits to her. Her costumes were part of her personality, the person she wants to be seen as.

This play was a challenge to write, that does not mean it was not joyful, but it certainly showed me how important it is to get to know your characters, respect them, and take your time with the things that you are passionate about. I cannot wait to dive in deeper into these characters and have them show me what their lives were like.

Characters:

Rosa Santos- 20 years old. Just left Bahia to come stay with her sister in Rio de Janeiro.

Sandra Santos- 24 years old. Rosa's sister. She is a beautiful and famous actress who is living in Rio de Janeiro. She loves to party and loves attention.

Richard Belford- 30 to 35 years old. He is Sandra's boyfriend and an American entrepreneur.

Heloiza Santos- 48 years old. Rosa and Sandra's mother.

Toni - 30 years old. Bossa nova singer.

Playwright's Note:

The slash symbol “ / ” is used in this play as a sign for interruption, where the next character says their next line.

ACT 1**Scene 1**

[Lights up. Garota de Ipanema by Tom Jobim starts playing. It is 1977. Sandra's apartment. A two bedroom apartment. The set has an open floor kitchen/living room space. It is daytime. The doorbell rings. Rings. Rings. Rings.]

Sandra comes out of her room half asleep and clearly hungover, wearing her shirt from the night before and underwear. Song stops.]

Sandra

Coming! Coming! Oh my god-ahh! *[Gets to the door, and puts her hands on the door handle]* Richard, if this is you... I'm gonna fuck you up!

[Sandra opens the door. It is Rosa, wearing jeans and a shirt, and holding her backpack. Rosa has her face down.]

Sandra

Hi? Can I help you?
Hellooo? Can I help you?

[Rosa looks at Sandra]

Sandra

Ah meu Deus!
Rosa?
Is that y-, Oh my god!

[Sandra hugs Rosa. Sandra pulls away awkwardly]

Sandra

Sorry! I...Ummm...I can't believe it is you! I almost didn't recognize you! You look so... different, so... adult! Wow! It's been / so long!

Rosa

/ 9 years!

Sandra

9 years? *[pause]* Come in, come in. I can't believe you are here. Would you like tea? Water? Wine? Scotch? Cachaça? Ummm... Please, yes, make yourself at home. Sit wherever you want. Here. Or wherever, you choose.

[Rosa sits on the couch.]

Sandra

Not there.

[Rosa stands up]

Ai No. I'm just kidding. *[nervous laughter]*

[Rosa sits back down on the couch]

Sorry, Ummm.. *[looks down to her half naked body]* I'm just going to put on some pants, but feel free to go grab a drink, or use the bathroom, well.. Not now, because I will be in there... Unless you want to go first. Do you need to poo? *[pause]* Bake a loaf?...Chop a log?

Okay, Ummm, I'm just gonna go real quick, I'll go to my room and change. You can use the bathroom if you want. I forgot I have a bathroom in my room, ha ha. So we can both shit at the same time if we want. Ummm, Okay! Tchou.

[Sandra runs awkwardly to her room and closes the door behind her. Rosa stands up and starts examining the room. She ends up with a picture of Sandra and Tom Jobim, a famous bossa nova singer, in her hand.

Sandra comes out of the room looking beautiful.]

Rosa

Is this..?

Sandra

Tom Jobim! Yeah, we used to have a little thing going on, but we are just friends now.

[Rosa puts the picture down and sits back on the sofa. Sandra sits very close to Rosa, then moves away from her.]

Sandra

[hesitantly] So, you are here... for a few weeks?...What brings you here?

Rosa

I just decided to come here and stay with you. Is that okay? I have nowhere / else to go.

Sandra

/ Of course, you can stay here forever if you want! I have an extra room, extra food, I don't even eat food, so you can have all of it. Mi casa es su casa. But... Do you mind if I ask what happened?

Rosa

Uncle Carlos kicked me out of the house. That's it.

Sandra

Filho da puta! If I ever see him again I will cut his tiny little pinto off. *(pause)* Why would he kick you out?

Rosa

I don't want to talk about it.

Sandra

No, but / I just want

Rosa

/ Please, I said I don't want to talk about it.

Sandra

Okay... Listen, I am your family and I am here to support you with whatever you need. *[Sandra holds Rosa's hand]* You will stay here with me, and we will be a family again. You and I /

Rosa

/ *[Exploding in a scream]* I SAID I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. *[Sandra jumps out of the sofa]*

Beat

Rosa

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to scream at you. It is just a lot going on and I don't know what to do *[starts crying]*, I left the house a week ago, *[Sandra sits back down and starts caressing Rosa]* I didn't know where to go.

Sandra

Oh, It's okay Maninha, you have a home here with me, I am here for you. We are family. You and I /

Rosa

/ I'm pregnant.

Beat

Sandra

Okay, And... the baby... Do you know who- *[pause]* It's okay, I am glad you came to me.

Rosa

Are you sure?

Sandra

[apprehensively] Of - Of course...Who doesn't want their little sister, who they haven't seen for 9 years, come to them with a *[pause]* beautiful surprise? A baby? IT'S AMAZING! GREAT NEWS REALLY!

Rosa

Okay...

Sandra

Okay, why don't you go to the bathroom, take a shower and put some different clothes on, and I will make you a fancy breakfast. Okay?

Rosa

Sure, thank you Sandra.

Sandra

Of course, I'll take care of you! Don't worry about *nada!*

Rosa goes into the bathroom, Sandra goes to the kitchen, and opens the fridge and stares into it for a while.

Sandra

[screams to Rosa] I DON'T KNOW HOW TO COOK!

[Lights out. "Não deixe o samba morrer" by Alcione starts playing]

Scene 2

[Lights up. It is daytime at Sandra's apartment. 3 months later. Sandra is asleep on the couch wearing the dress from the night before and a wig cap, her heels are on the floor and her wig on the coffee table. Rosa enters from her room wearing shorts and a Che Guevara shirt. She is around 6 months pregnant. She sees Sandra on the couch and goes to the kitchen. She grabs a pan and a wooden spoon and bangs it against the pan multiple times. Sandra wakes up in shock and looks left and right not knowing where she is.]

Sandra

5,6,7,8... Jennifer?

Rosa

[laughing] Jennifer? Who is Jennifer?

Sandra

Who? *[sitting up]* What are you talking about? Jesus! I don't know.

Rosa

So I guess it was a good night?

Sandra

Your guess is as good as mine. I have no idea!

Rosa

Do you want something to eat?

[Sandra stands up, grabs her shoes and puts her wig on backwards.]

Sandra

Eww, if I eat right now it will come right back out.

Rosa

Who did you go out with? People from the novela?

Sandra

Yes! We went to a bar at first but then Tom called me to go to a concert that he was having with Miucha and some other people at Canecão, so I went... and then I... I guess ... I woke up.

Rosa

Ai meu Deus! You went to see Tom, Vinicius, Toquinho, and Miucha, and you don't remember anything? I can't believe you don't let me go to those things with you anymore. I have a sister who is a famous telenovela actress, but still I live like a.. Like a... normal person.

Sandra

Rosa, you are pregnant! *[walking towards Rosa]* And I told you that I don't want to take you to these places because every time I took you, you were always drinking. I know you don't care about your baby, and you don't want to talk about it, but I care! Okay? *[holds Rosa's face very close to hers]* I want you to be safe, and for the baby to be safe. You will see, once you hold your baby, you will not regret it! And I will be there, by your side, the whole time.

[Rosa takes Sandra's hands away from her face.]

Rosa

Okay, Sandra! I love you, and thank you for the beautiful words, but you smell like you drank the amazon river worth of alcohol. Go take a shower!

Sandra

I will... but before I go, I have to say something to you! *[Starts getting closer to Rosa]*

Rosa

What?

[Sandra quickly holds Rosa's face close to hers and starts talking with a lot of breath coming out of her mouth.]

Sandra

I love you my little sister!

[Rosa laughs and pushes Sandra away.]

Rosa

Okay, okay... now go shower. You have a terrible bafo de bosta.

Sandra

Shit breath? Really? Wow!

[Sandra goes into her room. Rosa is making a sandwich in the kitchen when the doorbell rings. She opens the door and it is Richard, Sandra's boyfriend, looking very sexy as always, with his high waisted pants and holding his jacket behind his shoulder. Rosa gasps.]

Richard

You must be Sandra's little sister... Rosa...*[pause]* Are you?

Rosa

Umm.. Que?

Richard

Are you Rosa?

Rosa

Yes? Are you Rosa? / *[looks to the audience]* What?

Richard

/ *[laughing]* No...Ricardo, I'm Sandra's boyfriend.

Rosa

Oh, no, that's awkward. She said her boyfriend was american.

Richard

Well, I am american.

Rosa

With a name like Ricardo?

[they laugh]

Richard

Umm... yes, my name is Richard, but when I am in Brazil, I like to be called Ricardo. Brazilians seem to think the name Richard is a little pretentious.

[Rosa is staring at him with a smile on her face]

Can I come in now?

Rosa

[nervously] Oh, Claro, of course. Come in, make yourself at home... Do you want something to drink? Agua? Wine? Cachaca? Tea? Oh yes, sit down wherever you want...*[laughs nervously]* Not there...*[laughs]* I'm kidding, my sister did that to me once, and I... Never mind... Is it hot in here?

Richard

It is the summer in Rio de Janeiro, so yes, it is. And water would be great, Obrigado!

Rosa

Okay. I am making a sandwich too, would you like one?

Richard

No, thank you, Sandra and I are going to a Churrasco right now, so better save some room for the Picanha.

Rosa

[bringing him the water] You guys are going to a barbecue, huh? She did not mention that to me. Not even sure if she remembers that.

Richard

I'm sure she does, I told her about it yesterday at the Canecão.

Rosa

Oh yes! Of course! She definitely remembers that! Such a pity you didn't get here 10 minutes ago.

Richard

Why?

Rosa

Nada, nothing! I'll let her know you are here.

[Rosa goes to the door to Sandra's room and knocks.]

Rosa

Maninha?

Sandra

[off stage] Que?

Rosa

Ricardo is here to take you to the churrasco.

Sandra

Que?

Rosa

Your boyfriend Ricardo is here to take you to the barbecue you talked about last night at the Canecão!

Sandra

Ai Merda! Of course! I am just putting my shoes on and I'll come out.

[Rosa looks at Richard and gives him a fake smile and giggles.]

Rosa

So you are americano, huh? How is it there? Do people really think that sheetrock is better than cement?

Richard

Wow, that is a very...specific question about American culture... I don't know how to answer that.

Rosa

I read this weird article about sheetrock, sorry, I don't-

[Sandra pushes the door open, there is a spotlight on her and a magical twinkly song plays. She is wearing a beautiful dress with a belt around her waist making the skirt have even more movement. She twirls to show her dress. Richard stands up and walks towards her. The music stops.]

Richard

You look stunning, meu amor! As always.

[Richard holds her hand and kisses it.]

Sandra

I know! I mean, Obrigada!

Richard

Ready?

Sandra

Yes, let me just get my purse.

Richard

Rosa, it was a pleasure! And Thank you for the water.

[Rosa nods.]

Sandra

Tchau, maninha!

Rosa

Tchau! Have fun at the churrasco that you definitely remembered and told me about!

[Rosa Laughs. Sandra and Richard exit. Rosa closes the door and goes to her room. Wave by Tom Jobim starts playing.]

Scene 3

[The lights slowly change to night time. Sandra's apartment. It is the night of the same day. Rosa enters and starts sweeping the floor, cleaning the furniture and singing along to Wave. She hears Sandra's laughter and a "bang" against the front door. Rosa runs to the door and opens it. Sandra, with her back to the door, falls into the apartment. Rosa looks outside the door.]

Sandra

Thank you, you guys can go now! I got her *[pause]* I said thank you, you can go, NOW!

[Rosa closes the door. Sandra is crawling towards the couch.]

Rosa

[laughing nervously] Oh my god, Maninha! What are you doing? How drunk did you get?

Sandra

Calm down! *[standing up, clearly drunk]* I am not drunk... I was just faking it.

Rosa

You are impossible!

[Rosa sits on the couch]

Sandra

I'm impossible?

[Sandra sits on the couch and rests her head on Rosa's lap.]

Rosa

Im-po-ssi-vel!

Sandra

[touching Rosa's belly] YOU are pregnant and don't want to tell me who the father of this *[like a baby]* beautiful little creature *[Normal]* inside of you is.

Rosa

Sandra, please! I told you I don't want to talk about that.

Sandra

But why / not

Rosa

/ Please.

Sandra

Fine! Just know that I am here for you for whatever you need.

[Rosa caresses Sandra's face.]

Rosa

I know, maninha. I love you.

Sandra

I know.

Rosa

Let me go get you some water. Do you want food?

[Rosa stands up and goes towards the kitchen.]

Sandra

Food? Do you even know me? I haven't eaten since I was 16. Maintaining this body is not easy.

Rosa

You have to stop starving yourself! That is not doing you any good.

Sandra

You are so wrooong...Umm... What- What is that?

Rosa

Acarajé.

Sandra

Gimme that!

[Sandra takes the plate from Rosa and sits on the kitchen counter.]

Sandra

Oh, this is good! But I can't eat too much... HERE, TAKE IT AWAY! *[gives the plate to Rosa]* I'm gonna smoke a cigarette instead... *[starts looking for her purse]* Wait, where is my purse?

Rosa

You didn't have a purse with you when you got here.

Sandra

Oh shit! *[start getting a little more sober]*

Rosa

What?

Sandra

Fuck! Oh my god!

Rosa

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Sandra

[loudly] I think I fucking forgot my purse in the car!

Rosa

Oh my god, of course you did! You always forget your shit!

Sandra

No I don't! *[still looking for the purse]*

Rosa

You don't? You forgot the tickets at home when we went to see Alcione perform... actually we didn't see her perform at all. BECAUSE YOU FORGOT THE TICKETS!

Sandra

Oh, Please! That was one time! Name any other time I forgot something!

Rosa

You used to forget your backpack at school, You would always forget to bring me food from the Padaria. You forgot your records at home when you left, you forgot your pillow, you forgot to leave a note, you forgot me...

Sandra

Fuck! I definitely left it in the car! MERDA!

Rosa

[with a sarcastic look on her face] Oh, poor Sandra! She forgot her purse and remembers exactly where it is! It must be the end of the world for her! What should she do? Maybe call her friend and ask him to bring the purse to her when he can?

Sandra

What is up with you? Meu Deus! And he is not my friend! I don't even know his name!

Rosa

What? Who were those guys then?

Sandra

I don't know, a few guys I met at the club...

Rosa

What? You got into a stranger's car?

Sandra

Yes! I was tired and wanted to go home, and they were buying me drinks, so I just faked that I was into some weird things... and they drove me home.

Rosa

Are you kidding me? / They could've

Sandra

/ They never drive a woman home if she can't pay them... somehow.

Rosa

That is your answer for everything isn't it?

Sandra

Well, you don't become an actress by just being pretty...

Rosa

You can become an actress by being talented, and you can come home without offering to fuck people.

Sandra

I never said I was going to fuck them... I just made them want to fuck me.

Rosa

What about your reputation? I can already see it / "Sandra Santos left the club with 3 unknown men."

Sandra

/You are worried about my reputation? HA-HA- HA are you my agent now?

Where was Ricardo?

Rosa

RICHARD!

Sandra

Why didn't he bring you home?

Rosa

Ai meu Deus! Why do you care?

Sandra

They could have done anything they / wanted with you.

Rosa

/ You don't think I could take care of myself?

Sandra

Take care of yourself? Look at you, / you are the skinniest-

Rosa

/ *[Laughs]* I would just tell them to come in, have a few more drinks, we would all pass out and nothing would happen...

Sandra

You gotta be kidding me. Where is Ricardo? He must be worried sick!

Rosa

Of course not! He brought me home, but I didn't come in. I wanted to have a little more fun.

Sandra

A little more fun? A woman should not be having fun with strangers, especially a woman with a boyfriend.

Rosa

Says the woman bearing a bastard.

Sandra

Beat

I'm sorry... I didn't mean that. Just... leave me alone, I know what I am doing.

[Sandra walks into her room and closes the door. Rosa puts the food back in the fridge fast and angrily. She starts walking back to her room. We hear a knock on the front door.]

Richard

[off stage] Sandra, it's me, Richard. Please open the door.

[Richard keeps knocking. Rosa walks to the door and opens it, Richard has his right hand still up, ready to knock, holding Sandra's purse. He is wearing pants and a button up shirt]

Richard

Rosa! Someone from this weird club / called me

Rosa

/ She is in her room.

[Rosa walks away and enters her room. Richard comes into the apartment, closes the door behind him and enters Sandra's room.]

Scene 4

[The lights slowly change to day time. Sandra's apartment. It is the next day. Richard and Sandra walk out of Sandra's room. He is wearing the same pants and a tank top undershirt and Sandra is wearing her underwear and his shirt from last night. They walk to the front door, Richard opens the door, looks at Sandra]

Sandra

I am very happy you came.

Richard

Trust me, I'm happy I came...

[Richard laughs softly. Sandra laughs and puts her hands on his chest and he holds her. Rosa opens her bedroom door and watches them. Richard and Sandra don't notice her]

Richard

Are you going to talk to her?

Sandra

Sim! Don't worry!

Richard

[With an American accent] Eu te amo!

Sandra

And I love you!

[They kiss passionately. Rosa closes the door and stays in her room.]

Sandra

Tchau, my love!

Richard

Bye, meu amor!

[Richard leaves. Sandra closes the door. Rosa opens her bedroom door and enters, as if she had not seen anything.]

Sandra

Bom Dia!

[Rosa ignores her and goes to the kitchen to make coffee]

Sandra

I think we should talk. *[pause]* Okay, listen, I am sorry about the things I said last night. I barely remember, but I know I probably said things that hurt you. *[pause]* Can you please talk to me? *[pause]* Rosa, please! Just look at me! I want to have a conversation with you!

[Rosa slams the coffee jug on the counter and looks at Sandra]

Beat

Rosa

Eu estou cansada! VERY VERY TIRED! And I will not pretend that everything is fine, because it isn't! I'm not gonna pretend that we are okay, because we aren't! And I am not gonna pretend that you didn't abandon me when I needed you the most.

Sandra

What are you talking about?

Rosa

You left me alone!

Sandra

I just went to a party for a few hours...

Rosa

[angrily] I am talking about Bahia! You left me there, by myself!

Beat

Rosa

When mom left us at Uncle Carlos and Tia Maria's house...she said that we should take care of one another.

Sandra

You weren't alone! Cousin Mario was there, he was your age, and you guys were so close, I knew you would be okay.

Rosa

Ah, Por favor! *[pause]* Everything was fine when you were there... but then - you left. *[she walks towards the couch and sits down]*

Sandra

I had to leave, you don't understand! I couldn't stay there! I had to- I - I couldn't- And you were so young- I had to. *[pause]* I don't think we should talk about this right now!

Rosa

I needed you! You should have taken me with you. Tio Carlos... He - He - He was so mad that you left. He said it was my fault! I thought it was my fault! Then he... He... made me clean the house and cook for them everyday... everything had to be perfect... And-... And If he didn't like the food... or ... or thought the house wasn't clean... he would...he would... come to my room and he would...*[pause]*...he would start-

Sandra

-Rosa, I am still very tired, I need to sleep a little more.

[Rosa is quiet. She has an empty look in her eyes. Sandra starts walking to her bedroom, when she gets to the door, she stops, holds the door handle, and starts talking without looking back at Rosa.]

Sandra

He would come to your room and lay under the covers with you. He would tell you it is your punishment for not cleaning the house right, for not putting enough garlic in the rice, or because the food was cold. And if...*[Sandra starts crying]* if you tried to scream: MOM, MOM, I'm scared!... he would cover your mouth and say: "You are mine now, Sandra , your mother left you for me and now you are mine."

Rosa

[crying] He did that to you?

Beat

So...You....You knew this was going to happen to me?... And you still left? You left me? Why didn't you take me with you?

Sandra

[runs to the couch] I had to leave, I was 15!! You were 11!! I thought you would be okay. You shared a room with Mario. I thought uncle Carlos would never touch you with his son laying there. I am so sorry.. I am so sorry! I was going to come / back for you.

Rosa

BUT YOU DIDN'T!

[Rosa stands up]

AND NOW I HAVE

[looks down to her belly]

THIS

[Rosa punches her belly. Sandra quickly tries to hold Rosa's hands]

FUCKING

[punch]

THING

[punch]

TO DEAL

[punch]

WITH

[punch]

[Sandra hugs Rosa very tightly so she can't move. Rosa cries on Sandra's shoulder for a while.]

Sandra

Is.. is the..father...*[moves away from Rosa]*

Rosa

[pulling herself together] No! The apple didn't fall too far from the tree.

Sandra

Mario... *[Sandra sits down]*

Rosa

Uncle Carlos stopped once I got older. Mario woke up with me screaming one day. I was having a nightmare. I told him everything that happened. He told Tia Maria about it without my permission...and when she asked me... I said it wasn't true. He didn't talk to me after that. But one day... he came to my room. In the middle of the night... I thought it was uncle Carlos. It felt like him. I couldn't move. I was too afraid. I closed my eyes and didn't make a sound. He kept on going. And I felt like I wasn't there... I couldn't feel my body. But... but I felt everything. When he was done... he ... he kissed my cheek. I opened my eyes. It was Mario. Not the one we grew up with. His eyes were red. He was sweating. He was crying. I was crying. He stood up and left.

[pause]

A few weeks later... I knew I was pregnant... so I came here...thinking I would be with someone I could trust. Who could help me! I can't trust you, and clearly...you can't even help yourself.

PAUSE

Sandra

[breathes] You are right, I can't... You are better off without me...I moved to Rio without even thinking about taking you with me...My pain was so blinding, I couldn't even see you. I thought I had no other option, I just wanted to leave...Ever since I moved to Rio, I've been trying to forget everything I went through... So, I couldn't think about you... it would hurt so much. Every time I thought about you, it killed me. Every time I thought about you, I thought about...him. I just wanted to forget everything. I tried everything, drugs, alcohol, fame, sex...EVERYTHING. But to be honest, you were always in my mind. I wanted to go back and get you, but I didn't. Maybe I didn't even want to. *[pause]*
 Desculpa! I'm sorry! Meu Deus! I am the worst sister in the world. The only thing I do is hurt you. *[Sandra stands up and starts to pace the room nervously]* I did this to you. This is all my fault. I can't believe I left you there. What kinda monster would leave their little sister behind? *[Sandra tries to catch her breath]* I ruined your life! I'm so sorry! I am so sorry! You must hate me! Fuck! Shit! FUUUUUCKKKK! *[Sandra squats with her hands to her face]*

Beat

[Rosa, after seeing Sandra like this, she stands up and walks towards her room. Sandra sees that Rosa is leaving, she stands up]

Sandra

Are you leaving? *[Screaming]* ARE YOU NOT SEEING THAT I AM SORRY?

[Rosa looks at Sandra]

Rosa

I can't talk about this anymore, I can't do this. *[Rosa enters her room and closes the door]*

Sandra

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE TALKING TO MYSELF. *[Sandra opens the door to Rosa's room and enters]*

[Sandra and Rosa are off stage]

LOCA! STOP ACTING CRAZY!
Rosa

DON'T FUCKING CALL ME CRAZY, PUTA!
Sandra

[We hear a slap, Sandra walks out of the room with her hand to her face, Rosa is walking behind her]

DON'T EVER CALL ME PUTA AGAIN!
Rosa

DON'T EVER CALL ME CRAZY AGAIN!
Sandra

THEN DON'T ACT CRAZY!
Rosa

Sandra
[Not Screaming, but still mad] Don't worry, you won't have to see me acting "Crazy" ever again. Richard asked me to marry him and move to the U.S with him. We are leaving in two weeks.

[Now Sandra is standing at her bedroom door and Rosa at hers]

GOOD!
Rosa

GOOD!
Sandra

[They both enter their rooms and slam the doors at the same time.]

Scene 5

[The doorbell rings. Rings. Rings. Sandra and Rosa, at the same time, open their door. They look at each other]

Sandra and Rosa

I got it!

[They both walk towards the door, and stand there looking at each other. The doorbell rings again. They both put their hands on the doorknob]

Sandra

I can answer the door, it is my house.

Rosa

But it could be for me, so I can answer.

Sandra

Oh my god, how old are you?

Rosa

Much, much younger than you.

Sandra

Well, you don't look it.

[They open the door. It is Heloiza (their mom), and Richard.]

Sandra and Rosa

MOM?!

Richard

Oh shit, I did not know she was your mom.

Heloiza

Meus Amores, Give mamãe a big hug.

[She hugs Sandra and Rosa.]

Rosa, meu Deus! Minha filha, you really are pregnant!

Rosa

What are you doing here?

[Heloiza walks in, sits on the couch, and takes her shoes off. Rosa, Sandra and Richard stand behind the couch staring at her]

Heloiza

Well, after I got the letter from Sandra/

/ The what? **Rosa**
 Nothing, nothing! I didn't/ **Sandra**
 She wrote to me saying that you were here and that you were pregnant, and that the father was probably an asshole that didn't/ **Heloiza**
 Richard! He is the father, mom! **Sandra**
 I am / what? **Richard**
 The father, and Rosa's fiance! **Sandra**
[Sandra sits next to her mother and looks back at Rosa and Richard.]
 I sent that letter before I met Richard, I had only heard about him, and because he is American, I thought he was an asshole...You know americanos.
 You ain't wrong, they are assholes. The last American I met, gave me your older sister. **Heloiza**
 Who? **Sandra**
 You have an older sister? I am the father? I am so confused. **Richard**
 We are 12 in total. **Rosa**
 SISTERS? **Richard**
 8 girls, 4 boys. **Sandra, Rosa and Heloiza**
 I didn't think you would come. **Sandra**
 You have been talking to mom? **Rosa**
 Rosa, can you help me make mamãe a coffee? **Sandra**
[Sandra stands up to go to the kitchen.]
 Nao! What the hell is happening here? **Rosa**

[Sandra grabs Rosa's arm and takes her to the kitchen.]

Sandra

Richard, sit with my mom and make her company while Rosa and I make the coffee here. Be nice to her, remember you are the father of this child.

Heloiza

I must have not raised you right, you don't need two people to make coffee.

[Richard sits next to Heloiza.]

Sandra and Rosa

[Saying to themselves.] Didn't raise us.

Richard

Twelve children, ay?

Heloiza

Who are you again?

Richard

Richard, but you can call me Ricardo. I am Sandra's- I mean, Rosa's... Ummm.. Fiance.

Heloiza

Sim, having twelve children is not as easy as it sounds.

Richard

It doesn't sound that easy at all to me.

[Richard and Heloiza keep talking but we can't hear what they are saying]

Rosa

[to Sandra] What the fuck is happening here? You have been sending letters to mom?

Sandra

I only sent her one letter, right when you got here. I didn't know about...you know... And I didn't know what to do. I didn't think she would come.

Rosa

And what are we supposed to do with her here? Why is she here?

Sandra

I don't know. I'm so sorry! And I am sorry about everything. I know I keep saying that and then screwing up again. But I am sorry! I just hope I can be a better sister to you one day.

Rosa

Honestly, not the right time to talk about this.

[Sandra and Rosa keep talking but we can't hear what they are saying.]

Heloiza

I wanted to have all of them by my side, but I could not afford to have them live with me. My husband, he drank so much, may he rest in peace, that he didn't work. I had to make all the money, and I couldn't have them all with me.

Richard

And what did you do?

Heloiza

I had to give them away. I separated them into pairs, so they would never be alone. Some of them I sent to my brothers and sisters, a couple of them went to orphanages, and I kept the two youngest with me.

Richard

Wow, that must have been very hard for you.

Heloiza

It was, but not as much as it was for them. Rosa and Sandra never wanted to see me. Every time I would write to my brother to ask about them, he would say that they were okay but that they did not want to see or talk to me. I visited all my children, but these two, they were the only ones that did not want to see me.

Richard

How long has it been since you/

Sandra

Here you go mom, black coffee, no milk, no sugar.

Heloiza

Obrigada! Now, Ricardo... Tell me about your intentions with my daughter.

Richard

Umm... I.. I.. Well, your daughter is very special. I remember the first day I met her, it was in this very apartment. I came to visit Sandra, who is a work friend of mine.

Heloiza

You work with novelas too?

Richard

Kind of, but more in the financial side of it all.

Heloiza

Well, keep going...

Richard

Yes, so, I came to visit Sandra, and Rosa was here. She was so weird, she was wearing a Che Guevara shirt, and when I saw that I knew she was very different from me, but right then and there I knew that I belonged with her and that I would love her for the rest of my life.

Heloiza

And how long ago was that?

Richard

I don't know... about/

Sandra

That was a year ago, wasn't it?

Richard

Yes, about a year ago.

Heloiza

But, she was not living here a year ago was she?

Richard
No, I guess not.

Rosa
What are you guys doing? Honestly, why?

Sandra
Yes, No! She was not living here, she was living with uncle Carlos, but she came to visit me.

Rosa
What are you/ saying?

Heloiza
What is going on here?

Richard
I think I have to go.

Rosa
What? No! No one is going anywhere, besides you Mom! I don't know why you came here, but if you came here because you wanted to help me, I don't need your help. If you came here to see how I was doing, I am doing terribly, there we go, you saw it. Now you can go.

Heloiza
Rosa, why are you saying that? I am here because it is the first time I could see you.

Rosa
The first time in 12 years? Oh, I can only imagine how busy you must have been, giving away the rest of your children.

Richard
Rosa, don't talk to your mom like that. She doesn't deserve this.

Sandra
Richard, shut the fuck up, you don't know what you are talking about! Mom, I think Rosa is right. I was wrong, I should not have written to you. We are okay here. Thank you for/

Rosa
/ You can speak for yourself.
I am not okay.
In fact, I am terrible.
I feel like the world has dumped the biggest shit it could on me.
Mom, I am pregnant, I am pregnant because your fucking nephew forced himself on me. Ricardo is not the father, I wish he was, that would be a lot better than knowing I am carrying a mini monstro inside of me. I truly don't care why you are here, I just need you to leave. You have not been in my life, you have abandoned me and Sandra, and now you come here as if nothing has ever happened? Like we are your daughters?
We are not.

[Heloiza starts to sob]

You birthed us. Just like I will birth this thing, but I am not its mother. Because just like you, I will leave it for someone else to take care of/

Richard
/Rosa, your mother/

Rosa

/ I am not done!.. But different from me, mom, this child will be luckier. It will not have to know who I am, because knowing who you are, /

Richard

/ Rosa, please /

Rosa

/ and knowing that you abandoned me is the worst thing that has happened to me. And as you can see... many bad things have happened to me, but you were the worst. So, please, don't make yourself comfortable and just leave!

[Heloiza, still crying gets her stuff, and leaves]

Richard

Rosa, Why would you /

Sandra

/ Richard, seriously, can you please try to put yourself in this situation? You don't understand what happened in our lives.

Richard

Yes, you are right, I don't know what happened in your life, but I talked for a few minutes to your mom and she /

Rosa

/she seemed nice, good! You have figured out who she is in 2 minutes, congratulations!

[Rosa goes into her room and closes the door]

Sandra

I'm really sorry, I think it would be better if you go too. I will talk to you tomorrow.

[Sandra goes into her room and closes the door. Richard is sitting on the couch for a while. He stands up and goes towards Sandra's room. He touches the doorknob, then walks towards the kitchen. He pours himself a cup of coffee]

Richard

Man, this is messed up! Messed up on so many levels. Sandra is right, I don't know their situation. But she never...I don't know, man.

[Richard puts his coffee down, and walks towards Rosa's room. He is about to knock on her door then walks away. He goes back to knock and she opens the door before he does it.]

Rosa

Oh, I thought you left.

Richard

Hey, I am really sorry about all of this. I didn't know that... that happened to you.

[Rosa goes towards the kitchen to get water]

Rosa

It's okay, there is no way you would know.

Richard
Can I, umm.. Talk to you?

Rosa
Ricardo, I am really sorry, but I don't know what we should talk about.

Richard
Please, just one minute.

Rosa
Sure, fine!

[Richard goes and stands in the kitchen with Rosa]

Richard
Umm.. I know this is not my place to.. Listen, I am just going to say what I understood , and you can use that information as you'd like.

Rosa
Okay..

Richard
I talked to your mother while you / were making...

Rosa
/ Ricardo, please, that doesn't/

Richard
/ Just listen, she said that you two never wanted her to come visit you or to hear from her.

[Rosa walks towards the couch and sits, richard follows her]

Rosa
What are you talking about?

Richard
So, hear me out. It seems like the family she left you guys with was not very good, right?

Rosa
No shit.

Richard
I know, but she told me that she wrote to your uncle and HE said you two did not want to hear from or see her. She said she always visited your other siblings, and that you were the only ones that she did not see.

Rosa
And what are you/

Richard
What if your uncle was actually just trying to not have your mother come visit you? What if he was the one keeping you from your mom?

beat

Rosa

What? That... I don't... even if that is true, that doesn't make her abandoning us any better.

Richard

Unless she thought it was better for you to be with someone who could take care of you. Maybe she trusted her brother/

Rosa

/ He is my dad's brother

Richard

Well, then maybe she didn't know enough about him. You know what? How about we go find your mom and ask her about all of this.

Rosa

I don't know, I am not sure if/

Richard

/ what do you have to lose?

Rosa

Literally nothing.

Richard

Then let's go.

Rosa

Okay, umm.. Wow.. I guess we are going.

[Richard walks to the front door, and grabs Rosa's purse. She follows him and they walk out. "Trem das Onze" by Adoniran Barbosa starts playing. After a while, the doorbell rings. Rings. Rings. The song's volume goes down. Sandra opens her bedroom door, goes to the front door and opens it. It is Toni. He is wearing a red button down shirt with blue jeans. His hair is overgrown but not long. He is carrying a guitar on his back with a strap. When Sandra opens the door, he hugs her and kisses her on the mouth. She pushes him away]

Sandra

What are you doing here? I told you never to come here.

Toni

I was missing you too much, baby.

[Toni hugs Sandra and takes her to the couch]

I was waiting downstairs for Ricardo to leave/

Sandra

/ Richard

Toni

Waiting for... Richard.. To leave *[Toni starts kissing Sandra's body]* and I saw him leaving with your sister a while ago, waited a little longer to make sure that they didn't just go to get soda or something, and then I came up.

Sandra

What?

[Sandra pushes him away]

What were they doing together?

Toni

I don't know, but who cares? You don't even care about him.

Sandra

Yeah, but that doesn't mean I want him with my sister.

Toni

Okay, can we go into the bedroom now and talk business?

[Sandra looks at him, grabs his collar and takes him to her bedroom. The song goes back up in volume.]

Scene 6

[The lights slowly change to night time. " Trem das Onze" stops playing. The front door opens, it is Rosa and Richard laughing hysterically]

Rosa

Oh my god, can you believe it? There were five of them downstairs, I am not even sure I have seen that many together.

Richard

I don't know, I thought it was seven of them. But you are right! I didn't even know how to act in front of them.

[They laugh for a little bit, and sit on the couch]

Rosa

Oh, Jesus! I needed that laugh. I don't even know what to say to you. Thank you so much for /

Richard

/ Please, don't thank me. It was so beautiful seeing you two reconnect.

Rosa

Which would not have happened if you did not talk to me. I am sorry we were so rude to you when you were trying to just tell us what she told you.

Richard

It is totally fine, you all have gone through so much, and I am just glad that maybe now she might be part of your lives.

Rosa

We will see, I hope so. Also, Thank you for becoming the baby's father for five minutes, it felt real for a little bit. *[Rosa chuckles]*

Richard

About that...

Rosa

What?

Richard

Um... I don't know how to say this, but...

Everything I said there...

Rosa

Yes?

Richard

Everything I said to your mother...

[Sandra opens her bedroom door wearing a shirt and underwear, Toni is right behind her. She notices that Richard and Rosa are on the couch, and she pushes Toni back in the room and closes the door. Richard and Rosa startle at the noise and look at her.]

Sandra

[Loudly towards the door] OH, HI RICHARD AND ROSA! WHAT A SURPRISE SEEING THE TWO OF YOU HERE.

Richard

Oh, hey, ummm...

[He stands up and slowly goes towards Sandra and kisses her]

We, umm.. We went out for a little bit.

Sandra

Oh yeah, where did you go?

Richard

We went to see your mother.

Sandra

What? Why? Richard, I told you not to/

Rosa

/ I wanted to go, Richard told me that mom was saying some stuff to him earlier today, and I just wanted to talk to her about it all.

[Rosa walks towards the kitchen and Sandra follows her]

Sandra

You went to see mom after you said all of those things?

Rosa

Yes, I did.

Sandra

Why?

Rosa

It was all uncle Carlos. It was always him. He told mom we did not want to talk to her. She tried to visit us and reach out to us, but he always said that we did not want to see her or hear from her. She visited all of our siblings.

Sandra

I can't believe that, but still, she left us with him.

Rosa

I know! I said the same thing. She told me that she was not able to feed us anymore, she had to give us away. She said it was the hardest thing she had ever done, she said she tried to put us in pairs so we would never be alone.

[Something falls in Sandra's bedroom]

Sandra

Oh, sorry, I left the water running. Just came outside to get some wine to drink in the bathtub. Sorry, we can talk about all of that later. *[Walking towards her bedroom]* Sounds great. Sorry, I'll be back after my bath!

[She opens the door a little bit, and enters her room]

Rosa

Well, that was weird.

Richard

I guess everything today has been weird.

Rosa

Yeah, I guess... But, you were saying something earlier, that everything you said to my mother. I don't remember you saying anything there, you were more like a fly on the wall in that hotel.

Richard

I actually was talking about what I told your mother when she was here... and we were pretending that I was the father and your fiance.

Rosa

[laughing] What about it?

Richard

I meant every word.

Rosa

What do you mean?

Richard

I meant every word. The first day I saw you, I knew I wanted to be with you. Nothing else mattered. I know it sounds crazy/ but

Rosa

/ Stop! I don't know why you are saying this, but you should stop.

Richard

I know it is a lot, but I have seen the way you look at me/

Rosa

/ I don't... Ricardo, please. This makes no sense, look at me. I am pregnant, you are with my sister.

Richard

Tell me you don't want this?

Rosa

What?

[Richard gets close to Rosa, puts his arm around her waist]

Richard

Tell me you don't want this to happen?

Rosa

This is so much more complicated than wanting it to happen or not.

Richard

What is complicated?

Rosa

ME!

[Rosa pushes Richard away]

I am complicated. And this pregnancy is complicated.

Richard

I will take care of you, I will take care of your baby.

Rosa

What? No! You just asked to marry my sister and take her to the U.S.

Richard

What? I didn't do any of that

Rosa

She told me that you were going to marry her and take her with you.

Richard

I am not going to marry her, and I am not going anywhere.

Rosa

You don't want this.

[Richard comes closer to her]

Richard

I want this.

You want this.

I want you.

[they kiss. Rosa puts her hands on his chest and looks at him]

Rosa

I am afraid.

Richard

Of course you are.

Rosa

I am not sure what to do.

Richard

Just don't think too much.

[he holds her hands and takes her to the front door]

Come with me, I will take you somewhere.

Rosa

Where?

Richard

Somewhere beautiful, somewhere happy.

Rosa

What about Sandra?

Richard

Don't worry, she will be fine.

[Richard opens the door and takes Rosa with him. Rosa closes the door behind her. After the door closes, Sandra opens her bedroom door and her and Toni leave her bedroom]

Sandra

Okay, you have to go now. That is exactly why you should not be coming here. They could have seen you.

[Toni is standing near the bedroom door and Sandra is holding the front door open for him]

Toni

Well, but they didn't.

[Toni walks towards the door.]

I will see you soon.

Sandra

Can you please just leave?

[Toni kisses her, she tries to push him away but she kisses him back. She puts her hand on his face and gives three gentle slaps]

Will you be okay, or will you miss me too much?

Toni

I already miss you.

[Toni gives her another kiss and then stands under the door]

Will you be okay, or will you miss me too much?

Sandra

Don't worry, I will be fine.

[Sandra closes the door, walks to the kitchen, gets her cigarette pack, sits on the couch. She lights the lighter, the lights go out, the lighter is still lit for a couple of seconds. Black out]