

THE LAVENDER LADIES

CHANG CHANG “CEE-CEE” LING
GABRIELLA “GEE-GEE” GOMEZ
TATANYA “TEE-TEE” JENKINS
DOWANHOWEE “DEE-DEE” LOCKLEAR
VIVIANA “VEE-VEE” CAPPELLA

ACT ONE SCENE ONE

The curtains open and the scene is a bedroom. There are no sheets or covers on the bed. The rest of the room is filled with items of a 20something year old typical female. Maybe 5-10 seconds after the curtains open TaTanya and Viviana enter the stage. Both are carrying boxes and TaTanya has a box of garbage bags in one of the boxes. Once she places the boxes on the floor, she takes the box of garbage bags out of the box.

TATANYA

Thank you so much, Viviana, for helping me clear out this room.

VIVIANA

No problem, TaTanya.

TATANYA

I know this must be annoying to spend your day off cleaning.

VIVIANA

It's really not a problem.

TATANYA

I cannot believe this is the end.

VIVIANA

What do you mean?

TATANYA

I thought my parents were going to keep this house forever. I thought I'd spend every Christmas here. Even after their death I thought they'd will it to me or one of my siblings and we'd keep it in the family forever. I wish I could change their minds.

VIVIANA

Why are they selling it?

TATANYA

They said it's too much house for them. Now that it's just the two of them they don't need it anymore.

VIVIANA

Well, that sounds practical.

TATANYA

Yes, it is. I just thought...so many great memories in this house. I hate to never come here again. The last time I was in this room I was twenty-five. I graduated college at twenty-two and then got a job and saved up to move out. I just thought I would always have this room to come home to. It's so hard to believe ten years have gone by so quickly.

VIVIANA

It's a nice house and neighborhood. Are your parents rich?

TATANYA

Yes. My dad owns an organic dry-cleaners and my mom owns a hair, nail, and spa salon.

VIVIANA

That's amazing.

TATANYA

Yeah. Well, we better get cleaning. Here are some garbage bags. If anything looks like garbage just throw it in there.

VIVIANA

You want me to check with you first?

TATANYA

Yeah, sure. Anything else can go in the boxes. The clothes however, can go in a separate garbage bag. I am going to donate them.

VIVIANA

Okay. I'll start on the closet.

TATANYA

Okay. *(TaTanya goes to the desk and cleans it off including what's inside the drawer. Some of the things she throws in a garbage bag, others she puts inside a box.)*

VIVIANA

(Viviana opens the closet door and begins to remove the clothes from the hangers.) Do you want to keep the hangers or toss them?

TATANYA

You can leave them in the closet. I'm sure the buyers of the house can use them.

VIVIANA

Okay. *(Viviana continues to remove the clothing from the closets and place them in the bag. When she gets to the "Lavender Ladies" jacket she pauses.)* What is this? *(She shows the jacket to TaTanya.)*

TATANYA

Oh, my goodness. I forgot all about that. *(She takes the jacket and examines it.)*

VIVIANA

What is it?

TATANYA

The Lavender Ladies. Did you see the movie Grease?

VIVIANA

Yes.

TATANYA

Well, my friends and I from High School loved it. We decided to start our own gang. Instead of calling ourselves the Pink Ladies we came up with the Lavender Ladies.

VIVIANA

(Viviana chuckles) How cute.

TATANYA

Yeah. We had our own initiation, rules to follow, and secret meeting place. It was so much fun. We were a couple of nerds. We felt like the cool people of the school wearing our jackets though.

VIVIANA

What happened to them?

TATANYA

We lost touch. Come to think about it we promised to never allow more than two years to go by without having a reunion.

VIVIANA

How long has it been since the last reunion?

TATANYA

Eighteen years.

VIVIANA

Ya'll totally broke that promise.

TATANYA

I know. I feel so badly about it.

VIVIANA

You still have their phone numbers?

TATANYA

I doubt it. We didn't have cell phones back then. Only our parents. The only phone numbers I might have, are their parents.

VIVIANA

Well, maybe you can find them on FaceSpace.

TATANYA

Yeah, you're right. I think I'm going to have a reunion. And I'll have it here. I can spend my last day in this house with my good old friends. We spent many nights in this room. We had many sleepovers.

VIVIANA

It sounds like fun.

TATANYA

They were. You know you should come. I would love for you to meet them.

VIVIANA

I don't know. I don't want to be the outsider.

TATANYA

You won't. I promise. We'll talk about current stuff so you won't have to feel left out. I mean every now and again we'll have to go down memory lane and we'll still include you.

VIVIANA

I don't know.

TATANYA

Oh, come on. PLEASE! Pretty please, please, please, oh please.

VIVIANA

Okay.

TATANYA

Thank you! You're going to love them. I know you are. Oh, and one thing though, you have to wear something lavender.

VIVIANA

Okay. Well, when is it?

TATANYA

I don't know yet. I have to contact them on FaceSpace and choose a date. I will let you know. I promise you this will be fun. You won't regret it.

BLACK OUT

ACT ONE SCENE TWO

When lights up the room is seen. The bed now has lavender covers and there is a lavender scarf on one of the lamps. There are lavender trinkets around the room. The closet, desks, and drawers are empty. There are snacks, beverages, paper plates, paper bowls, napkins, and plastic ware on the dresser. The room looks somewhat bare except for the decorations. The doorbell is heard. Offstage we here TaTanya and Viviana.

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

I'm so glad you decided to come. Oh, thank you. How thoughtful.

VIVIANA (OFF STAGE)

Are they here yet?

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

No. You are the first to arrive. Come to the room. I decorated it a little for the occasion.

VIVIANA

(Viviana and TaTanya enter the room. TaTanya has a Lavender beverage (Any brand).)
Wow. This is pretty nice. You did this in such short notice.

TATANYA

Yes. I cannot tell you how long it took me to find lavender stuff. I'm sure if I weren't looking for it, it would have been all over the stores. By the way thank you for the wine.
(She places it on the dresser.)

VIVIANA

You're welcome.

TATANYA

How did you find lavender wine in such short notice?

VIVIANA

There's a liquor superstore near my home. They have just about everything.

TATANYA

I'm telling you Viviana you are going to love these girls. Or should I say Lavender Ladies? *(The doorbell rings.)* I'll be right back. *(TaTanya exits. After a few seconds a happy scream is heard and then shadowed by another happy scream (Changchang).)*

TATANYA and CHANGCHANG (OFF STAGE)

The Lavender Ladies are back together again.

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

Cee-Cee!

CHANGCHANG (OFF STAGE)

Tee-Tee!

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

How you doin'?

CHANGCHANG (OFF STAGE)

How you doin'?

TATANYA and CHANGCHANG (OFF STAGE)

I'm doin' *(They clap three times)* okay! *(They both scream. Viviana is listening in with a "they crazy" look on her face.)*

CHANGCHANG (OFF STAGE)

Oh my gosh! How are you?

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

I'm doing just fine. Thank you. Oh, how thoughtful. Come to the room. I have someone I want you to meet. *(After 2-3 seconds TaTanya and Changchang enters the room. TaTanya has a box of Lavender Macarons in her hand. She places them on the dresser.)*

TATANYA

Where did you get the cookies?

CHANGCHANG

I have a mom-and-pop bakery near my apartment. I special ordered them.

TATANYA

That's amazing. Well, Cee-Cee this is my friend Viviana.

CHANGCHANG

That's a beautiful name.

VIVIANA

Thank you.

TATANYA

Viviana, this is Changchang. We call her Cee-Cee for short. Cee-Cee, Viviana and I went to college together. Well almost. I dropped out by the second year. We were in the dance team together.

CHANGCHANG

Why did you drop out?

TATANYA

I realized I didn't need it. Thanks to my parents, I already knew how to run a business and I had the money to start my own so I figured why waste it on education, education that I already had.

CHANGCHANG

I am not surprised you met each other on the dance team. You were forever taking dance classes. So, do you own your own dance studio?

TATANYA

No. I own my own florist?

CHANGCHANG

Oh, okay. That makes sense. You were always into floral design. I cannot believe after all of these years you contacted me. I completely forgot about the Lavender Ladies. Life surely has a way of changing your plans. I thought we agreed never to let more than two years go by before we meet.

TATANYA

We did, and apparently, we all got side tracked.

CHANGCHANG

Well, how many years has it been?

TATANYA

Eighteen. We haven't seen each other since High School graduation.

CHANGCHANG

Wow. How times passed. Did you go to the ten-year reunion?

TATANYA

No. I wasn't ready for that yet.

CHANGCHANG

Me neither. Well, this room is looking good. And I like your lavender.

TATANYA

Thank you. And yours is looking good too.

CHANGCHANG

Thank you. Viviana, you don't look so bad yourself.

VIVIANA

Thank you.

CHANGCHANG

Are we initiating her into the group?

TATANYA

I guess. I hadn't thought of that. What do you think, Viviana, would you like to be apart of the Lavender Ladies?

VIVIANA

Sure.

CHANGCHANG

Great. As soon as everyone gets here, we will start the initiation. Don't worry, it's nothing major. *(The doorbell rings. TaTanya exits swiftly. After a few seconds we hear a happy scream. While TaTanya and Gabriella are off stage greeting each other Changchang is mouthing the greeting with them.)*

TATANYA and GABRIELLA (OFF STAGE)

The Lavender Ladies are back together again.

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

Gee-Gee!

GABRIELLA (OFF STAGE)

Tee-Tee!

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

How you doin'?

GABRIELLA (OFF STAGE)

How you doin'?

TATANYA and GABRIELLA (OFF STAGE)

I'm doin' *(They clap three times)* okay! *(They both scream.)*

GABRIELLA (OFF STAGE)

Girl, how many years has it been? I know for sure we broke our two-year agreement.

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

We surely did, it's been 18 years.

GABRIELLA (OFF STAGE)

Oh, my goodness that's too long.

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

Yes. Well, come upstairs to the room. *(TaTanya and Gabriella enter the room. TaTanya has a bottle of purple/lavender alcoholic beverage (any brand) in her hand and places it on the dresser. When Gabriella enters the room and notices Changchang she screams.)*

CHANGCHANG and GABRIELLA
The Lavender Ladies are back together again.

CHANGCHANG
Gee-Gee!

GABRIELLA
Cee-Cee!

TATANYA
How you doin'?

GABRIELLA
How you doin'?

CHANGCHANG and GABRIELLA
I'm doin' *(They clap three times)* okay! *(They both scream and then they hug.)*

CHANGCHANG
Girl, you look wonderful!

GABRIELLA
Thank you, I know.

CHANGCHANG
Gee-Gee, you haven't changed a bit.

TATANYA
Viviana this Gabriella, Gee-Gee for short. Gee-Gee this is Viviana. She's a real dear friend of mine.

GABRIELLA
It's nice to meet you, Viviana. I like that name.

VIVIANA
Thank you.

CHANGCHANG
She's being initiated today.

GABRIELLA
Oh, another lady. How awesome. Maybe you can help us keep our two-year agreement this time.

CHANGCHANG

Do you realize another two years and it'll be twenty years since we've graduated High School?

GABRIELLA

Please don't remind me. I already feel like my parents. Where did the time go?

TATANYA

I sure don't know It sure left out of here quickly. Thanks for the drink by the way.

CHANGCHANG

Where did you find that at?

GABRIELLA

I went through my neighbor's refrigerator. I told them I needed a gift for a party. They are always drinking something alcoholic so I knew I could find something.

TATANYA

Are you serious?

GABRIELLA

Very serious. *(The doorbell rings. TaTanya exits. A few seconds later a scream is heard.)*

TATANYA and DOWANHOWEE (OFF STAGE)

The Lavender Ladies are back together again.

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

Dee-Dee!

DOWANHOWEE (OFF STAGE)

Tee-Tee!

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

How you doin'?

DOWANHOWEE (OFF STAGE)

How you doin'?

TATANYA and DOWANHOWEE (OFF STAGE)

I'm doin' *(They clap three times)* okay! *(They both scream.)*

DOWANHOWEE (OFF STAGE)

Hey, Tee-Tee. I can't believe yo momma still got that naked man statue on her yard.

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

Yes girl. And look at you. How much weight did you lose?

DOWANHOWEE (OFF STAGE)

I don't know. I never counted.

TATANYA (OFF STAGE)

You look good. Come upstairs, girl. *(TaTanya enters with a bakery box she sets it on the dresser. When Dowanhowee enters, the ladies scream. Viviana just smiles.)*

TATANYA

How you doin'?

DOWANHOWEE

How you doin'?

CHANGCHANG

How you doin'?

GABRIELLA

How you doin'?

TATANYA, DOWANHOWEE, CHANGCHANG, AND GABRIELLA

I'm doin' *(They clap three times)* okay! *(They all scream.)*

GABRIELLA

Girl, look at you. You look good, girl.

DOWANHOWEE

Thank you.

CHANGCHANG

How did you lose the weight?

DOWANHOWEE

The old fashion way, vegan meals, lots of water, and lots of exercise. *(Short pause)* Well, I don't believe this. I thought I'd never see ya'll again. It was a nice surprise when Tee-Tee messaged me on FaceSpace.

TATANYA

Viviana, this is Dowanhowee. We call her Dee-Dee. Dee-Dee this is Viviana, a college friend.

GABRIELLA

Ooh, that's a nice name you have there.

VIVIANA

Thank you.

CHANGCHANG

Well, before we do anything ladies, we need to initiate Viviana.

DOWANHOWEE

Oh, another lady. How nice.

CHANGCHANG

Ladies get into your positions. Viviana, just stand there, don't move. *(The ladies circle around Viviana. Gabriella is standing next to Changchang, Dowanhowee is standing next to Changchang and TaTanya is standing next to Dowanhowee.)* Viviana, face me. *(Viviana faces her.)* Viviana, you have requested to join the Lavender Ladies and we the Ladies agree that you are good enough, pretty enough, and vogue enough to enter the Lavender Ladies. As a Lavender Lady you must never reveal our secrets, our jokes, or our conversations to anyone who is not an official Lavender Lady. You must uphold our morals, fashion, and beauty standards. Now please turn towards Gee-Gee.

GABRIELLA

Do you promise to never reveal our secrets, jokes, or conversations?

VIVIANA

Um...

GABRIELLA

Just say I do.

VIVIANA

I do.

GABRIELLA

Do you promise to keep our good morals, fashion, and beauty standards?

VIVIANA

What are they?

GABRIELLA

It's not important just say I do.

VIVIANA

Um...I do.

GABRIELLA

Do you promise not to get knocked up?

VIVIANA

Excuse me?

GABRIELLA

I'm sorry these were written when we were in High School. I guess we don't need that one. Do you promise to never keep secrets, and to confide in your Lavender Ladies?

VIVIANA

I do.

GABRIELLA

Good. Now turn towards Dee-Dee. *(Viviana turns towards Dowanhowee)*

DOWANHOWEE

It is now time for me to give you your Lavender name. I Dee-Dee Locklear name you Vee-Vee. Do you accept your name?

VIVIANA

Yeah, I guess.

DOWANHOWEE

Now turn to Tee-Tee. *(Viviana turns towards TaTanya.)*

TATANYA

By the power and authority given to me by the Lavender Ladies I now pronounce you an official Lavender Lady. *(They all cheer and hug Viviana)*

FADE TO BLACK

ACT ONE SCENE THREE

There is 90s (or 90s style) music playing lightly in the background. Dowanhowee and Gabriella are dancing. TaTanya is painting her nails. Viviana is looking at a Vogue magazine and Changchang is eating a fruit salad.

DOWANHOWEE

I cannot believe you still have this boom box in here.

TATANYA

My mom basically left the room as is from when I left about twelve years ago.

GABRIELLA

It's hard to believe your parents are giving up this house. We had so many great memories in this room alone.

CHANGCHANG

Remember the scary movie marathon we had here?

DOWANHOWEE

How could I forget? I couldn't sleep for days.

GABRIELLA

Remember that Saturday morning when your sister answered the door and it was the Jehovah Witness and she started flirting with one of the guys? *(They all laugh.)* I thought for sure your mother was going to get her for that.

TATANYA

My mother didn't care for them coming to the door. Anything to scare them away was okay by her.

CHANGCHANG

I remember the time Mrs. Peklo having a fight with them.

GABRIELLA

Please don't bring up Mrs. Peklo. Mrs. Jesus Christ herself. She was so annoying and always sending people to hell.

DOWANHOWEE

Do you remember the argument she had with your mom about that statue?

CHANGCHANG

I remember Mrs. Peklo saying that God was going to strike down the statue with lightning if she didn't take that porno statue of the lawn.

DOWANHOWEE

Remember the time when she called the police.

VIVIANA

The police?

TATANYA

Yeah. She kept complaining about the statue and the fact that it was naked so my mom bought a snap thong and placed it on the statue. Mrs. Peklo was so angry that she called the police.

VIVIANA

What did they do?

TATANYA

Nothing. They told her there was nothing they could do because it wasn't illegal.

CHANGCHANG

The best part about it was the police couldn't keep a straight face the entire time they were there.

GABRIELLA

I always wondered though, where did you mother get a naked male statue with such a big...well, you know.

TATANYA

She had it specially made.

GABRIELLA

WHAT? Are you serious?

TATANYA

A friend of hers from college went into business for himself. He's a sculptor. She said she wanted to put something on the lawn to annoy Mrs. Peklo. My mom called her friend and the rest is history.

GABRIELLA

I love your mother.

DOWANHOWEE

What happened to Mrs. Peklo? Does she still live across the street?

GABRIELLA

If she does, I'm going to ring her doorbell and run.

TATANYA

My mom called me about three years ago telling me she died. She wanted to know if I wanted to go to the funeral.

GABRIELLA

Did you go?

TATANYA

Yeah. I needed to make sure it was true.

DOWANHOWEE

How did she die?

TATANYA

My mother said a gay couple moved in next door to her. She was always preaching to them and as you know, sending them to hell. My mom said the day she died she was yelling at them about their sin and she had a heart attack and died. *(Gabriella bursts into laughter.)*

DOWANHOWEE

Gee-Gee, how could you laugh?

GABRIELLA

Because that's funny. That's what she gets for being in people's business.

CHANGCHANG

Did they call the police or did they let her die?

GABRIELLA

(She laughs) I would have let the old bitty die.

CHANGCHANG

Gee-Gee!

TATANYA

They called immediately. Unfortunately, by the time the ambulance got there it was too late. *(Gabriella laughs again.)*

CHANGCHANG

Gee-Gee, you are so insensitive.

GABRIELLA

It is difficult for me to feel bad about someone who was self-righteous and such a hypocrite. She had her first two children before marriage and yet wanted to send everyone else to hell.

DOWANHOWEE

How do you know that?

GABRIELLA

Do you remember Tyrone, her grandson?

CHANGCHANG

The one who wanted to get with you?

GABRIELLA

Yep, he told me. He said it was the family secret.

DOWANHOWEE

What was he doing telling you the family secret?

GABRIELLA

I don't know. He was a ho, so I am sure she was always preaching to him too. And people who are related to overly religious hypocrites are always happy to expose them.

TATANYA

And he is as fast as a rabbit. You know he has nine children now, and all different mommas.

DOWANHOWEE

How did you know that?

TATANYA

My mother told me. She always kept me in the 411 of the neighborhood, even after I left.

CHANGCHANG

I don't know about the rest of y'all, I am going to miss this neighborhood, this house, and this room. You never know how great your life is until it passes you by.

GABRIELLA

I know. I'll never forget New Bridge High School. We had our best days together in those four years.

DOWANHOWEE

And the worst ones too. Remember that bomb threat?

TATANYA

Oh, don't remind me.

VIVIANA

You had a bomb threat?

CHANGCHANG

Yeah, it was fake though. Some boy was failing a class so he emailed his teacher and said he placed a bomb in the school and would make it go off if he didn't give him a passing grade.

VIVIANA

How did they find out that it was fake?

GABRIELLA

Because the dumbass used the school computer to send the email. You had to login in order to use them. The detectives were able to track the email back to his log in code.

VIVIANA

Oh, my goodness. What happened to him?

DOWANHOWEE

He was sent to another school.

TATANYA

One of the things I wonder is what would have become of Jerold Dabney.

GABRIELLA

That was horrible. Very depressing.

VIVIANA

What happened?

CHANGCHANG

He was driving home from work one night and was hit by a drunk driver. He died on the way to the hospital. It had the whole school crying. Everyone loved him. He was one of the guys everyone got along with. *(There is a "silence for the dead" pause before Dowanhowee breaks it.)*

DOWANHOWEE

I think one of the most shocking things that ever happened was Kevin Phillips.

TATANYA

OMG!

GABRIELLA

You know their married?

CHANGCHANG

No, they are not. Stop playing.

GABRIELLA

I'm not playing. I ran into him about five years ago at the organic grocery store and there he was with her and the baby. Well, child. The child was about thirteen years old then.

VIVIANA

Who is--

TATANYA

Oh right, I'm sorry. Our junior year in high school, Kevin Phillips was a boy who was having sex with Mrs. Opal, a Chemistry teacher. Mind you she is a white woman and Kevin is a black boy, so when her baby came out of the womb and her white husband saw him, he knew it wasn't his.

CHANGCHANG

Instead of lying and saying it belongs to the mailman she named Kevin. Her husband went ballistic, came to the school and caused an uproar. He went into her class turned the desks over, screaming and yelling.

DOWANHOWEE

By the time the principle found out what happened Mrs. Opal was fired and Kevin was suspended for a week.

GABRIELLA

Not only was the boy with them when I ran into them, they also had an eight-year-old daughter and another one on the way.

CHANGCHANG

I guess they were really in love.

DOWANHOWEE

Yeah, maybe it was meant to be.

GABRIELLA

God only knows.

VIVIANA

The only thing I remember bad happening in my school was the power going out all day due to a rain storm.

DOWANHOWEE

You mean to tell me nothing bad or scandalous happened in your school. You must have gone to school in heaven.

CHANGCHANG

(Laughing) Remember the ram running around the hallways.

VIVIANA

What?

DOWANHOWEE

The school's mascot is a ram, so the football coach thought it would be cool to have a ram at the homecoming game. Somehow it got loose and got into the schools.

GABRIELLA

We were on lock down the whole day until animal control was able to get him out.

CHANGCHANG

Despite all of the bad, we had a great four years in High School.

DOWANHOWEE

We sure did. I just wish we would have kept our two-year agreement. How did we allow 18 years to go by?

TATANYA

Between college and starting a business I just got caught up with life. I kept putting it off for the next day or the next year until I forgot. When Viviana and I were cleaning my room out she found my jacket and that's what made me remember.

GABRIELLA

I can't believe you kept that thing. I think I threw mine away.

DOWANHOWEE

I don't know what I did with mine.

VIVIANA

(Viviana is still looking at the Vogue magazine. She notices something.) Cee-Cee?

CHANGCHANG

Yes, Vee-Vee?

VIVIANA

What's your last name?

CHANGCHANG

Ling. Why?

VIVIANA

Oh my gosh. This isn't your work, is it? *(She shows her the magazine.)*

CHANGCHANG

(Changchang looks at the magazine.) Yeah, that's me.

VIVIANA

Oh my gosh. You do great work!

CHANGCHANG

Thank you.

DOWANHOWEE

Wait a minute, what's going on here?

VIVIANA

(She shows the magazine.) Look, her name is under the credits. She took these pictures.

TATANYA

Oh wow! How did that happen?

CHANGCHANG

It's my job. *(The ladies respond with congratulations and cheering.)*

GABRIELLA

Really? Are your parents okay with that? Didn't they want you to be a doctor?

CHANGCHANG

Yes, they did. And to this day when I talk about my work, they quickly change the subject.

DOWANHOWEE

I don't understand though, you have photographed for one of the biggest fashion magazines in the world. How could they not be proud of you?

CHANGCHANG

Because they don't consider it a job. They believe a real job is helping people like a doctor or a lawyer does. Not taking pictures for a magazine no one needs.

DOWANHOWEE

Is that what they said? *(Cee-Cee nods her head yes.)*

TATANYA

Well, if it means anything to you, I am very proud of you. *(The all audibly agree.)*

GABRIELLA

So, Viviana what do you do?

VIVIANA

I'm a doctor.

TATANYA

(Dee-Dee, Cee-Cee, and Gee-Gee laugh.) She's not joking. She's really a doctor.

VIVIANA

(They respond with an Oh.) There is no need to feel bad, Cee-Cee; I think your work is beautiful. And we all need art and fashion.

CHANGCHANG

Thank you, Vee-Vee.

DOWANHOWEE

So, what kind of a doctor are you; heart, feet...mind doctor?

VIVIANA

I'm a naturopathic doctor

GABRIELLA

What's that?

VIVIANA

Natural and holistic care.

GABRIELLA

Oh, you mean alternative care.

VIVIANA

No actually, medical is alternative care. Holistic care was discovered centuries before medical even existed.

GABRIELLA

Why did they stop using natural care?

VIVIANA

They never did. Actually, a doctor got greedy and wanted to make more money than holistic care could ever make so he created medicine and prescriptions to make twice as much. It was never to cure anyone it was always to make more money than needed. They vaguely taught about him in one of my college classes. I got curious and did further research. I couldn't continue on with the degree knowing his purpose behind it so I switch to naturopathic. It's a much kinder and better approach.

CHANGCHANG

Oh. Well, what are the rest of you doing with your lives?

GABRIELLA

I'm a mother and that's all I need to be right about now. Some times I feel like strangling those things.

TATANYA

(They all laugh) I own my own florist shop. What makes it different is we not only make arrangements with real flowers, we also have choices of paper, plastic, and wooden flowers.

DOWANHOWEE

Well, that's unique.

VIVIANA

What about you Dee-Dee?

DOWANHOWEE

I'm a plumber

VIVIANA

A plumber?

GABRIELLA

I told ya'll she was going to take over her dad's business.

DOWANHOWEE

I didn't, I started my own house call business. People call me I go over and fix their problems. It's more freelance than anything else.

CHANGCHANG

What happened to: *(Mocking her)* when I get out of my parents' house, I am never picking up another plunger again?

DOWANHOWEE

(They all laugh) I know, I know, I spent so much time complaining. What would you expect from a girl whose father is forcing her to learn how to fix sinks and toilets. I couldn't afford college and plumbing was the only thing I knew how to do so I worked for my dad for about five years and then I went out on my own.

TATANYA

So how many children do you have, Gee-Gee?

GABRIELLA

Three. My daughter, Celia is nine, my son, Jose is five, and my husband, Reynaldo is forty-one.

DOWANHOWEE

(They laugh.) Where did you meet your husband?

GABRIELLA

We met in college. We actually got married right after college. He already was freelancing as a computer technician. He worked five years at a local computer store and then he left and went full-time with his business. He's very successful and makes more than enough money so I get to stay home. Although it's nice, it does get old sometimes.

DOWANHOWEE

Anybody else married?

VIVIANA

I am. No children though. We decided to take it slow.

CHANGCHANG

Well, that's cool. What does he do?

VIVIANA

He owns an auto mechanic shop. That's where I met him. I was getting my car fixed and he was flirting with me the entire time. He even paid for the services.

GABRIELLA

Well, that's nice. How about you Tee-Tee?

TATANYA

Yes, I'm married, no children, and he's a lawyer.

GABRIELLA

Are ya'll taking it slow too, you know with the children?

TATANYA

(Disappointed) Well, actually, he doesn't want children.

DOWANHOWEE

Are you okay with that?

TATANYA

Well, I wasn't at first. I guess that's something we should have discussed before getting married. You know though, I'm getting used to it.

CHANGCHANG

(Short silence) Well, as for me I am single and happy.

GABRIELLA

Are you dating?

CHANGCHANG

Not at all. I enjoy being alone.

DOWANHOWEE

Well don't you want to settle down? Don't you want children?

CHANGCHANG

No and no.

DOWANHOWEE

Well, I do. My biological clock is ticking really loudly. I want children so badly.

GABRIELLA

Well hell, have mine. Trust me five minutes with them and you'll lock your 'gina up faster then they locked up O.J. Simpson.

TATANYA

(They all laugh) Are they that bad?

GABRIELLA

They're worst. And I admit it's my fault. You see, I didn't realize the reason why God has a woman carrying a baby around for ten months, is to give you and the father time to change your bad habits. I mean they pick up everything I do.

VIVIANA

What kind of bad habits are they that their behavior is that bad?

GABRIELLA

Well, for instance, I was in the car driving in the passing lane when I ended behind this turtle driving grandpa. As he slowly got into the right lane I yelled, hurry your ass out the lane ya slowpoke. They were both in the car, and I didn't think anything of it. A week later we're in the grocery store about to check out and there is this woman in front of us looking for a penny. She's digging and digging and before I know it Celia yells, "hurry your ass out the lane ya slowpoke!" *(They all laugh)*. I was so embarrassed. I wanted to get angry and give her a spanking right there, the thing is I was so guilty because I realized she got that from me. There was nothing I could do to her because it was then I realized I was a bad influence on my own daughter. Her own mother a bad example. Ever since then I worked on straighten up my act. I think it's too late though. They're a bunch of Chuckies running around and it's my fault.

CHANGCHANG

(They laugh) I would have loved to witness that.

GABRIELLA

I felt horrible. I felt like I failed as a parent. It made me understand my mother. I called her and apologized for every time I embarrassed her or disobeyed her. I even wrote her an apology check for a thousand dollars.

DOWANHOWEE

What did she do with it?

GABRIELLA

She cashed it. You know my mother. *(They laugh.)* You never realize how difficult it is to raise children until you look at them and realize you're not raising your children, you're raising yourself. It gets rough when you realize how much you need to grow up, and not because you want to, because you need to for the sake of your children. There are days I wish I could be sitting at a desk complaining about another Monday.

DOWANHOWEE

And there are days I wish I was a stay-at-home mom instead of fixing toilets.

CHANGCHANG

Well, they say you can never get what you want until you appreciate what you already have.

GABRIELLA

Who are they?

CHANGCHANG

People who have what they want.

TATANYA

(There's a slight pause) Well...is anyone hungry. I can make sandwiches.

GABRIELLA

Yes, that sounds good. Let's have some sandwiches.

BLACK OUT.

ACT ONE SCENE FOUR

When lights come up Viviana and Dowanhowee are dialoging with each other. Gabriella is writing on ripped pieces of paper folding them and putting them in a paper bowl. TaTanya and Changchang enter the room with trays of sandwiches.

VIVIANA

Those look good.

DOWANHOWEE

Did you make any vegan style sandwiches?

CHANGCHANG

Yes, we did, just as you asked.

DOWANHOWEE

Thank you.

GABRIELLA

Okay ya'll, let's play a game.

DOWANHOWEE

What kind of game?

GABRIELLA

Questions and answers. It's simple. There are five questions in here. We each get to pick one and read it aloud and we all have to answer them.

CHANGCHANG

What kind of questions are in there?

GABRIELLA

Don't worry about that. Ya'll come on. Who's first?

DOWANHOWEE

You go first.

GABRIELLA

I can't. I'm the game host. I must go last. Come on Dee-Dee pick a question.

DOWANHOWEE

Alright. *(She picks a paper out of the paper bowl and opens it.)* Who is your celebrity crush? Should I go first?

GABRIELLA

No, the person who picks the question goes last. Viviana, you go first.

VIVIANA

Harry Shum, Jr.

GABRIELLA

Who the hell is that?

VIVIANA

He's from the television show, Glee.

GABRIELLA

Oh. I never got into that show.

VIVIANA

Well, you should look him up because he is *fine*.

GABRIELLA

Well, alright then, girl. Cee-Cee, you next.

CHANGCHANG

Benjamin Bratt. His smile makes me melt.

GABRIELLA

He is a cutie. TaTanya, it's your turn.

TATANYA

Brad Pitt.

CHANGCHANG, VIVIANA, DOWANHOWEE AND GABRIELLA

Brad Pitt!?

GABRIELLA

Why would you want him?

TATANYA

Because I know he wants children.

GABRIELLA

(They laugh) Girl, there's not enough liquor in the world to deal with all those children. Alright Dee-Dee, who you shacking up with?

DOWANHOWEE

(A big smile appears on her face.) Adam Rodriguez. He just looks like he looks good naked. I could just stare at him all day. Every part of him.

GABRIELLA

Girl, you need a drink? *(They laugh)*. Drink some of this lavender stuff and calm down.

TATANYA

Alright Gee-Gee, it's your turn.

GABRIELLA

If I could leave my husband and them Chuckies I would choose to be with Michael Ealy. Those eyes are just beautiful. I can stare at them all day.

VIVIANA

He does have beautiful eyes.

GABRIELLA

Alright TaTanya, it's your turn to pick a question.

TATANYA

(TaTanya takes a question from the bowl and reads.) What is your favorite part of the male body? *(Everyone responds to that question with an "Ohhhhh")*

CHANGCHANG

This may sound corny. I really like a guy with a nice smile. It really makes me feel good to know my man has all his teeth. *(They laugh.)*

VIVIANA

I like his eyes. There is something about the eyes. They're so telling.

GABRIELLA

They sure are. The best thing to look at when talking to man is his eyes, because if he's lying, they will tell on him.

DOWANHOWEE

I like the *chest!* The flat chest, those six packs. I like seeing a man walk around shirtless just exposing all his goodness. Ooh I'm getting hot and bothered just thinking about it.

GABRIELLA

Someone, get her a hose. *(They laugh.)*

TATANYA

Well, I don't know about all men, my man has a nice butt. When he comes out of the shower, I be staring, yo. *(They laugh)*

GABRIELLA

Well, hell if ya'll ain't gonna say it, I will. I like his dick. Stick it in their, baby, stick it in.

CHANGCHANG

(They laugh) Girl, you crazy!

GABRIELLA

(She stands and makes the motion). Pump me, pump me, pump me, pump me!

DOWANHOWEE

(They laugh louder) Girl, you need Jesus.

GABRIELLA

Hell, if He knows how to do it, I'll take Jesus.

CHANGCHANG

(Ohhh) Girl, you going to hell!

GABRIELLA

Okay, Mrs. Peklo. *(They are laughing and responding to Gabriella.)*

VIVIANA

I have never met anyone as fun as you.

GABRIELLA

And you never will. *(After laughter breaks)* Come on, Cee-Cee, pick a question.

CHANGCHANG

(She picks a question and reads) When was your first-time having sex? Oh, Gee-Gee. Why would you put that in there?

GABRIELLA

Hey, we're Lavender Ladies, no secrets, no shame.

TATANYA

My first time was about five weeks after Jake and I got engaged. It was Valentine's Day and we were a little buzzed. We both agreed to wait until after our wedding day. He was so hot though, so we decided to put each other's fire out.

GABRIELLA

Was it good?

TATANYA

It was great.

DOWANHOWEE

My first time- *(Viviana gets up leave.)*

GABRIELLA

Where you going?

VIVIANA

I have to use the bathroom.

GABRIELLA

Well, hurry back. (*Viviana exits.*)

DOWANHOWEE

My first time was with my boyfriend of eight months. He kept asking and I told him no. He said if I loved him I would. Well, he pressured me into it. The next day I called him and he didn't pick up. He didn't answer my texts and he unfriended me on FaceSpace. I was hurt. That little voice inside of me told me he would leave me the moment I gave in. I didn't listen. I've been single and celibate ever since. Although I want a relationship, I'm afraid it'll happen again.

GABRIELLA

No need to rush it. When it's time it'll happen. I guess you can go Cee-Cee. Vee-Vee can go when she comes back.

CHANGCHANG

My first time hasn't happened yet?

TATANYA

You're still a virgin?

CHANGCHANG

I'm not a virgin, I'm a proud virgin. Especially in these times when the schools and the media are teaching girls it's okay to open those legs just as long as you have a condom. I realize that sex is more than not getting knocked up or getting a disease. I want to be his only one.

TATANYA

I'm proud of you.

GABRIELLA

I guess I'll go next. My first time was my junior year in college. I was dating this guy and we were watching this movie and there was this sex scene. We both looked at each other, kissed, and then did it. It wasn't planned, it just happened.

DOWANHOWEE

You sure he didn't plan it (*Viviana reenters and sits.*)? You know how sneaky boys are.

GABRIELLA

Well, I don't know. Well, Vee-Vee, it's your turn.

VIVIANA

My turn to do what?

GABRIELLA

Your first time. Come on, we all went.

VIVIANA

My first time wasn't anything special to share.

GABRIELLA

Oh, come on. It doesn't have to be magical or some phony fantasy story. We won't judge you; I promise. Will we ladies? *(They all say no.)*

VIVIANA

(She pauses for a moment) Well, if you really want to know. My maternal aunt was dating this boy. He was thirty-four and I was twelve. *(Slight pause.)* I told my aunt. She didn't believe me. I then told my mom and she went to the police. The boy's mom assured the police he did it, because he has done it in the past and was supposed to be in therapy. He plead not guilty and then they put him in prison. My aunt didn't have the money to bail him out and his parents weren't very pleased with him so they left him in prison. He was raped a few times while in prison by the inmates and the guards. After his last rape he couldn't take it anymore so he hung himself. My family basically split and didn't talk to each other for about five years. We saw each other at my great-grandmother's funeral. We see each other every now and again. Every time we meet that stench from the past is always in the air. That was my first time.

TATANYA

Vivie, I am so sorry. I had no idea.

GABRIELLA

No, I'm sorry. This is my fault. I shouldn't have egged you on.

VIVIANA

No, it's okay. My psychologist says I should talk about it more often. You know get it out of me.

GABRIELLA

(There is a silence) Well, I don't think we should finish playing this game.

FADE TO BLACK

ACT ONE SCENE FIVE

After a brief pause, music is heard softly and quickly gets louder until it sounds like a club. The lights fade up and Gabriella, Changchang, and Dowanhowee are dancing. Viviana is sitting watching and laughing. TaTanya is by her side comforting her. After a few seconds the music slowly gets lower and Gabriella turns off the boom box.

GABRIELLA

My goodness. I need to work out more.

DOWANHOWEE

You tired already?

GABRIELLA

Hush Dee-Dee. You feeling better, Vee-Vee?

VIVIANA

I'll be alright.

GABRIELLA

I am really sorry I had you crying.

VIVIANA

It's okay.

GABRIELLA

No, it's not.

VIVIANA

Yes, it really is. I needed that. I needed to talk about it; I needed to cry about it. I needed to get it out of me. It really is okay.

GABRIELLA

Well, just as long as you're okay, then I'm okay.

CHANGCHANG

Your story reminds me of when I was working at Queen Burger. One of the managers was arrested for child pornography. It was all over the papers. Every customer, the minute they would walk in, would mention him and ask questions. It was a crazy time.

DOWANHOWEE

That's crazy.

GABRIELLA

You worked at Queen Burger, Cee-Cee?

CHANGCHANG

Yes. I worked there during my second and third year of college. I hated it. Most of the customers were always annoying. They would ask some of the stupidest questions.

DOWANHOWEE

There is no such thing as a stupid question.

CHANGCHANG

At Queen Burger, I got many of them. Is there bacon on the BLT? Is the sweet tea sweet or unsweetened? Does the unsweetened tea have sugar in it? How cold is the iced coffee? How much is the dollar burger? Is there tax on the dollar menu items? I can go on and on. It was just annoying. And then there were the spoiled brat customers who had temper tantrums when they couldn't get what they want. They would constantly get upset saying I thought we can have it our way and I would constantly remind them you can have it your way at Burger King at Queen Burger, you have it our way or no way.

TATANYA

(They laugh) During my first year in college I worked at the college's theater. It was pretty annoying at times because the patrons would want to sneak food in the theater. They have a no food-no drink policy. Sometimes the patron would attempt to convince me to allow them to let them bring it in. The most annoying was when they would take pictures during the show. One time I caught a man twice. I told him I had to take his camera and he argued with me. After a few seconds a gentleman in front of us turned around, snatch the camera, and threw it, and it ended on the stage. *(They all respond)*

GABRIELLA

Oh, my goodness. What happened?

TATANYA

Well, the actors paused for a moment and then kept going as if it didn't happen. Once the lights went out someone took the camera. The man was upset, what could you do though. He threatened to sue the college. He never did.

GABRIELLA

That's crazy. My first job was at a thrift store. I have never seen so many hoarders and shopping addicts in my life. And some of the regulars would treat the store like an auction and ask to get items for less. The most annoying thing was when they would return the items for a refund.

CHANGCHANG

Refund at a thrift store? Didn't they know all sales are final at a thrift store?

GABRIELLA

Some of them didn't know and others didn't care.

DOWANHOWEE

I was plumbing right after high school. I told my dad I would work for him until I figure out what to do and he didn't mind. Every day I looked for another trade. Finally, I gave up and decided to be happy with what I was doing.

GABRIELLA

What about you Vee-Vee, what was your first job?

VIVIANA

During my third year of college is when I got my first job. I worked at a waxing salon which was the biggest mistake of my life.

GABRIELLA

Why do you say that?

VIVIANA

Well, I thought I would spend my days waxing eye brows and mustaches. I did not realize how many vaginas I would be waxing. I never in my life thought that I would see that many vaginas in a day. It is not an experience I wanted in life.

DOWANHOWEE

I didn't realize that many women waxed their jay-jay.

GABRIELLA

Their what?

DOWANHOWEE

Their jay-jay.

GABRIELLA

Is that what you call it?

DOWANHOWEE

Not just me. It's the polite way to mention it amongst people. Wee-wee and jay-jay.

CHANGCHANG

(They laugh) Wee-wee and jay-jay; what are we seven years old?

DOWANHOWEE

You don't have to be a child to use those terms.

CHANGCHANG

We're all adults, Dee-Dee. We can say penis and vagina.

GABRIELLA

I like to say Richard and kitten. *(They all laugh, except Dowanhowee)*

DOWANHOWEE

Richard and kitten? I don't get it.

GABRIELLA

Dick and pussy, Dee-Dee, dick and pussy.

DOWANHOWEE

Oh my gosh, Gee-Gee, don't be so rude.

GABRIELLA

Why not? There's no reason to be prude. It's ladies' night out. Let's live a little. Let's holler. *(Mocking)* Oh baby, give it to me; put your dick in my pussy. I'm coming! *(They laugh, scream, and respond with shock.)*

DOWANHOWEE

Gee-Gee, I don't believe you. Stop it.

GABRIELLA

Oh, calm down, Dee-Dee. *(After a brief second of calming down)* I think we need to rip into these sweets. They look awesome. *(She walks to the dresser and opens the boxes).* Who's having some?

TATANYA

I'll have some. Give me one of each.

GABRIELLA

Just one cookie?

CHANGCHANG

They're not cookies, they're macarons.

GABRIELLA

Whatever. Anyone else.

CHANGCHANG

You can make me a plate.

VIVIANA

Me too.

GABRIELLA

You want a plate, Dee-Dee?

DOWANHOWEE

I guess its okay. I haven't had sweets in years.

CHANGCHANG

I am so shocked with how much weight you lost. What motivated you to lose it?

DOWANHOWEE

Do you really want to know?

CHANGCHANG

Yeah.

GABRIELLA

Why did you ask? Are we going to be crying again?

DOWANHOWEE

Well, I don't know. It's not a happy story. There was this guy I was really attracted, Brent Riley. After about three months I finally got the nerve to ask him out and he said he doesn't date fat girls. It crushed me. After that day I just stopped eating. I would drink water to keep from passing out and sometimes juice, for the most part I stopped eating. I didn't want to eat because I was afraid, I would gain more weight. I really wanted to date him so I figured if I lost the weight he would be interested.

GABRIELLA

Did you ever get to date him?

DOWANHOWEE

After losing all that weight when I approached him again, he was dating someone else. He told me if it didn't go well, he would get with me. I was so desperate that I stopped eating and drinking all together. Then one day I passed out in the library and the next thing I know it I was in the hospital. When my parents came, they asked the doctor what wrong and he asked me if I had been eating. I lied and said a little, and that due to my work and projects I hadn't had time. Although my parents bought the lie, the doctor didn't. After they left, he told me he knew what was wrong and that I should get help. I

sat with a therapist for six months and a nutritionist for eight months. She taught me about the vegan diet and exercising. As I started to look more like a supermodel I started dressing proactively and then finally, Brent asked me out on a date and he became my boyfriend and after eight months we had sex and he left.

CHANGCHANG

Oh, is that the same guy from your first time?

DOWANHOWEE

Yes. I was so devastated. I realized my self-esteem was too low. I joined a self-esteem group and I have been building my esteem ever since.

CHANGCHANG

I feel so badly.

GABRIELLA

Why?

CHANGCHANG

We've all been through so much heartache and pain. We should have been there for each other. Had we kept our two-year agreement we all would have had someone confide in.

TATANYA

All the more we need to keep the two-year agreement this time.

DOWANHOWEE

Well, it's easier now that we have FaceSpace. We didn't have that eighteen years ago.

TATANYA

It's more than social media. We really need phone time, and face to face time. Especially when you need to vent, or cry, or just talk.

VIVIANA

I agree with Tee-Tee. And I don't think it should be a two-year agreement. We should meet up at least once every six months if not sooner. This way we can help each other if one is going through something.

CHANGCHANG

I agree.

BLACK OUT

ACT ONE SCENE SIX

The ladies are watching television. The lights are out and the only in the room is coming from the television and from the window (moonlight). The movie can be heard.

CHARACTER FROM MOVIE (VOICE OVER)

Guys, where are you? Hello, is anyone there? Sarah, Kim, Laquanta, Boqueshia, PoPeekwee? Is anyone there? Hello? OMG! *(A scream is heard)*.

GABRIELLA

Is it just me or is this a stupid movie?

VIVIANA, TATANYA, CHANGCHANG, DOWANHOWEE

It's a stupid movie. *(TaTanya gets up and turns the lights on. Gabriella takes the remote and turns off the movie.)*

GABRIELLA

Where did you get this movie, the yellow box?

TATANYA

No. The video rental store on Kidney Avenue is still open. I rented it from there?

CHANGCHANG

I thought all rental stores went out of business. How is he staying a float?

TATANYA

He has a porn section. He also has an independent movie section which is where I got this movie.

GABRIELLA

Well, you need to bring it back. And it needs to be in the garbage section. *(They laugh. The doorbell rings.)* Who the hell could that be?

TATANYA

I don't know. What should I do?

CHANGCHANG

Well, you have to answer it. They know we're here all of our cars are in the drive way.

TATANYA

What if it's a murderer? What if I end up like the girl in the movie?

DOWANHOWEE

We'll go together.

VIVIANA

Should we bring weapons?

GABRIELLA

Hell yeah. *(TaTanya takes one of the wine bottles, Dowanhowee takes the shade off one of the lamps and unplugs it, Viviana goes into the closet and takes a few hangers, Changchang takes off her belt.)* What are you going to do beat him to death?

CHANGCHANG

I can strangle him. *(Gabriella takes a jack knife out of her pocketbook. She pushes a button and the blade pops out.)*

TATANYA

What are you doing with a knife in your pocketbook?

GABRIELLA

For times like these. Now a days you can't trust people. I keep it with me at all times. If anyone tries to hurt me, I'll slice them up. *(The doorbell rings again.)* Ya'll come on; let's kill this bastard *(They all exit.)*

BLACK OUT—END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO SCENE ONE

When the lights come up the ladies are seen laughing. They are wearing pajamas.

TATANYA

I cannot believe you were flirting with him.

DOWANHOWEE

What's wrong with flirting with him? Did you see how hot he is?

TATANYA

That's one of the gay guys Mrs. Peklo was yelling at.

DOWANHOWEE

Why do gay guys have to be so good looking? It's a shame.

GABRIELLA

I'm still want to know what is a man doing up baking a cake at eight o'clock at night. And who the hell goes to their neighbor's house and ask for eggs anymore? That is so 90's.

VIVIANA

I will admit there is something weird about a man asking for eggs at night so he can bake a cake.

GABRIELLA

Did you see the movie, American Pie? Maybe he's doing it with a cake.

DOWANHOWEE

That's disgusting.

VIVIANA

Why would he do it with a cake when he has a partner?

GABRIELLA

Diarrhea maybe?

CHANGCHANG

Gee-Gee, I doubt they are doing the nasty with a cake.

GABRIELLA

Well, I wouldn't put it past them. You know gay men are weird.

CHANGCHANG

That is such a homophobic thing to say.

GABRIELLA

No, it's not.

CHANGCHANG

It is too. It's judgmental and homophobic.

GABRIELLA

Although I admit it's judgmental, there is nothing homophobic about it. Do you realize phobic means fear? Why the hell would I be afraid of a gay person? Why would anyone be afraid of a gay person? I mean think of it, what are they going to say, oh my gosh it's a gay person run; they're going to make us have fun? People may disapprove with what gay people do, that doesn't make them afraid, it just makes them nosy and in people's business. I say they need to change that word. No one is homophobic, they can be homosexual.

CHANGCHANG

Homosexual?

GABRIELLA

Yes, racist, sexist, ageist, and homosexual.

VIVIANA

Well technically no one is racist. There is only one race amongst people and that's the human race.

CHANGCHANG

Should we change that word too?

DOWANHOWEE

How about ethincist?

GABRIELLA

How about stupidest? Because that's what they are; they are stupid.

CHANGCHANG

Well, then are you calling yourself stupid? You just judged gay people?

GABRIELLA

There is a difference between judging people and hating people. Even though we all judge, we all don't hate. People who hate are stupid or stupidest. I simply judged homosexuals to be weird.

CHANGCHANG

That's a blanket statement.

GABRIELLA

Well, we think that way about many different people. Everyone knows if they saw a person with tattoos all over themselves, multiple body piercing, and blue, yellow, and purple hair, everyone would immediately judge that person to be weird. Prejudging and misjudging people are human nature. Hatred, that can only be taught by stupid people.

VIVIANA

She's right.

GABRIELLA

I'm right and wrong. I know not all gay people are weird it was just a silly statement. No need to get your undies in a bunch.

DOWANHOWEE

The only thing weird is that you have a knife in your purse. *(They all agree with Amen)*

GABRIELLA

No, it's not. I have two children and a husband. I am not about to leave them behind because some rapist or murderer chooses not to control himself. I have it for protection. Let some dumbass come after me and I'll slice his ass up.

VIVIANA

She's right about that too. There's so much rape and assault amongst women. You need to protect yourself.

DOWANHOWEE

That's bad though. If you think about it, that is really bad.

CHANGCHANG

What is?

DOWANHOWEE

They have self defense classes; they have knives and pepper spray, they are teaching G.T.A.P.

TATANYA

What is G.T.A.P.?

DOWANHOWEE

Grab, twist, and pull. *(They laugh)* They are always telling us be careful where you go alone. Don't wear certain clothes because it might give a man the wrong idea. We are doing all of this just to protect women and not one person is telling men stop raping. I mean if there were no suspects, there would be no victims. Instead of rape prevention for women there should be rape prevention for men teaching them to keep it in their pants.

GABRIELLA

Well, until they create that male prevention class, I have my knife to slice his ass.

TATANYA

That's totally rhymed.

VIVIANA

I will say, it is nice to have a knife. I mean I remember one time seeing this guy in women's clothing come into the ladies' room. I was so fearful I didn't know what to do. I asked him why he was in their and said his surgery wasn't done yet, and because he identified as a woman, he decided to use the ladies' room.

DOWANHOWEE

I would have been scared.

TATANYA

What do you guys think of that? Do you think that is acceptable?

CHANGCHANG

Well, they say they feel like they are in the wrong body. I don't see anything wrong with finding who you really are.

VIVIANA

I don't know. It's still pretty new to me. I'm not religious, I also don't believe God makes mistakes.

DOWANHOWEE

I think it's okay. They should simply make separate toilet rooms for trans people.

GABRIELLA

I am completely against it. The way I see it, if he cannot endure the pain of a monthly period, he does not have the right to be a woman. If he doesn't get to feel the annoyance of being swollen, exhausted, bloated, headaches, backaches, food cravings, muscle pain, tension, irritability, mood swings, crying spells, and anxiety he has not earned the right or privilege of being a woman. If he does not have to endure the pain of carrying some Chucky around for ten months and then going through labor pains, he does not get to be a woman. If he does not have to go through cold spells and hot flashes and all the other symptoms of menopause then he does not get to be a woman. Anybody can get surgery. Only a real woman can endure the pains of womanhood.

CHANGCHANG

Some of them really feel like they are in the wrong body? How do you explain that?

GABRIELLA

Sometimes I *feel* like a nut and sometimes I don't that does not mean I surgically turn myself into a nut. When I am at a funeral, I *feel* sad, that does not mean I am a sad person. When people win the lottery, they feel happy, that does not mean they are happy people. If you get bit by a dog, you feel pain, that does not make you a painful person. Feelings come and go all the time; you don't deal with the feelings you first figure out what is causing the feelings and then you deal with the cause and *not* the feelings. Let some man come in the bathroom while I'm in there and with this knife I'll finish the surgery for him.

VIVIANA

You are brilliant. Crazy, yet brilliant.

GABRIELLA

I am not crazy. I'm wise. Let some man come up on me, and see if I don't show him how to holler like Chaka Khan. His notes will hit higher than hers. (*They laugh*). I'm serious. Things are getting worse in America and it has nothing to do with the president. We allow our boys to be all types of horny and don't even make them discipline themselves to simply say no. I don't care how horny you are there is never an excuse for a boy or man to rape anyone no matter what she is wearing.

DOWANHOWEE

You know I was really surprised that no women's groups protested against that boy who raped the girl who was unconscious. And he barely got any prison time for it.

GABRIELLA

Trust me he got his time. Did you see how pretty that white boy is? The moment he stepped in that prison he got his. And not just by the inmates.

TATANYA

You know we probably shouldn't talk about men being raped in prison, if you know what I mean? (*They all look at Viviana.*)

GABRIELLA

Oh my gosh, I am so sorry Vee-Vee. How insensitive of me.

VIVIANA

It's okay.

GABRIELLA

No, it's not. I was wrong and I am sorry. I promise to never bring it up again.

DOWANHOWEE

Never say never.

GABRIELLA

Why would you say that?

DOWANHOWEE

You should never say never. When you do it's like jinxing yourself. You actually cause yourself to do the thing you said you'd never do.

GABRIELLA

That's not true.

CHANGCHANG

It is for me.

GABRIELLA

What do you mean?

CHANGCHANG

When I graduated college with my bachelors in photography my parents were wondering why I wasn't walking with the medical students. When I told I switch my major they got really upset. They told me they would denounce me as their daughter if I didn't go back to school and get my doctorates in medicine. I told them that I wouldn't and they say they wouldn't talk to me again. I told them I didn't care and that I would never care. I told them I never want to see them again. I also told them I never want to be their daughter ever again. I now realize how hurtful those words were. I was so hurt by them not accepting me for who I am. I am not a doctor, I am a photographer, an artist and there is nothing wrong with that. I am very successful. I pushed my ass very hard just so I can show them I could be successful without being a doctor, and they didn't care. I sent them apology notes with my work in magazine, and they never responded. I thought I could never care. Every day they didn't call or write back I cared. I cared until it hurt. There were days I wish I had someone else's parents. I remember wishing I had Tee-Tee's parents. They were always so cool and understanding.

GABRIELLA

I think we all wish we had Tee-Tee's parents. *(They agree)*

CHANGCHANG

I often wonder if this never will ever go away. If I will be okay with them not accepting me or hoping one day, they will accept me. It hurts. It really hurts. I am doing what I love and getting paid good money and yet I can't enjoy it. I promised myself when I get married and have children, I will let them be whatever they want. I will not pressure them into doing anything they don't want. I will allow them to be exactly who they were created to be, whether it is a doctor, and artist, or salesperson. It doesn't matter to me.

GABRIELLA

A salesperson? Where did that come from? *(They laugh)*.

CHANGCHANG

I don't know. I'm just saying. They can be whatever their heart's desires. *(TaTanya has river of tears flowing from her face.)* My goodness Tee-Tee why are you crying?

DOWANHOWEE

Are you okay?

TATANYA

(She laughs nervously) I was talking to a friend back when I was in college. She was getting married and were talking and she was telling me she and her fiancé were getting a prenup. I told her I didn't believe in those. She then asked what happens if you get a divorce. I told her I am never getting a divorce. Once I'm married that is it. I didn't realize it then that I set myself up.

DOWANHOWEE

What are you talking about? You're not getting a divorce.

TATANYA

I am pretending like I can live my life without children, and I know I do not want that. I don't want a divorce, and I don't want to force him to have children. He'll only resent me and the children. And his children will know they are not wanted.

CHANGCHANG

Well, give him some time, maybe he'll change his mind.

GABRIELLA

No woman can change the mind of a man. If she could then war would never exist.

TATANYA

I feel so stupid. I spent so much time with him dating. The problem is, I didn't spend any time asking the important questions. All that wedding planning and no marriage planning. I mean he is so good. He cooks, he cleans, he has money, he is good looking—

GABRIELLA

He has a nice ass. *(They laugh).*

TATANYA

Yes, very nice. He treats me like a lady, respects and honors me. He puts the toilet seat down.

GABRIELLA

Now that's a good man *(They laugh).*

TATANYA

He's great. He is everything I wanted. He almost perfect. The one thing is, is that he doesn't want children. I really wanted to make this relationship work The problem is

every time I look at him, I see a man who is keeping me from what I want and that's children. I am starting to resent and dislike him, and I cannot stay in this marriage having these feelings for him. I just feel horrible because I feel like I failed.

DOWANHOWEE

You didn't fail. You made a mistake.

GABRIELLA

Exactly. It's a mistake. A divorce is a lesson, if you let it be. Now you know what to do before you get married again. Ask all the necessary questions. From children, to bank accounts, to where you're spending Christmas, to do you mind putting the toilet seat down. *(They laugh)*. We all make mistakes. The best thing to do is learn from them so you don't make them again.

TATANYA

I never thought I would get a divorce.

DOWANHOWEE

We all had a never thought moment and it ended up being so. That's why you never say never. Life is a learning process. You live you learn and then you share your mistakes, so others can learn from them.

GABRIELLA

Now that I think about it, you're right. Never say never. I remember the first date I had with my husband. I said I would never date him again.

CHANGCHANG

Was it that bad?

GABRIELLA

It was worst. He took me to this lovely restaurant and before we could get settled his ex-girlfriend comes in and causes a scene.

DOWANHOWEE

Oh goodness.

GABRIELLA

Oh goodness is right. They actually had to call the police. She screamed and hollered and yelled, *(Mocking her)* so you left me for this bitch. I was not going to deal with that. So, when he wasn't looking, I snuck out of there and swore I would never date him again. He called me the next day and left an apology message, and I completely ignored him. Then I was in the grocery store and I'm assuming he didn't realize who I was. He said ma'am do you know if this is kale or collard greens. I said without looking, can't you read the sign dumbass? When I turned to look there, he was. When he noticed me, he apologized so many times. I told him no hard feelings and I walked away. Then about a week later I get to my doctor's office and guess who is sitting in the waiting room. I thought to myself

is this guy following me? After that day I told God if I see him again, I promise to give him another chance. And sure, enough about two weeks later I take my car to get fixed and he is sitting in the waiting room waiting for his car to be serviced. I told him I would give him one more chance and that chance turned into a marriage.

TATANYA

Well, that's a sweet story. I don't even want to remember my first date.

DOWANHOWEE

How bad was it?

TATANYA

It was during my first year in college. I didn't tell my parents. My annoying brother overheard me on the phone and told.

CHANGCHANG

What happened?

TATANYA

My father went with us.

GABRIELLA

You're kidding.

TATANYA

No. you know my dad. Very overprotective. He chose the movie, the snacks, he sat between us. And then he treated us to burgers and fries at Chess Burger. *(They're laughing)*. To this day I still don't think it's funny.

GABRIELLA

That doesn't mean we can't laugh.

TATANYA

I was so embarrassed I never went on another date until I met my husband.

CHANGCHANG

I'm sure your father was happy about that.

TATANYA

I think that was his purpose.

GABRIELLA

Dee-Dee, was Brent your first date?

DOWANHOWEE

No. my first date was with Warren Trump.

GABRIELLA

You mean the multi-billionaire? (*Dowanhowee nods yes.*)

CHANGCHANG

How did you get a date with him?

DOWANHOWEE

We went to college together. He asked me out on a date and I said yes out of pity. He was very nerdy.

TATANYA

Where did he take you?

DOWANHOWEE

The school's cafeteria.

GABRIELLA

Are you serious?

DOWANHOWEE

Yes. He said that's all he could afford. Plus, he didn't have a car. I mean he paid for everything. We had nothing in common. He wanted to talk about video games and I wanted to talk about anything except video games.

GABRIELLA

Wow, just think if you would have pretended to care you could have been the wife of Warren Trump, the man who created three video gaming systems that are sold by the billions across the world.

DOWANHOWEE

Well, how was I supposed to know that was going to happen? And I definitely didn't realize he would turn out to be so attractive. It's like he came out of a cocoon.

TATANYA

What was your first date like, Vee-Vee?

GABRIELLA

Maybe we shouldn't ask.

VIVIANA

No, it's okay. It was horrible. He said he was going to take me to a movie. He took me to a porno shop with a movie theater that shows porno movies all day and all night. I asked him why and he said he wanted to get some ideas for the both of us.

DOWANHOWEE

Are you serious?

VIVIANA

I walked out of there and took a cab home. Then he had the nerve to call me and ask why I left. The boy actually thought he had a chance with me only after one date.

DOWANHOWEE

Why don't fathers teach their sons better? There should never be a reason why a boy should ask for sex especially on the first date.

GABRIELLA

Boys who ask for sex on the first date are usually the result of someone who got knocked up. They only repeat what they have seen. Not to mention there are so many bastard fathers out there abandoning their children.

DOWANHOWEE

It's such a shame.

GABRIELLA

What about you Cee-Cee, when was your first date?

CHANGCHANG

Some time in the future.

DOWANHOWEE

What do you mean?

CHANGCHANG

I haven't had date yet?

TATANYA

Seriously?

CHANGCHANG

Yeah. I was so focused on my career I never took the time to date. I was so determined to make my parents proud of me. After each project I worked hard for the next. I never took the time for myself.

GABRIELLA

Well, I sure hope you stop working hard to impress your parents. It is sad that they don't accept you. I say the hell with them, no offence. Your work is amazing. There are many photographers out there, not many can say their work is in the most popular fashion magazine in the world.

CHANGCHANG

I know.

GABRIELLA

You need to take time for yourself. Even if you don't date, go somewhere, do something, pick up a hobby on the side. You better enjoy this single life you have while you have it because soon, you'll be married and pregnant and you do not want to regret anything. It's so sad that married people want to be single and single people want to be married. It's time for people to appreciate the time that they are in while they are in it before it's too late. Appreciate your single life now. Go travel and bring your camera with you.

CHANGCHANG

That sounds like a good idea.

ACT TWO SCENE TWO

The ladies are seen sleeping. There are three sleeping bags on the floor and two are on the bed. TaTanya awakes and stretches. She quietly gets her phone and walks towards the dresser. She dials and then waits.

TATANYA

Hey, mom. *(Short pause.)* Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot you were in church. I'll be quick. What do you want me to do with the statue on the lawn? Did you want it? *(Short pause.)* Oh, okay, I'll figure something out. Alright I'll speak to you later. Oh, everything went really well. We had a great time. Okay, thanks, mom. Love you too. Bye. *(She hangs up and then dials again.)* Hello, babe. Hi. Just so you know I won't make it to church this morning. The ladies and I were up pretty late. *(Short pause.)* Everything went really well. I missed them. *(Shorter pause.)* Yes, thank you. Oh, and Hun, when I get home, I need to speak with you. *(Short pause.)* Um...yeah everything is fine; I just needed to discuss some things. *(Short pause.)* Okay. I love you too. Bye. *(She hangs up the phone and then quietly sits on the bed)*

CHANGCHANG

(She awakes and notices TaTanya looking sad.) Everything okay?

TATANYA

Oh. Yeah. I didn't even see you wake up.

CHANGCHANG

Did you want to talk about it?

TATANYA

Talk about what?

CHANGCHANG

You look sad.

TATANYA

Oh, it's nothing.

CHANGCHANG

Don't lie to me. What is it?

TATANYA

(She signs) I'm just thinking about the conversation I am going to have with my husband. I'm afraid.

CHANGCHANG

Afraid of what?

TATANYA

I really want children. I'm afraid if I bring it up again this might be the end of our marriage. I really don't want to lose him.

CHANGCHANG

Did you think that maybe you're not so much in love with him as you are his qualities? Did you ever think that maybe there is a man out there who has those good qualities and wants a child?

TATANYA

Yeah, you don't understand though. It took me so long to find him. I went to bars and clubs and online dating sites just to find him. I don't want to have to do that again.

CHANGCHANG

Then don't look for him. Maybe this time you should let him look for you.

TATANYA

That's so old fashion though. It's so cliché. A man is supposed to chase the woman. There's nothing wrong with getting in with the new and the woman looking for her husband.

CHANGCHANG

Yes, that's true. The thing is when the new fashion way doesn't work, you go back to the old fashion way.

TATANYA

I just can't bare the thought of losing him.

CHANGCHANG

Well, I don't know what will happen, if things should not work out, maybe you can go with me.

TATANYA

Where?

CHANGCHANG

I don't know. I haven't decided yet. I have thought about what Gee-Gee said. You know, for me to enjoy my singlehood. I am going to travel and take my camera with me. You are more than welcome to come along. Maybe he will find you wherever we end up.

TATANYA

Well, if things don't work out the way I want them, then I will definitely think about that.

CHANGCHANG

Good. I'll be back. I have to use the bathroom. *(Changchang takes her bag and exits)*

DOWANHOWEE

(Awakes and stretches) Hey. What time did you get up?

TATANYA

About ten minutes ago.

DOWANHOWEE

Oh. What time is it?

TATANYA

Ten sixteen.

DOWANHOWEE

Oh. *(She looks around)*. Where's Cee-Cee?

TATANYA

Bathroom.

DOWANHOWEE

Oh. I'll use the downstairs one then. I'm going to change and get going. *(She takes her bag and exits.)*

GABRIELLA

(Awakes and stretches.) Hey girl. Good morning.

TATANYA

Good morning. *(Gabriella stands and goes to exit.)* If you're going to the bathroom, use the one in my parents' room. The other ones are occupied.

GABRIELLA

Okay, thanks. *(She exits with her bag.)*

VIVIANA

(Awakes and stretches. She looks around.) Where is everyone?

TATANYA

In the bathrooms washing up.

VIVIANA

Oh, I guess we have to wait our turn. Well, I will admit this was a wonderful time. I wish I grew up with you all. It seems like you all had so much fun.

TATANYA

We had a blast. I forgot how much fun it is being with them. I wish I would have kept in touch. I need to make sure this time around I do not let more than a year go by before meeting up with them. I really needed this and I didn't know it.

VIVIANA

I needed it too. I think we all needed it. It was therapeutic for me.

TATANYA

I'm sorry for what happened to you.

VIVIANA

Why are you apologizing? You didn't do anything.

TATANYA

I know. I feel like you're supposed to say something when you hear something like that and sorry is the only thing I can think of at the moment.

VIVIANA

Thank you for caring. I appreciate it. (*Changchang enters dressed*). Good morning.

CHANGCHANG

Good morning, Vee-Vee.

VIVIANA

(*She gets her bag*). I'm going to get dressed.

TATANYA

Okay. (*Viviana exits.*)

CHANGCHANG

I am so glad you contacted me...contacted us. I had such a good time. We have to do this more often.

TATANYA

I know.

CHANGCHANG

We should meet once a month or at least once every other month. I feel so much better after this. Although I love my parents, I will not allow them to take my happiness from me. I feel renewed. Like a whole new person.

TATANYA

That's good to hear. I will definitely be in contact with the Lavender Ladies more often.

CHANGCHANG

This may sound corny.

TATANYA

What?

CHANGCHANG

We should get new jackets.

TATANYA

Seriously?

CHANGCHANG

Yes. Why not? We should celebrate our time together by getting new jackets. It will be our reminder to stay in touch or at least a reminder that we have someone to talk to when in need.

TATANYA

That sounds good.

DOWANHOWEE

(Dowanhowee enters.) Good morning, Cee-Cee. *(They double cheek kiss)*

CHANGCHANG

Good morning, Dee-Dee.

TATANYA

(She gets her bag.) I'll be back, ladies. *(She exits.)*

DOWANHOWEE

This was amazing. I feel like a new creature.

CHANGCHANG

I know how you feel.

DOWANHOWEE

I feel....

CHANGCHANG AND DOWANHOWEE

Renewed.

DOWANHOWEE

Yes! It's amazing how a few hours with old friends can make you have fresh revelation on life.

CHANGCHANG

We should do this more often.

DOWANHOWEE

Everyone should do this more often. I realized the more we talked the more comfortable I felt to share because I knew it was a safe place. If people would take the time to talk and

share with each other there would be no need to feel superior enough to judge or condemn anyone.

CHANGCHANG

Amen to that sister.

GABRIELLA

(Enters) Good morning, ladies.

CHANGCHANG AND DOWANHOWEE

Good morning, Gee-Gee. *(They each double cheek kiss Gabriella)*

GABRIELLA

Was this not amazing? Eighteen years later and it's like we were never apart. I don't mind doing this more often. I need a break from the wife and momma life.

CHANGCHANG

And I need a break from photography.

DOWANHOWEE

And I need a break from plumbing.

GABRIELLA

So, have you decided where you are going, Cee-Cee?

CHANGCHANG

Not really It probably will be in another state. I don't think I want to travel out of the country on my first trip.

DOWANHOWEE

Maybe we can all go somewhere, together, as the Lavender Ladies.

GABRIELLA

I wouldn't mind going somewhere to stir up some trouble.

DOWANHOWEE

Why would we have to stir up trouble?

GABRIELLA

Why not? Getting into trouble is fun.

DOWANHOWEE

And you wonder why your children are the way they are.

CHANGCHANG

Ooh!

GABRIELLA

Hey, you take that back. *(They laugh. Viviana enters.)* Good morning, Vee-Vee.

VIVIANA

Good morning, ladies. And what a wonderful morning it is.

GABRIELLA

It sounds like someone woke up on the right side of the bed.

CHANGCHANG

What got you so happy this morning?

VIVIANA

Spending time with you ladies. I never thought I could feel comfortable sharing my darkest secrets. I wish I would have met ya'll years ago...decades ago. I feel so much better, I feel...I don't know...I feel...

CHANGCHANG AND DOWANHOWEE

Renewed.

VIVIANA

Yes. I feel renewed, better, happier. Who knew talking about your past can make you feel better.

CHANGCHANG

Psychologists have known for years Unfortunately; we have been too proud to see one. I think I'm over my parents. I am still going to make an appointment with a therapist. I think I need to talk about it more.

VIVIANA

I think that is a great idea. Therapy has helped me. I would have never gotten married without therapy. I was so uncomfortable around men for a long period of time until I sought therapy.

DOWANHOWEE

It has definitely helped me. I highly recommend it.

TATANYA

(Enters) Well, ladies. This is it.

GABRIELLA

I don't want to say goodbye.

CHANGCHANG

Me neither.

DOWANHOWEE

Don't forget we promised to keep in touch. No more eighteen year breaks.

CHANGCHANG

I'll set up another get together for next month. You can come to my house and help me pick out places to go for my travels.

DOWANHOWEE

That's a great idea.

GABRIELLA

I like that idea.

TATANYA

(There is a brief pause) Well, ladies.

GABRIELLA

How about we go to brunch together? I'm not ready to go home yet.

CHANGCHANG

With the way you describe your children I am sure you will never be ready to go home.

DOWANHOWEE

(They laugh). I think that is a wonderful idea.

TATANYA

Well, then let's go.

BLACK OUT

ACT TWO SCENE THREE

The lights come up (*The lights start out dark as if it is night outside. Slowly it gets lighter as if day is breaking. Soon the lights fully come up*). The room is empty except for two boxes. TaTanya and Viviana enter the room.

TATANYA

Thank you for helping me with this last bit of stuff.

VIVIANA

You're welcome. I had a great time on Saturday, and yesterday's brunch was amazing.

TATANYA

What time do you have to be to work?

VIVIANA

In about two hours. I have time. (*Viviana and TaTanya go to pick up the last boxes, when TaTanya pauses.*) What's wrong?

TATANYA

It's difficult to believe I won't spend another Christmas here. I thought this house was forever. I never thought my parents would sell it. It's so challenging to grasp. It's making me realize how much more I should have appreciated my life.

VIVIANA

What do you mean?

TATANYA

I was always waiting for something to happen, the next event, waiting to get out of middle school, and then got out of high school, then graduate college, then get married, and then have children. I never took the time to really appreciate the time I was in at the time I was in it. It makes me want to go back and live it again, with more appreciation and less complaining.

VIVIANA

I know how you feel.

TATANYA

It's just all gone. I feel like I'm losing everything.

VIVIANA

You're not losing everything. It's only a house.

TATANYA

This house was everything to me along with my marriage.

VIVIANA

Well, at least you still have your marriage.

TATANYA

Not exactly.

VIVIANA

What do you mean?

TATANYA

I talked to my husband yesterday after I came home from the brunch.

VIVIANA

What happened?

TATANYA

I told him I did not want to pretend anymore, that I really wanted children. He just said the same thing he always says; I know you do, and you know I don't.

VIVIANA

He's not willing to compromise?

TATANYA

No. He said he would rather get a divorce and let another man make me happy with a child then to stay married and have me resent him. He said my happiness means everything to him and realized the only way I would be happy is with a husband who wants the same thing I want. He said he is not that husband. He then said he would send me the paperwork.

VIVIANA

TaTanya, I am so sorry. *(The hug)*

TATANYA

Why are you apologizing? You didn't do anything.

VIVIANA

You apologized to me; I apologize to you. I'm sorry, Tee-Tee.

TATANYA

I'm sorry too. I thought he was the one. I hate the fact I have to get a divorce.

VIVIANA

It's better to get divorced before the children are born. And now you know to ask questions before committing yourself to him.

TATANYA

Yeah, lesson learned. I wish I would have learned before I got married.

VIVIANA

Think of it this way. You shared your mistake in front of Cee-Cee and Dee-Dee. Now they know what mistakes not to make.

TATANYA

Yeah, I guess that's the brighter side of it.

VIVIANA

There is always a silver lining, if we only look, we can see it.

TATANYA

Thank you, Vee-Vee.

VIVIANA

You're welcome, Tee-Tee.

TATANYA

(Deep sigh). Well, it's time to go.

VIVIANA

Wait a minute. The statue is still on the lawn. Aren't you taking that with you?

TATANYA

No. I forgot about that thing.

VIVIANA

Doesn't your mom want it?

TATANYA

No. Now that Mrs. Peklo is dead, she doesn't need it.

VIVIANA

Are you going to just leave it there?

TATANYA

(Pause to think) No. I think I am going to give it to the gay couple across the street.

VIVIANA

Maybe, you should ask for a piece of his cake. *(They laugh)* Well, are you ready?

TATANYA

Not yet. You go ahead; I'll be down in a second.

VIVIANA

Okay. *(Exits.)*

TATANYA

(TaTanya slowly looks around the room.) Goodbye. *(She picks up the box and exits.)*

BLACK OUT

THE END