

THE PART OF ME

A Pan-Sexual Bipolar Odyssey

Written by: Kyle Smith

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Characters

DIANA	Ethnically Ambiguous, Female, Late 20s
LESLIE, AD 3, KID 1, JO	African American, Female, Early 30s
JANET, ANGEL, WOMAN	Asian American, Female, Late 20s
AD 2, MARIACHI BAND, BERTHA KID 2, WAITER, DRUG DEALER 2, SUN, ANGRY WOMAN,	Latino, Trans Female, late 30s
AD 1, MARIACHI BAND, DEVIL KID 3, MOM, HOMELESS WOMAN DRUG DEALER 3	White, Female, mid 40s
HOMELESS MAN, HOMELESS MAN 2 MAN, CHAD, DRUG DEALER 1	White, Male, 30s

SETTING

NYC on garbage day. Broken furniture sits on the stage with bags of trash. Whenever the actor needs props or set they should pull it from the trash pile.

TIME
2015

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The play is performed without intermission, but please give the audience at least a minute to stare at the blood before scene 7 starts.

Any "..." by itself is a time in which words have failed the character. These are active, should be filled with action, or at the bare minimum intention, and not be treated as an ordinary pause.

SCENE 3

Diana and Janet at a restaurant.

JANET

I don't understand.

DIANA

It boils down to this: how do we define people? Do we boil them down to their dominant characteristic? Is that person fat? Or that person petite? What about gender? Oh that's just a woman. There's a strong man. Do our diseases define us? The cancer patient. The addict. The depressed person. Or is it our sexuality; gay, straight, bi, pan. I think we are the only ones who can truly define ourselves, every one else is just guessing.

JANET

No I mean I don't understand why you're telling me this?

DIANA

Because I know. I know who I am.

JANET

...Good?

DIANA

Everyone tries to condense me like milk but I won't let myself be flattened by my peers.

JANET

I don't think anyone is trying to flatten you, sweetie
Even if they were it would be difficult..

DIANA

Is that a fat joke?

JANET

You're what my Nana would've called "chesty".

DIANA

Your Nana would be my best friend.

JANET

No, she didn't like women. She used to tell me she wished she was born a generation earlier so she could have picketed the suffragettes.

DIANA

It's good that she had a passion.

JANET

She channeled that passion into picketing civil rights rallies. She did end up quite pleased with herself.

DIANA

Enough with the grandma, back to me. My heart is an endless meadow that needs exploration. It implores me to stretch my fingers through its infinite nooks and chasms. I ache for exploration. I long for it. Explore me!

JANET

Di, you got to stop propositioning me.

DIANA

You don't understand, there is a universe of life and love stretched before me, and I can't yet break the light speed barrier, but I crave it. I hope for a warp speed with which to discover the space between my heart beats. And in there is such love that nobody could imagine. A longing that is filled up like a Walmart.

JANET

That doesn't sound like super high quality longing.

DIANA

It's full of the beats of a war drum echoing through my ears. Calling myself to arms, against a world of heartbreak and loneliness.

JANET

I have a thought experiment.
It'll be fun. You'll love it.
How would you describe yourself?

DIANA

(rapid speech)

My joy is a bottomless pit in which I am quickly and triumphantly descending.
(MORE)

DIANA (CONT'D)

The thrill excites and arouses me and I can't imagine anyone having ever felt this in our lifetime. I am the opulent reincarnation of a French monarch, living a royal and hedonistic existence. I am Buddha come again, for I have reached Nirvana. I am a God in human form, and none shall slow nor kill me. I have seen the light of this world and I am She.

(Pause)

JANET

...Right, so I took this class.
On psychology.

DIANA

When'd you take this class?

JANET

Tuesday nights. At community.

DIANA

So.
What happened in this class?

JANET

I learned some things.
Like, there's this dog that salivates when you ring this bell.

DIANA

Why does the dog salivate?

JANET

It's a Pavlovian response. And there's these twins who married wives with the same names and had children with the same names despite having never met. One another that is, not their wives or children.

DIANA

I got it.

JANET

And we learned about personality disorders.
Like major depressive disorder where there's this overwhelming sense of melancholy, and even like, living is accompanied with this great psychic pain that is almost unbearable. And there's obsessive compulsive disorder where people will wash their hands bloody and raw, or pick at their skin until they bleed.

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

Some will enter a door 30 times before they enter it the right way and can proceed. And there's Schizophrenia, which for some reason people mix up with dissociative identity disorder despite the fact that they are completely different-

DIANA

Why are you telling me this?

JANET

Well, because there's also Bipolar disorder, where people cycle through mania and depression. Mania is like this extreme sense of wonder at life, where living is pretty much like being on ecstasy.

DIANA

You're saying I'm manic?

JANET

I'm saying that you're a lot happier than I've ever seen you, which is both beautiful and extremely worrying.

DIANA

And it didn't occur to you that I could just be happy?

JANET

Of course it did. Does. But there's happiness and there's this.
(Long pause)

DIANA

My joy is not a disorder.

JANET

Okay.

DIANA

I don't have happy disease.

JANET

I was just throwing it out there, girl.

DIANA

Yeah well you were way off.
Way opposite end of the solar system off.

JANET

I see that. It's just. Something to think about. Consider.

DIANA

I'd rather consider the lilies.

JANET

Ok.

DIANA

Or the bees.

JANET

Alright.

DIANA

The finer points of paper making.

JANET

I get it.

DIANA

I can't believe this.

JANET

Let's drop it.

DIANA

You're supposed to be my friend.

JANET

I am your friend, sweetie.

DIANA

My best friend.

JANET

Which is what I am.

DIANA

I mean, where do you get off?

JANET
My bed mostly

DIANA
This isn't funny.

JANET
Okay.

DIANA
It isn't.
Funny.

JANET
You know what?

DIANA
WHAT?

JANET
I think I need to use the bathroom.

DIANA
Oh the bathroom sure.

JANET
I need to powder my euphemism.

DIANA
The bathrooms over there!

JANET
Or more accurately leave my crazy bitch of a friend some time to cool down.

Janet exits to the bathroom

DIANA
FINE!

A SUN with sunglasses appears in the window
across the restaurant from Diana.

SUN

Diana, you are beautiful.

DIANA

Thank you sun. Can you believe this cunt?

SUN

No I cannot, sweet thing. You are just as bright as you should be.

DIANA

That's exactly what I'm saying.

SUN

You should celebrate life and its infinite beauty with amazing people, not with this fish of a fish woman.

DIANA

She is a total flounder.

SUN

And it's the fish that always bring down the quality of life for the rest of us.
They killed Jesus.

DIANA

They did?

SUN

They did.

DIANA

They did.

SUN

Don't let them kill you.
Don't let her kill you.

DIANA

I won't.

SUN

Go now. Experience love and life.

DIANA

But what about-?

SUN

Jan? The fish? Leave her to me. I'll explain.

DIANA

Thank you sun. Everyday, you're there for me. I think it's beautiful. I think you are the most beautiful thing. I feel I could look into you forever.

SUN

That's exactly how I feel about you.

DIANA

Tell her I'm sorry.

SUN

Will do.

DIANA

Goodbye Sun. Thank you.

Diana exits, the sun disappears with Diana's exit. Jan enters from the rest room.

JANET

Shit.