

A Play by Viani

CHARACTERS

GLORIA	Age 25, Cares a lot about the relationship between herself and CAREN. She is controlling.
CAREN	Age 24, cares about CICELY's well-being. Is a bit of a dork. She learns as she plays.
ROBERT	His phone voice is deep and sexual. He basically sounds like one of those old school, deep voiced singers that talk in songs. His voice sounds like foreplay.
CICELY	Is pretty aware of her surroundings but she doesn't react much. She likes CAREN and trusts her. Her voice is young but not in a naïve way.
MS. MARIE	Sounds Italian. She has an obsession with being right.
MR. ALLEGRETTO	Sounds Italian. He becomes a "yes-man" when talking about gossip or things that don't really interest him.

SCENE

GLORIA

So how's Robert?

CAREN

Good good you know? He's um... he's good. He's really good. Really, really good.

GLORIA

Okay so he's good. Great.

CAREN

You aren't still upset about that Andy guy right?

GLORIA

No, of course not... you found someone else, that's all that matters. I think that's great.

CAREN

Good good really good.

(Pause)

Because you know how you get whenever I don't date someone you set me up with.

GLORIA

I know... but that was then this is now.

(Pause)

Although you could've at least given the guy a chance.

CAREN

Ugh Gloria—

GLORIA

What? I'm just sayin' it's not every day you get to go on dates.

CAREN

Which is why I'm happy to have met Robert.

GLORIA

But you met Robert because you stood up Andy.

CAREN

I did not stand up Andy. He was sitting when I left him. Either way it had to be done... or else I would have never met Robert.

GLORIA

Caren don't get me wrong—

CAREN

(Phone rings.)

Shh it's Robert.

(Answers immediately. Flirty phone voice.)

Robert. Hey.

ROBERT

(Deep sexy phone voice)

Hey.

CAREN

(Blushes)

Hey.

ROBERT

Hey.

CAREN

(Blushes.)

Heyy.

ROBERT

Hey.

(Beat. Speaks smoothly)

Girl, you sound more beautiful over the phone.

CAREN

(Blushing; laughing.)

Thank you.

ROBERT

Girl, I just wanted to hear your voice again.

CAREN

(Still blushing; more laughter.)

Thank you.

ROBERT

(Sexy whisper.)

Goodbyyyyyyyyyyyyyyye.

CAREN

Bye.

(She hangs up and holds the phone to her chest.)

GLORIA

(Disgusted)

Ugh god.

CAREN

I think I love him.

GLORIA

After one date?

(She looks at Caren who is still blushing. She rolls her eyes.)

Anyways I'm so happy that I finally get to spend some quality time with you... it feels like lately you've been so—

(CICELY enters the house with a busted face. She runs to CAREN and puts her face in CAREN's belly. CAREN sees the child's face.)

CAREN

CICELY!

CICELY

They're too big! And they make fun of me.

CAREN

Omigod, honey your face.

(She goes to the freezer and takes frozen vegetables to place on CICELY's face.)

CICELY

It hurts!

(CAREN puts it on her face gently.)

CAREN

(Slightly angered)

Does Georgey know that this happened?

CICELY

No. He doesn't. Please don't tell him. He's just gonna call my grandma and she's gonna tell me to toughen up—

CAREN

Okay. Well we have to do something.

CICELY

Please don't let me go back there.

CAREN

I don't know what to do. I don't know what to do. When people picked on me I always had

(Pauses, looks to GLORIA)

Gloria.

GLORIA

NO.

CAREN

Come on Gloria.

GLORIA

You are out of your mind.

CAREN

But look at her face. You must feel bad.

GLORIA

Honestly, I couldn't care less.

CAREN

(Offended)

Gloria.

(Gloria shrugs.)

CICELY

I'm still in pain people!

CAREN

Right. Cicely.

(She goes to help her.)

Apply more pressure.

(She applies pressure.)

CICELY

(Screams)

Oww!!!! That hurt! What the hell?!

CAREN

I'm sorry!

GLORIA

And watch your fuckin' language! Where the hell did you learn to talk like that?!

CICELY

(Beat)

Why do they hate me?

CAREN

Cicely... they don't hate you. They just... don't prefer your pie.

CICELY

What pie?

CAREN

Think of your life as an apple pie.

(Rambling.)

Everybody likes their pie to be different. Some people may be allergic to apple pie, some may prefer strawberry pie or cherry pie or blueberry pie. Some people like nuts in their pie, others are allergic to nuts. I personally like cheesecake... but I know people who don't like pie at all. For example Gloria prefers chocolate cake.

CICELY

You're losing me.

CAREN

I'm basically saying that you're responsible for making the best pie that you can make. If people don't like your pie don't take it personally... just don't force feed them.

CICELY

MMMM. Give me another analogy.

CAREN

Maybe later.

(Eyes Gloria)

Watch TV in my room while I talk to Gloria.

CICELY

Fine.

(CICELY goes to CAREN's room)

GLORIA

Wow Caren. Wow. You're treating her like she's family. That's more than I ever got.

CAREN

Gloria why do you always have to be so rude? She's a kid.

GLORIA

I'm not helping you "help" a stray child. If that's what you call "rude" then oops.

CAREN

Well you're gonna have to be nice to her because. I'm gonna take her in... permanently.

GLORIA

What?! What?! What... like adoption?!

(CAREN nods yes. GLORIA can't even. She's lost her ability to even.)

GLORIA

I'm calling my mother.

(Dials. CAREN rolls eyes.)

She told me this would happen.

MS. MARIE

(Loud on phone)

Waah Hullo?!

GLORIA

Ma!

MS. MARIE

Waah?!

GLORIA

(Authoritatively.)

Caren's trying to adopt Cicely and I told her it was a bad idea but she won't listen to me.

MS. MARIE

Who Cicely the little one? The pink one? Cicely the little pink one?!

GLORIA

Yeah Cicely, that's her.

MS. MARIE

I told you this would happen.

GLORIA

I know you told me this would happen... and it happened.

MS. MARIE

Because I told you.

(Pause. Sigh)

Lemme tawk tah her.

(Gloria shoves phone to Caren.)

CAREN

Hi Ms. Marie.

MS. MARIE

Bambina what would your mother say if she knew you were making such a fast decision?

CAREN

I dunno.

MS. MARIE

I'll tell you. She'd say "I don't like that Caren's making such a fast decision."

(CAREN rolls her eyes)

I can hear you rolling your eyes, Carrie don't make me come over there.

CAREN

Yes Ms. Marie.

MS. MARIE

Caren. You know I only say this because I love you right?

CAREN

Yes Ms. Marie.

MS. MARIE

Honey, you're acting like a friggin lunatic.

CAREN

Yes Ms. Marie.

MS. MARIE

(Calls out)

ALLIE!

MR. ALLEGRETTO

WAH?!

MS. MARIE

Caren's trying to adopt Cicely! The little girl!

MR. ALLEGRETTO

Cicely who?! It's the little pink one?!

MS. MARIE

YEAH! That's her!

MR. ALLEGRETTO

You told me this would happen!

MS. MARIE

I know I told you it would happen and it happened because I told you!

(Back to CAREN.)

Caren I gattah say hun, I knew this would happen.

MR. ALLEGRETTO

Dirle che ho detto che lei sta computando come un pazzo.

(Translation: Tell her I said she's acting like a lunatic.)

MS. MARIE

Allie says you're acting like a friggin lunatic. See? I told you.

CAREN

Yes you told me and thanks a lot Ms. Marie. Listen, I gattah go. I love you bye!

(She hangs up.)

(To Gloria.)

Calling your mother? A bit childish don't you think?

GLORIA

It had to be done. Caren, when you told me that you were thinking of adopting her... I did not take you seriously, so please tell me that you're not actually that crazy.

CAREN

(Deep sigh.)

In all honesty... I am.

GLORIA

Okay Caren.

(Exhales annoyed.)

Remember high school? When Fred asked you for the homework? Remember what you asked me?

CAREN

I asked you if this means we're dating.

GLORIA

Then when I told Fred to ask you out on a date, and he did, then you asked me if I think that you two will ever get married.

CAREN

Because I had a dream about a wedding... and dreams mean things. And you told him to ask me out on a date? He seemed so sincere—

GLORIA

That's not the point Caren. I'm talking about Cicely. You're getting way too attached to her.

CAREN

This is different Gloria. This time someone needs me. She needs—

GLORIA

She was doing fine without you.

CAREN

That's a bold statement. Her mother died and her grandmother sent her away. Don't you think that's a bit harsh?!

GLORIA

NO! Same thing happened to you. If you dealt with it, she can too. Besides she has Georgey.

CAREN

Who thinks it's a great idea.

GLORIA

You spoke to Georgey about this already?! But you two hate each other.

CAREN

But we both love Cicely.

GLORIA

Love?

(Beat.)

Caren. I LOVE you okay? And I'm telling you this because you're like a sister to me.

(Pause.)

You're acting like a... like a friggin lunatic!

CAREN

So I've heard.

GLORIA

Caren. You were supposed to be using this little girl for bait. Remember you told me that? YOU told me that. And what'd I say?

CAREN

You said "I dunno Caren. I dunno".

GLORIA

Exactly! I said “I dunno Caren. I dunno.” But YOU said that you just wanted to have a little fun... now you’re trying to adopt her! You see what happens when you try to have fun? YOU START ADOPTING PEOPLE! What’s next you gonna put plastic on your furniture like my mom?!

CAREN

Ohh! That’s such a great idea. Easy clean up.

GLORIA

Caren. Stop. Think. Children are not puppies. You can’t pass them from owner to owner or from guardian to guardian Caren. That’s not how the world works Caren!

CAREN

She’s not just some stray kid Gloria, she’s my sister!

GLORIA

No Caren. I’ve seen you as a sister ever since my mom adopted you ten years ago! I’m tired of trying to prove that to you—

CAREN

(Gently.)

Gloria. She’s become like a little sister to me... and I know it sounds weird but—

GLORIA

I’m your sister Caren. I need you to promise me that you’ll let this whole Cicely thing go. Ever since you’ve met her she’s caused nothing but friction between us. You need to get rid of her. Don’t let her ruin our relationship. Get your feelings out of the way.

(Light reveals CICELY listening in on the conversation. She toys with the necklace that CAREN gave her, takes it off and puts it on the dresser disappointedly. Lights out.)

(End scene.)