

## A Play by Yulissa

### CHARACTERS

- LYDIA                      Seventeen-year-old Mexican. She swears a lot, especially when she is mad. She has bad anger issues but won't admit it.
- JAMES                     Twenty-year-old guy. LYDIA's best friend. He used to be a drug addict. He is very grateful for her and therefore tries to do everything he can to help her.

### SETTING

LYDIA is a teenage girl who lives in Sunset, Brooklyn. She had a traumatizing childhood and as a result grows up to be very harsh with herself. LYDIA keeps to herself most of the time. The only person she talks about her problems is her best friend, James. Although, LYDIA has anger issues, deep down she has a very warm and caring heart, especially when it comes to children. She is constantly fighting with herself to become a better person for her mother, Lycia who is sick and does not have much time left.

### SCENE NOTES

In scene 6, LYDIA got into a fight with a lady at Macys, and heads to JAMES' house to vent and try to calm down. JAMES makes a comment about LYDIA's mother and because LYDIA has anger issues she attacks James. In that moment JAMES realizes it is time to tell LYDIA something he has been holding inside.

FADE IN: LYDIA AND JAMES.

SCENE 7: CONFESSION

(LYDIA knocks on James door. He is sitting down on the couch watching TV. He gets up to open. LYDIA walks in mad.)

JAMES

What's the matter with you?

LYDIA

Nothing.

(LYDIA walks to the couch and sits down.)

JAMES

What do you mean nothing?

LYDIA

Nothing is wrong. I'm just sick and tired of being a fucking embarrassment to my mother. Why is it that I always have to fuck up man? Everything I do is wrong.

(Pause, Takes a deep breath.)

Some dumb lady disrespected my mother and I went crazy.

JAMES

What'd your mom do? I mean it's not like she hasn't seen you fight before.

LYDIA

Yeah, but I guess I went overboard this time. Before we left the house she saw what I stuck inside my bun.

JAMES

Inside your bun? What the hell?

(Stands up and messes up her bun. A pocket knife falls out of her hair. James picks it up.)

Are you fucking kidding me!

(Pause)

LYDIA

I've been having really bad feelings lately. Plus she pissed off. I wanted to cut her freaking tongue off.

JAMES

(Looks at her shocked)

Lydia what the hell!

LYDIA

(Looks into James eyes.)

Nobody has the right to disrespect my mother. She is the only person who has been with me through everything James. I was just protecting her.

JAMES

It was a stupid comment Lydia. You over reacted. I'm pretty sure the lady wasn't going to beat her or anything.

(Pause)

LYDIA

You're right but that's just me. Believe it or not I just want make her proud before she leaves. I want her to see me walk down the aisle in June. (Pause) I'm lost without her. She's my world. My angel. (Pause) I've fucked up a lot James but--

JAMES

Listen Lydia, despite the fact that you've fucked up and what not I have a lot of respect for you. I admire you. Honestly, I do. I love you for who you are.

LYDIA

Yeah. I know.

JAMES

Thank you for helping me out when I needed you the most. You were the only person that gave me hand and helped me get back on my feet. Thanks to you I have this.

(Looks around his room.)

It ain't a lot but I can finally call something mine. (Pause) I just can't understand how you can help me but can't help yourself.

LYDIA

How can I help somebody who doesn't want to be helped?

(Pause)

I hate myself because of that.

(Long pause)

Sometimes I just want to run away. Just leave and go somewhere far far away. Somewhere where nobody knows me. Somewhere where I can be a new person. A better one. Somebody with a future. Somebody that can succeed in life. Somebody who will make my momma proud.

(Pause)

Sometimes I just want another chance.

JAMES

You're still young. You can get that chance.

(Pause)

Just tell me why you're constantly knocking yourself down.

(Long pause)

LYDIA

I'm scared to let it out.

JAMES

I wish I could do something to help you out. I would hate to see you completely destroyed.

(Pause)

LYDIA

Isn't it crazy how much bullshit one can take? Like look around the neighborhood James, every single one of us has gone through real tough shit. We have all lost loved ones. We have all hurt our loved ones. We have all

wished to escape this hell we live in.

(Grins)

Unfortunately it'll never happen. No one cares about the poor ones. No one pays attention to us. All those rich people see us as criminals, but if only they knew what it's like having to worry about when our next meal will be. If only they knew what it's like to live in house full of people you barely know so we can all help each other pay the rent for a crappy apartment. If only they knew what it's like to share your apartment with a whole bunch of crack heads. If only they knew what it feels like to not be able to feel safe in your own house. If only they knew, then maybe then they would understand why we are the way we are. Why we don't believe in this thing called "college." There are a lot of talented, beautiful gifted kids in this place, man. But what we don't have is support. We have no chance of progressing in life even if we wanted too. And even those who try to get out always end up getting back in here. We do what we do because we have to.

(Long pause. Lydia's phone rings. She picks up.)

LYDIA

Hey mom. I'm with James. Yes. Yes. No. Mhm. Yeah. Okay, I'll be home by nine. Bye. I love you.

(She hangs up. James gives her a look)

JAMES

Well that was dry.

LYDIA

I guess.

JAMES

How is she? What did the doctor say last time you took her?

LYDIA

Nothing new. He just gave her more medicine.

JAMES

More? Damn that doctor is gonna end up killing her with so much damn medicine.

LYDIA

(Angry)

Take that shit back James! Take it back!

(She gets up and grabs him by his throat.)

Take it back I said!

JAMES

(Barely being able to speak.)

I take it back! I take it back!

(Lydia moves back and let's go of him. She looks at him and realizes what she was about to do.)

What the fuck man! What's wrong with you! It was just a saying.

LYDIA

(Stuttering.)

Listen, I didn't mean to, okay? I don't know what happened. I'm sorry James. I seriously don't know why I did that.

(James shakes his head in disappointment.)

You believe me right?

JAMES

It was a damn saying for God's sake!

LYDIA

I know. I just (pause) I love her. I don't want anything to happen to her. I'm trying to do everything I can to keep her alive as much as I can. I'm sorry James, seriously.

JAMES

It's alright Lydia. Don't worry about it. I understand.

LYDIA

Do you really?

JAMES

Yes.

LYDIA

Are you sure?

JAMES

Yes Lydia. Don't worry about it. Just relax.

(Long pause. Lydia stares at her hands.)

LYDIA

I don't know what's wrong with me anymore. I don't know what to do with myself.

(Pause)

JAMES

I've been wanting to tell you something, but I've been a bit scared to tell you. I'm concerned about your reaction.

LYDIA

What? Are you kidding me? What is it? I won't get mad. I promise I'll take it easy.

JAMES

Do you really mean it?

LYDIA

For our friendship.

JAMES

(James takes a deep breath.)

Okay, so you know what just happened a few minutes ago? Like your reaction to what I said?

LYDIA

Mhm?

JAMES

Well, you know that wasn't normal right?

LYDIA

(Raises her voice.)

I already told you I didn't mean to.

JAMES

I know and I already told you I forgive you. But that's not my point. What I'm trying to say is that you're not okay.

LYDIA

(Chuckles)

What do you mean I'm not okay?

JAMES

Yeah, like you need help.

LYDIA

(Laughs and looks disconcerted.)

Help? What the hell James? What do you mean?

JAMES

Serious help. Like mental help.

LYDIA

You're trying to call me crazy?

JAMES

Not exactly. But hey, chill out. You said you would take it easy.

LYDIA

(She makes a fist with her hands tries to stay calm.)

Yeah I know. I am calm. But why are you calling me crazy?

JAMES

Lydia. You don't have normal reactions to certain things. Over these past few

years you have become very violent. You take shit to the heart easily.

(Pause)

What I'm really trying to say is that I think that you might have serious anger issues. And I think it would be a good idea if you take therapy. It would make me and your mom feel a lot better.

LYDIA

(Laughs)

You're joking with me right, James? You know I hate it when you do this shit, James. So I'm asking you to please stop and tell me what you really want to tell.

JAMES

Lydia I'm not kidding. This is serious. You said you wanted to cut this lady's tongue off. Do you think that's something you should be saying? And it's not the first time you say something like that. I just stay quiet and pray to God that your anger never takes over you and makes you do something that you'll regret for the rest of your life. I seriously care about you Lydia. You have never attacked me the way you just did. I can't keep this to myself anymore.

(Lydia puts her down and breathes heavily.)

Lydia?

(No answer)

Lydia?

LYDIA

(Trying to stay as calm as she can.)

I'm okay James. I'm gonna ask you that you don't continue. I don't want to hear this shit anymore.

JAMES

It's not shit, Lydia. I'm serious. You know you're not okay. You just don't want to admit it.

LYDIA

(Raising her voice.)

There's nothing to fucking admit. I'm gonna ask you again leave the topic

alone. Let it go. Maybe some other time we can talk about this shit. Right now I need to go before I lose it.

(Lydia gets up from the couch. She walks toward the door. James walks behind her and tries to grab her but Lydia pushes him away. She walks out really angry.)

JAMES

Just be careful Lydia. Please.

(End scene)