

(Lucas moves to the door and checks it. He then moves to peer out the window.)

MARINA

You see only the weathered shell that houses me. No one chooses to live long and grow old, it is as inevitable for some, as this revolution upon us.

LUCAS

Well, I'm too young to die like half a man here with you, and not fighting out there with my compadres.

MARINA

And our joyous people always in the middle. Lions eating their young.

(Lucas goes to the window and looks out. The sound of PLANES and BOMBS grow.)

(LIGHTS FLICKER.)

LUCAS

A ghost plane. The Colombian Army will attempt to retake control of the city, they will bomb us all.

MARINA

The Lion still hungers, he will now eat his mate. They will bomb their own Paramilitary and we all perish in a soup of one blood.

LUCAS

When someone dies it is never a choice. Though we are here, and maybe we die together. It will be for a good cause.

MARINA

I would not choose this death, nor to die with you, and your critical eyes.

LUCAS

Who, if you had a choice would you die with, Senora Marina?

(LIGHTS OUT.)

(Marina moves to light a candle at her bed-stand.)

MARINA

Marina... More interesting to me, is how I would choose to die. I would die making love.

(Another bomb is heard a little louder.)

(Lucas sits on the bed.)

LUCAS

I wish at the moment of my death, my beloved mother could hold me, then meet me in the other world. She left me when I was a boy, I remember her scent, like a sweet mango. She felt soft...

(Marina sits on the bed next to him and pats his hand.)

LUCAS (Continued)

You think I'm not a man, talking about the woman who raised me. She was my favorite lady. The only woman I ever loved.

MARINA

That is a shame for you.

LUCAS

Why? A woman can never be like my mother. She can not cook like my mother. She can not think like my mother. She can not hold the home like my mother.

MARINA

You have high expectations, my new friend.

(Lighting and atmosphere seem to be drawn from the room, and only Lucas and his breath exist.)

LUCAS

My name is Lucas. When I was a boy I wanted to be a pilot, fly all over the world. Be a worldly man. Break the earth's atmospheric barrier. All for her. She once took me by the hand and led me to the traveling carnival passing our town. My relatives argued, "it is unsafe, don't give your money away". My mother laughed in their faces and said, "Lucas will ride the ferris-wheel and look down on this tiny village to see the mountain of mud that it is... he will leave it one day." I left the village when I was twelve with many hopes when I reached the city. Buses and cars and people in the streets, a new world. But my hope turned from myself to my country. Yet, I was comforted by many beautiful women.

(LIGHTS COME BACK ON.)

(Lucas is startled to see that Marina now in front of the standing mirror.)

MARINA

It is nice, beauty. Beauty can be everything. It may bewitch, it may destroy. It may captivate. When I came to lose my beauty, it was despairing, I am not afraid to say.

(Lucas stands behind her, both seen in the mirror.)

LUCAS

You are still very beautiful. I can say that.

(Marina turns to face him.)

MARINA

You are young, and beautiful. Your skin soft and supple. Your dark head, rich. Your cleft, a mystery.

LUCAS

I may be young, but I have had many women...

MARINA

And I, many men. They may have paid me my pesitos, but I would open for them like a flower, rebirthing my soul in a flood of warm, warm liquid. I felt more alive when I was with them, and when they would go away, a piece of me taken... My gift. There was much pain, but I felt more alive.

(He touches her face.)

(She moves away.)

MARINA (Continued)

You patronize me... It is just what this man wanted. The man responsible for bringing you to me.

LUCAS

Who you talking about?

MARINA

My only client. Paramilitary Commander Salvatore Sierra-Mancuso. I've had him every Wednesday for the past thirty years, here in this room.

LUCAS

I was caught by his men in a coop to bomb their communication offices. I did think I was lucky to be under arrest and dispatched to this apartment. I was not immediately executed, like my revolutionary brothers.