

Accidents Waiting to Happen by Jonathan Libman (Sc. 3 sample)

KWANITA

It ain't bother you that she fat? She could stay fat? It happens.. She could take a whiille to lose the weight--

ERNESTO

It don't matter. That's not fair to hold against her--

KWANITA

No one said nothing about fair. It's a fact-a-life. The body wants what the body wants. Better that you come ta grips with it--

(Ernesto Doesn't like to always defend his woman)

KWANITA

Ya still lie to her...?

ERNESTO

..That was before..

KWANITA

So she don't know about..?

ERNESTO

What?? **(..Does Kwanita know about Glendon..?)**

KWANITA

What you played "Just the tip?" Thass how it happened?

ERNESTO

Nah, She was using this otha kinda birth control thingie..A Ring Ding...? **(Kwanita has a bewildered reaction)** Fuck I know about birth control? - I seen the commercial, wid the White People..

KWANITA

You put it on yo' dick? Like a Cock Ring?

ERNESTO

Nah - yo keep it down.. They customers.. It's like a Gummy Ring.

KWANITA

That she put up in her pussy!?

ERNESTO

SHhhhHH..

KWANITA

An you fell f' that shit???
..You believe it was an accident?

ERNESTO

I believe it, yeah...

KWANITA

I shouldn't say nothing but how you know?-lemme stop--

ERNESTO

What?
Whatchoo was gonna say?

KWANITA

No-Never mind-
It ain't really my
business-

You my homegirl, Kwanita-
Look, I know you an her have
your differences-

KWANITA

-just an observation- She ain't really ever liked working -
plenty girls like her- Maybe it's a cultural thing?

ERNESTO

Hold up, cause she Puerto Rican-?

KWANITA

She rely on having a fine ass. Thass the first thing t'go.
Don't get blinded by the ass. They more important things--

ERNESTO

Well, I like a little thick, y'know.

KWANITA

Oh, I know, believe me.

ERNESTO

Real men do.

KWANITA

Quit peepin' my ass.

ERNESTO

I wasn't peepin'-

KWANITA

Whateva.

(Something small registers between them)

ERNESTO

Yo - How you came t'be a lesbian?

KWANITA

Who says I'm a lesbian?

ERNESTO

You act like a lesbian when you swear off fuckin' wid dudes and start hangin' outside the tattoo joint by West 4th Street - that basically fit the description of being a-

KWANITA

Why, what would you do if I wasn't a "lesbian"?

ERNESTO

I.. It's just difficult when I be knowing you're not a full blown lesbian.

KWANITA

I ain't trying to make it difficult for you, am I?

(Pause. Would he be happier with a girl like Kwanita?)

ERNESTO

You can be whatever it is you wanna be. I was just saying that you're good peoples, regardless. You gonna make some otha lesbo very happy.

**(...The something small is still there...
and not as small...)**

KWANITA

..You get Eunice a ring..?

ERNESTO

You din't see it? Princess cut? I had to sell my Playstation, all my good baseball cards, and my whole comic book collection.

KWANITA

How her face looked when you gave it to her?

ERNESTO

It was nice, like the Empire State Building at night. She got the bestest smile of anyone I know...Prolly cause her moms be working at a dentists' office..

KWANITA

You gonna be a daddy.

That's crazy...

(the gravity of it hits both of them...)

ERNESTO

I wanna do the right thing and make her happy- All these things I wanna do- if I had more time or more money, or more time to make money because she's so easy to be with when she happy--

KWANITA

What about you? You happy?--

(Just as Ernesto is about to speak...

Lights again flicker and die.

Then tight focused light up on Ernesto in a seemingly familiar hallway/corridor. He buzzes a doorbell.

Pause. He Knocks persistently)

ERNESTO

..Delivery..

(A tense pause. The door opens. Its GLENDON.

He holds something that is in the midst of vibrating)

GLENDON

You're exceedingly.. early.

ERNESTO

(Re: The Vibrating)

What's going on?

GLENDON

I was just brushing my teeth.

ERNESTO

I'm gonna clean your apartment.

I'ma need money though. Okay?

GLENDON

I wasn't aware my apartment was that dirty-

ERNESTO

To say thank you for hiring me, I brought you a buncha vegetables and some Entenmenn's cakes.

I brought cleanin' supplies - I could use yours if you want, but I brung my own. (Glendon contemplates him)

..A man like you needs a clean apartment..

(Ernesto is losing his footing..)

Lemme do it- half price, the first time, for the whole apartment.

GLENDON

...I'll need to be in the apartment...

ERNESTO

That's up to you.

GLENDON

And how much are you charging?

ERNESTO

...Well I ain't seen your whole apartment.

GLENDON

Do you mind waiting a minute.

(Closes door abruptly)

ERNESTO

..I don't mind..

GLENDON

(Opens door a crack apologetically)

I may have some things..left out that I'm sure you don't want to see. **(Shuts door again on Ernesto - Pause. Ernesto fuddles**

with various cleaning supplies... Door opens a crack)

Okay. Come on in. But take your shirt off.

ERNESTO

..Cono, mama-juebo..

GLENDON

I assume you're not saying anything nice.

ERNESTO

I dint come here to-

GLENDON

Well then that's too bad--

(About to Close the door on Ernesto)

ERNESTO

--Wait--

GLENDON

For?

ERNESTO

We have a....

GLENDON

I'm not exactly sure what "we" have. You've come to clean my apartment, yes?

ERNESTO

No funny shit. If I don't wanna do something then--

GLENDON

I'll try and be understanding. I can be very--

ERNESTO

Whatchoo mean try?

GLENDON

Relax.. You're so easily flustered. I'm happy that you're here. I wasn't expecting to see you..back he--

ERNESTO

Don't be acting all-- Nice--

GLENDON

If there is something else you'd prefer?

ERNESTO

Don't pull none of that reverse underhanded shit on me--

GLENDON

You mean reverse psychology?

ERNESTO

Cause you'll need to maybe shop some new places if you're--

GLENDON

I'm sorry, but you want this? Or shall I go about with my evening..?

ERNESTO

You ain't gonna fuck me..

GLENDON

My time is limited, I suggest you earn your- (money)

ERNESTO

It gonna be full price- I know I said before I'd be willing to-
but-

GLENDON

The market just rose?

ERNESTO

-- Yeah - Dow Jones an shit--

GLENDON

You know I could explain that to you, if you have time, if that
is of any interest to you. There are Penny Stocks that on
occasion have done nicely. I take my chances on a Penny Stock
here and there.

ERNESTO

When you not in fashion..?

GLENDON

You want to know more about me?

ERNESTO

I figure rich people like to talk about themselves.

GLENDON

Themselves.

ERNESTO

Thank you.

GLENDON

For what?

ERNESTO

For agreeing to pay me the whole thing - 2 weeks up front.

GLENDON

Oh really? And pray tell why I'd agree to such a--

ERNESTO

Cause I'm gonna get dirty cleaning. (**Slight Pause**)

GLENDON

I haven't seen you clean anything, yet. Shirt - off.

(**Ernesto takes his shirt off but has an undershirt**)

ERNESTO

I'll wear an undershirt.

GLENDON

You can have a shower when you're finished.

ERNESTO

That's okay.

GLENDON

It's just a shower. I don't have fagget soap.

ERNESTO

No - I wasn't tryin' to smell good..when I go home...

GLENDON

I see.

Then let's get started shall we?

(Lights flicker and die)

(They come back up on Kwanita in supermarket.

...Ernesto is in both places...

**He can be putting his supermarket uniform back on
while returning to Kwanita. --He is more burdened--)**

KWANITA

(Putting her own feelings aside)

What about school?... Ernesto, you gotta finish school. Widout school you ain't...

ERNESTO

(Slight hint of disturbance)

..I gotta work.. I'm just so way behind.. I could maybe get a G.E.D. or some shit, later. I ain't gonna be one of them deadbeat fathers - don't need t'keep up that tradition - Once the baby comes it all be worth it, right?

(She Makes sure no one is looking, hands him a \$50)

KWANITA

Come on - take it. Buy her that dress. She don't need to know about us... Our little secret... From yo' lesbo black fairy god-motha...